

THE GOSPEL OF OUR SALVATION.

“How can we be *quite sure* that we are saved?”

Beloved reader, as we are exhorted in God's word to “be ready always to give an *answer* to every man that asketh you a *reason* of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear,” (1 Pet. iii. 15), let us each enquire *what* answer does that blessed Word provide us with, that so, dependent upon God's Holy Spirit, we may do as He has bidden us.

“I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what HE will say unto me, and what I shall *answer* when I am reproved (argued with),” was the language of God's prophet of old, and how soon could he say, “And the Lord *answered* me, etc.” Hab. ii. 1, 2. Surely if we too but seek it in earnest, to us it will be granted also.

First, let us note, in a few passages in God's word, that salvation can be had by us, known and enjoyed in present certainty to our souls, and then enquire *how* is this rich possession reached—this blessed knowledge attained unto.

- “We ARE *saved*, etc.” Rom. viii. 24.
- “Unto us which ARE *saved*, etc.” 1 Cor. i. 18.
- “By which also ye ARE *saved*, etc.” 1 Cor. xv. 2.
- “In them that ARE *saved*, etc.” 2 Cor. ii. 15.
- “By grace ye ARE *saved*, etc.” Eph. ii. 5, 8.
- “Who HATH *saved* us, etc.” 2 Tim. i. 9.
- “He *saved* us, etc.” Titus iii. 5.

Here, plainly enough, the *fact* of God's salvation is set before us, and that, too, not merely as a thing *to be* had in the future, but reached *already*—the *present*, assured, *certain* and *happy* possession of it.

Now then may we see *how* this blessedness is reached :

“I am not ashamed of THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST :
for it is the power of God unto *salvation*
to *every one* that *believeth*,” Rom i. 16.

“The fulness of the *blessing* of THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, xv 29.

“It pleased God by the foolishness of *preaching* to save them that *believe*.” 1 Cor. ii. 2.

“I declare unto you THE GOSPEL

“which I *preached* unto you,
“which also ye have *received*,
“and wherein ye *stand*,
“by which also ye are *saved*,

“if ye *keep in memory* what I preached unto you,

“UNLESS ye have *believed in vain*.

For I *delivered* unto you, that which I also *received*,