

The Penitent Prophet Prays (Jonah 2:1-9)

I. Introduction

- A. Charles Spurgeon on Acts 14:22
- B. Review of the narrative of Jonah – part 1, cliffhanger, and resolution
a portrait of Rom 11:22 – the goodness and severity of God
- C. Setting the course for the message

II. The Lord hears our cries for salvation (Jonah 2:1-2)

- A. The audacity of Jonah to pray
 - 1. God is “HIS God”
 - 2. Jonah bears 2 marks of a true son (Heb 12:7, Ro 8:15)
- B. Jonah is in travail and God hears (Ge 32:11, Ps 18:46, Lk 22:44)
- C. When you are in a hopeless place, where do you run?
 - 1. The throne of grace and mercy (Heb 4:16)
 - a. Do you go to the throne of grace? If not, why not?
- D. The hopelessness of unbelievers – God hears! (Mt 11:28, Jn 6:37)

III. The Lord saves us from Himself (Jonah 2:3-4)

- A. Is it really better to live away from the presence of God?
- B. Jonah sensed God’s hand upon him heavily in his circumstances
 - 1. God’s children understand that affliction is a means of grace through which they are conformed to His image.
- C. By using afflictions, God is saving us from His own eternal wrath
- D. 1 John 4:10: the cross saves us ultimately from God
- E. Is an angry God consistent with ‘good news?’
 - 1. Has the church been neglecting an important means of grace?

IV. Salvation is entirely of the Lord (Jonah 2:5-6)

- A. Jonah is hopeless to save himself in this situation
 - 1. He finally understands his own depravity
 - 2. *self-righteousness* and *self-sufficiency*: a deadly combination
 - a. marks of *self-righteousness*: presumption, grumbling, comparison
 - b. marks of *self-sufficiency*: unwillingness to receive help
- B. Total Depravity is still a minority view in the church today
 - 1. our minds, consciences, hearts, and wills are radically corrupted by the fall of Adam (Tit 1:15, Jer 17:9, Rom 7:18, Eph 4:18,)
 - 2. We can do nothing good (Ro 8:8, Jo 15:5, 8:34, Ep 2:1, Is 64:6)
 - 3. We are unable to believe and follow Christ (1 Co 2:14, Jo 6:44)

V. The Lord saves through repentance and faith (Jonah 2:7-8)

- A. Jonah repented of his idol of a God of justice who had no mercy
 - 1. We must repent of our idolatry
- B. Jonah’s sanctified affliction fanned the burning ember of faith
 - 1. Jonah looked to the temple – the place of sacrifice
 - 2. Jonah’s faith was evident in believing what he had not yet seen
- C. So we must live by faith

VI. Salvation produces thanksgiving and a new sense of consecration

- A. By faith, Jonah is confident that his commission will be restored