

# Sermon Notes

## The Miracle of Life - 1Thess 2:13

### January 3, 2021

#### I. Introduction

- a. had to get one more Christmas message in... had family discussion over dinner... who do you say I am... healer, guide, peace, Lord, still figuring that out, wisdom, friend, everything... all must answer that... pray...  
Luke 9:18-20... *“who do the crowds say I am... John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets... but you, He asked them, who do you say I am...”*
- b. remember faith and belief are very closely related... but not totally same... faith is always a noun (person, place)... belief is always a verb (action)...  
Rom 4:13-25... *“promise by faith... according to grace... give as gift...”*  
Phil 3:9... *“righteousness thru faith in Christ... comes on basis of faith...”*  
Heb 11:1... *“faith is the reality of what is hoped for... proof of what is not seen...”*  
**pistis** (n - 227)... *conviction of the truth of anything; belief...*  
John 6:29... *“this is the work of God... that you believe the One that He sent...”*  
Rom 1:16-17... *“gospel... is the power of salvation... for everyone who believes...”*  
Gal 3:6... *“Abraham believed God... credited to him as righteousness...”*  
**pisteu** (v - 218)... *think to be true; place confidence in; trust Jesus is able to do it...*
- c. received several gift certificates to The Exchange... a price has been paid for me to fully redeem these... have to go to the place (faith) where I can do that... not Scheels or Runnings, only the Exchange... must know they have value and are mine before I can receive the blessings... no good unless I actually use them (belief)...
- d. God has given you gift certificates for everything... peace, healing, life, hope, strength, acceptance, inheritance, forgiveness, provision, wisdom, everything... fully paid for... waiting for you to redeem... only place they are valid is in Christ...  
Isa 26:3... *“He will keep in perfect peace... all whose minds are fixed on Him...”*  
Luke 6:19... *“healing power went out from Him... He healed everyone...”*  
Rom 6:23... *“gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus...”*  
2Cor 1:10... *“we have put our hope in Him...”*  
2Cor 1:21... *“it is God who strengthens us... in Christ...”*  
Eph 1:6... *“we are accepted... in the Beloved...”*  
Eph 1:11... *“in Him... we have received an inheritance...”*  
Eph 4:32... *“forgive one another... just as God, in Christ, forgave you...”*  
Phil 4:19... *“my God will supply all your needs... in Christ...”*  
2Tim 3:15... *“He is able to give you wisdom... thru faith in Christ...”*  
Rom 11:36... *“for everything comes from Him and exists by His power...”*
- e. peace doesn't come from fishing... healing doesn't come from medicine... life doesn't come from family... strength doesn't come from the gym... acceptance doesn't come from social media... supply doesn't come from your job... those are all good things... but can only be redeemed in one place... in Christ...
- f. can be in Christ (have faith)... believe in some areas and not others... finances, but not healing... peace, but not wisdom... hope, but not forgiveness... what then...  
Rom 10:14-17... *“how can they believe without hearing... how can they hear unless someone tells them... faith comes by hearing... hearing Good News about Christ...”*
- g. one last Christmas miracle... the Miracle of Life... most important of all... only comes by belief... *think true, place confidence in, trust Jesus is able to do it...*  
Gen 15:6... *“Abram believed... credited to Him as righteousness...”*  
John 1:12... *“He gave right to be children... to those who believe...”*  
John 3:15-18... *“everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life... everyone who believes will not perish... no judgement against anyone who believes...”*  
John 3:36... *“anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life...”*  
John 5:24... *“anyone who believes in Him... has eternal life...”*  
John 6:40-47... *“everyone who believes in the Son has eternal life... I assure you...”*  
John 11:25-26... *“anyone who believes in Me will live...”*  
John 20:31... *“by believing you will have life...”*  
Acts 15:10-11... *“we believe we are saved thru the grace of our Lord Jesus...”*  
Acts 16:30-31... *“believe on Jesus and you will be saved...”*  
Rom 3:22... *“God's righteousness... thru faith... to all who believe...”*  
Rom 10:9-10... *“believe in your heart... and you will be saved...”*  
1Cor 1:21... *“Gpd was pleased to save those who believe...”*  
1John 5:13... *“believe in Jesus... know you have eternal life...”*  
**pisteu**... *think to be true; place confidence in; trust Jesus is able to do it...*
- h. how do I go to heaven... must come to a place of faith... only in Christ... then then believe He is able to save me... nothing else is necessary... nothing... not belief + baptism... belief + works... belief + church... Word is pretty clear... believe in Jesus and you have eternal life... but for how long...  
John 14:6... *“I am way, truth, life... no one comes to Father except thru Me...”*  
Psa 119:142... *“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness...”*  
Dan 9:24... *“Messiah... will bring in everlasting righteousness...”*  
Rom 5:21... *“grace reigns thru righteousness... resulting in eternal life...”*  
1Tim 1:16... *“those who would believe in Him for eternal life...”*  
**owlam/aion**... *forever, everlasting; always; continuous, perpetual, unending...*
- i. eternal is eternal... nothing changes that, why... righteousness is not based on your behavior or obedience... but obedience of Jesus... available to everyone...  
Rom 5... *“thru one man's obedience... many will be made righteous...”*  
Rom 6... *“obedience (of Jesus) leads to righteousness... and gift of eternal life...”*  
Gal 3:28... *“no Jew or Greek... male or female... all one in Christ...”*
- j. critical to know salvation is secure... God says belief determines behavior (saint)... devil says behavior determines belief (sinner)... doubters can't receive...  
Rom 1:7... *“to all in Rome... loved by God... called as saints (most holy)...”*  
1Cor 1:2... *“to the church... sanctified by Jesus... called as saints (NT - 70)...”*  
Jam 1:6-8... *“ask in faith without doubt... doubter should not expect anything...”*
- k. what is God wanting you to believe for today... not about asking or begging... Word works if you believe... about receiving inheritance that is already yours...  
1Thess 2:13... *“the Word of God... works effectively in you who believe...”*  
John 3:27... *“no one can receive anything... unless it is given from heaven...”*  
Col 3:24... *“knowing you will receive reward of inheritance... in Christ...”*  
**lambano**... *take in order to use; take what is one's own; seize; not to refuse or reject...*  
Rom 8:17-32... *“if children, then heirs... freely given all things...”*  
**also: Psa 40:5; John 21:25; Acts 10:36; Rom 5:2; Rom 8:1; Rom 8:37; 1Cor 1:4; 2Cor 1:10; 2Cor 9:8; Eph 1:4-17; Eph 2:1-5; Col 3:11; Heb 2:10; 2Pet 1:1-3...**
- l. miracles are not limited to Christmas... don't miss a single one (moment, message, method, manger)... especially the Miracle of Life... believe in Jesus today... pray...

## Complete Acceptance

Eze 20:41... *when I gather you home... I will accept you...*

The merits of our great Redeemer are as sweet savour to the Most High. Whether we speak of the active or passive righteousness of Christ, there is an equal fragrance. There was a sweet savour in His active life by which He honoured the law of God and made every precept to glitter like a precious jewel in the pure setting of His own person.

Such too, was His passive obedience, when He endured with un murmuring submission, hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness, and at length sweat great drops of blood in Gethsemane, gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked out the hair, and was fastened to the cruel wood, that He might suffer the wrath of God in our behalf.

These two things are sweet before the Most High; and **for the sake** of **His doing** and **His dying**, His substitutionary sufferings and His vicarious obedience, the Lord our **God accepts us**.

What a preciousness must there be in Him to overcome our failures.

What a sweet savour to put away our ill savour!

What a cleansing power in His blood to **take away sin** such as ours!

What glory in His righteousness to make such unacceptable creatures to be **accepted in the Beloved!!**

Mark, believer, how **sure and unchanging** must be **our acceptance**, since it is in Him! Take care that you never doubt your acceptance in Jesus. You cannot be accepted without Christ... but when you have received His merit, you **cannot be unaccepted**. Notwithstanding all your doubts, and fears, and sins... Jehovah's gracious eye never looks upon you in anger... though He sees sin in you, in yourself, yet when He looks at you thru Christ, He sees no sin. You are **always accepted in Christ**, are always blessed and dear to the Father's heart.

Therefore, **lift up a song**, and as you see the smoking incense of the merit of the Saviour coming up, this evening, before the sapphire throne, let the incense of your **praise go up** also.

**Charles Spurgeon**  
**Morning and Evening Devotional – March 28<sup>th</sup>**

## Sermon Study

*The Miracle of Life - 1Thess 2:13 - January 3, 2021*

1. How would you explain the difference between **faith and belief**?  
Read **Rom 4:13-25... Phil 3:9... Heb 11:1** and **John 6:29... Rom 1:16-17... Gal 3:6**. Is that **important** to know? Why?
2. Where are the things God has given you **located**? Read **Isa 26:3... Luke 6:19... Rom 6:23... 2Cor 1:10-21... Eph 1:6-11... Eph 4:32... Phil 4:19... 2Tim 3:15... Rom 11:36**. Why are they all **in Christ**?
3. What can you do if you **don't have** faith... or don't believe... in a particular area? Read **Rom 10:14-17**. Is that **what you do**?
4. What do you have to do in order to have **eternal life**? Read **John 1:12; 3:15-36; 5:24; 6:40-47; 11:25-26; 20:31... Acts 15:10-11; 16:30-31... Rom 3:22; 10:9-10; 1Cor 1:21**. Could it really be that simple? Why or why not?
5. **How long** does eternal life last? Read **Psa 119:142... Dan 9:24... Rom 5:21... 1Tim 1:16**. Be sure and read the **definitions** too!! How **important** is that to know? Read **James 1:6-8**.
6. Read **1Thess 2:13**. **Do you believe** the Word? Why or why not? Explain. If so, what now? Read **John 3:27** and **Col 3:24**.
7. What have you **learned** from this Sermon Series?