

Exodus Chapter 33 Verses 12-23 Shew Me Thy Way

Ex 33:12 ¶ "And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people."

Moses tells God: you tell me to bring this people to the land of promise: You have not told me who You are sending with me: and I need some reassurance. Moses says to God: you know me by name and have told me that I have found grace in your sight. Wherefore, God, I would like for you to reciprocate these things to me. Moses asks of God: show me your way: so, I may know thee personally, which will prove I have found grace in your sight and will make me know "**that this nation is thy people.**"

For us today, when we are given the new birth, we have many doubts, and seek many assurances from God, that Jesus is indeed our personal Saviour. Satan desires us to stay in this state of doubt and fear, rather than you stand firm upon the promised knowledge of your eternal salvation. Many people go around doubting the finished work of Jesus Christ, by proclaiming only having a hope and not having sure knowledge of their eternal salvation, which is not what the bible teaches. The bible teaches that we have sure knowledge of our eternal salvation. If you do not have the knowledge that you have been saved by God's grace, and do not trust fully in the finished work of Jesus Christ, then you may have not been born again. Consider these scriptures:

- **1Jo 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."** If you love the brethren you are fulfilling the Great commandment of loving God with all that you are, of loving your neighbor as yourself, and the new commandment given by Christ in **Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."** This is sure knowledge. No doubt.
- **Heb 10:19-23; 19 ¶ "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"** This text demands that you have sure faith and belief in your eternal life.
- **Mr 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** This text tells us if we do not believe, we have a terrible fate awaiting us.
- **Joh 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."** Do you know of any place more secure to be than in the hand of Christ?
- **Joh 17:2 "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."** Eternal life means that you shall never die. The Christ in us never dies. Our souls never die, and when mortality has expired; our souls immediately go to heaven and will be reunited with our bodies in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, at Christ's return.

It is very obvious from these few texts, and many more in scripture, that you know that you have been born again, and you know that you are saved by the grace of God, and you have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Some will say: preacher what are you going to do with **Ro 8:23-25; 23 "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."**

We point out that this scripture is not talking about knowing you have been saved by the grace of God and given eternal life. This scripture is talking about the resurrection of the body at the return of Christ. It is not talking about the knowledge, of the work of grace that God has already done in your heart through the power of the Holy Spirit, in giving you the new birth, eternal remission of sins, and eternal life.

"For we are saved by hope:" "Saved" as used in **Ro 8:24** means to deliver or protect, heal, preserve, be made whole. Wherefore, we understand "**we are saved by hope**" in the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Then: we will be **delivered** from this body of death: we will be eternally **protected** by Jesus Christ, we will be completely **healed** of all sin sickness, we will be eternally **preserved** in Jesus Christ, we will be made completely

whole by the merging of the body, soul, and spirit. In the resurrection of the dead in Christ we will have sinless, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies, and spiritual bodies, as seen in **1Co 15:42-44; 42 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."**

"**For we are saved by hope**" **Hope** as used here means a **concrete expectation, concrete confidence, or absolute faith**. Wherefore, we see again there is no doubt that the resurrection of the body will come to pass, but we are yet waiting for that event to occur, at which time it will be seen and no longer hoped for.

Seen means to look forward to or to perceive. It is hope because we have not seen its fruition yet. Again, we see it means that we are waiting for the redemption of the resurrected body. Wherefore, take this scripture in the context that it was intended, and we easily see that it is not speaking about knowing if you are saved, but is speaking only of the belief that when Christ comes the second time, we will then see the fulfilling of this hope, for we shall have resurrected and glorified bodies like Jesus.

Next people will throw up **1Co 8:2 "And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."** Again, this scripture is often used totally out of context. If you read the whole chapter, you will find that the **knowledge** it is speaking of is of eating things offered to idols, which has nothing to do with knowing you are saved in Christ Jesus. If you have been made a new creature in Christ, you know that eating food offered to idols is not sinful. However, if there is present a weak child of God that does not understand this truth, you should not boast in your knowledge and eat food offered to idols before them. Rather, consider the weak brother and not eat food offered to idols before them. This scripture is saying: if you do eat food offered to idols in front of the weak Child of God, you are puffed up in self-righteousness and have not used your knowledge properly, and you have not exercised the love and commandment of Christ.

Returning to the text in verse **13 "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people."** Moses only asked God to show him God's way. Why? Because, if Moses knows God's way, then Moses will know God. The same is true in the life of every born-again child of God. What do you mean? In the new birth, you are given the revelation of Jesus Christ, as your redeemer, and thus you are given to see and know the way, which is Jesus Christ, as seen in: **Joh 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** In this text Jesus is speaking to Thomas, his disciple, in the presence of the other disciples, which declares to us that Jesus gives knowledge to his children as their personal Saviour. It tells us that we should build one another up in Christ, and not do anything to cause a child of God to stumble. It is why we recognize our brothers and sisters in Christ as God's people. We declare unto you today, if there is anything that a child of God should rejoice in, and over, it is the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the knowledge of eternal salvation in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen!

14 "And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name."

Remember in: **Ex 33:3** God had said: "**for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.**" Through the intercessory prayer of Moses, God tells Moses: My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. What rest is God telling Moses about? The rest of the knowledge that the presence of God is with him and the nation Israel. Moses replies: If thy presence go not with us then do not carry us thence. Moses explains: It is God's presence in us which identifies us as God's people. Your presence with us separates us from all other people on the face of the earth. God tells Moses He will do this because Moses has found grace in his sight and God knows Moses by name.

Now, do you see the prophetic picture of the New Testament church in this age of grace? What is it that sets the saved apart from the unsaved? The saved have the presence of Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, indwelling in them. This is why Jesus told us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. It is the picture of the eternal life that we are given in the new birth.

It is the prophetic picture that, as Israel, through Moses' intercession, found grace in the sight of God, so we have received grace in the sight of God, through the intercession of Jesus Christ. God knew Jesus by name: just as God knew Moses by name. Likewise, Jesus Christ knows each child of God by name and with the new birth: we are given the power to know the way of Jesus, and thus, to know Jesus by name. The poet man gave us a special hymn to remember this in the Lloyd Hymnal, with particular attention on verse 4:

412 11s. *Christ's comfort to the church.*

1. O ZION, afflicted with wave upon wave, Whom no man can comfort, whom no man can save; With darkness surrounded, with terrors dismayed, In toiling and rowing thy strength is decayed.
2. Loud roaring, the billows now nigh overwhelm, But skillful's the pilot who sits at the helm; His wisdom conducts thee, his power thee defends, In safety and quiet thy warfare he ends.
3. 'O fearful, O faithless!' in mercy he cries, 'My promise, my truth, are they light in thine eyes? Still, still I am with thee, my promise shall stand; Through tempests and tossings I'll bring thee to land.
4. **'Forget thee, I will not, I cannot—thy name, Engraved on my heart doth for ever remain! The palms of my hands, while I look on, I see The wounds I received when suffering for Thee.'**
5. 'I feel at my heart all thy sighs and thy groans, For thou art most near me, my flesh, and my bones; In all thy distresses thy Head feels the pain, Yet all are most needful, not one is in vain.
6. 'Then trust me, and fear not, thy life is secure; My wisdom is perfect, supreme is my power; In love I correct thee, thy soul to refine, To make thee at length in my likeness to shine.'

This hymn perfectly describes that Moses needed the reassurance of the presence of God with himself and the nation Isreal, which is something that most all children of God experience.

18 "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. 19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. 20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen."

Moses requests that God reveal his glory to him. God tells Moses: **19 "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."** However, you, as a natural man with an inherited sin nature, cannot see my face and live. God tells Moses: I will make my glory to pass by thee, while I hide thee in the clift of the rock, then when I have proclaimed my name before you, and my glory has passed by, I will remove my hand and allow you to see my back parts, but my face shall not be seen.

Did you notice that Moses was to stand upon a rock, and God would protect him in the rock? This gives us the prophetic picture of the coming of Jesus Christ the first and second time. What do you mean? When Christ came to earth, in a prepared body, he wrought the remission of sins for all of God's people, those before his coming and those after. This will be fully manifested when Christ returns the second time and calls for all the dead in Christ to rise in resurrection. Then, God's people that came before Christ, and those that came after Christ, will be changed into sinless glorified bodies.

What does this have to do with us today? The saved people of God do not see the face of God, here in time. However, the name of the Lord is proclaimed before us by the indwelling Holy Spirit presence in us, and through the preaching of the gospel of the finished work of Jesus Christ. This gospel of Jesus Christ is preached by every child of God by their walks and talks, and by the ministers that Jesus has sent forth to preach publicly.

The hand, which hid Moses in the clift of the rock, and only allowed Moses to see the hinder parts of God, is the same hand that hides us today from seeing God's face, while we inhabit bodies that have an inherited sin nature. However, once we are born again, we can behold God with spiritual sight. When Jesus returns the second time, and we are changed, God's hand will not hide us in the clift of the rock, as he did Moses. We will not be looking upon the hinder parts of God. We shall see the way of God: We shall see the face of God, and we shall live forever. Hallelujah! Praise ye the LORD! Amen!