

us. There are certainly different gifts and callings but spiritual life is the lot of every believer and our joy is to grow in the understanding and appreciation of it. And, incidentally, there are many programs available that work to this end but we must be careful that we become attached to programs and miss the simply joy of living with the Lord.

MESSAGE # 1: THE PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION

Biblical Passages: 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2 Timothy 1:8-13

I. Introducing the Subject: The reality and joy of salvation should be a part of our daily lives. I know that it is possible to become so acceptive of something that it becomes involuntary and that is not bad so long as the reality is not lost. In my daily worship I should rejoice that *the Lord has saved me, given me a new stand with God and a hope that is eternally secure.* I should never lose the wonder of that. It is a matter of personal knowledge and is practical in that it orients life to the purposes of the Lord rather than to our own ends. It is absolutely basic to Christian living and no further argument needs to be made to that end.

II. Discussion: Things to be known in this apprehension of salvation

A. God Provides: 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Timothy 1:14

Putting the text together we quickly see that God provides
gracious---salvation
vocation

occupation in a complete work that is personal in the life of the believer and practical in its outworking. Paul is the example but not a limiting factor...what he says of himself is demonstrative of the Lord's work in the lives of His people. It is a complete work and the text of Colossians 2:10 will further emphasize this for us all.

B. The Lord Jesus Christ came to bring forgiveness and redemption and to save and commission His people to His witness. In the personal realm He saves, in the practical realm He equips. Notice how this is worked out in our texts.

C. We therefore believe (2 Timothy 1:12) and our belief is shown by the reality that: