

The great salvation

Part 3

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[00:00:01] Titus chapter 3 and we'll read from verse 1. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work. To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing [00:01:08] of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. That being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men, but avoid foolish questions and genealogies and contentions and strivings about the law, for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretic after the first and [00:02:02] second admonition reject, knowing that he that is such is subverted and sinneth, being condemned of himself. When I shall send Artemis unto thee, O Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis, for I have determined there to winter. Bring Zenos, the lawyer, and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them. And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

For those who haven't been here, we've been looking at this epistle and [00:03:02] considering the great salvation. We are convinced it's a great salvation because it comes from God our Savior, who is the source, and from Jesus Christ our Savior, who was the sacrifice to make it possible, and many other features we have seen of this great salvation. And we were speaking on another night, last night, about the teaching in chapter 2, teaching that is so necessary for the continuing of this salvation in a practical way in our lives. And tonight we want to see a little more of this great salvation, how it has come to us, the power of it, and the proof of it, and also the wonderful prospect that is in view. First of all, Paul says to Titus, now tell them to be obedient to the powers that be. And that [00:04:07] seems to be a very simple exhortation, but it's a very necessary one. We have to remember that God instituted the times of the Gentiles in which we are still in. They haven't stopped since the time they were set up in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. And God set up the times of the Gentiles that there might be decent rule upon earth for the blessing of mankind in general. And so the laws of those powers have to be obeyed. And let us say here very briefly that if those powers do set up laws which are contrary to the mind of God, God is not responsible for them. The powers that be have failed in their charge before God to promote evil and to curb good. But the believer is not to [00:05:05] call in question what those laws are. He is to obey them. He might have to suffer under

them. He might have to suffer loss under them. But because he is a Christian and responsible to God, he is bound, obligated to obey the laws of the land in whatever way they come to him. And bad, bad thing if a Christian breaks down and fails in this responsibility because a Christian above all should be obeying the laws of the land. And then Paul says we were terrible in our unconverted days. And notice what he says, we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, [00:06:02] hateful and hating one another. Well, that's a pretty dark picture. But I believe it's necessary to see this dark picture to throw into relief the greatness of God's salvation. And what can be secured in the lives of men and women when God begins to be active? And we see here how he is active and what it produces. Those features, the kindness and the love of God, his mercy and his grace, the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. Oh, what wonderful features those are to bring about the greatness of his salvation in the lives of men and women. Then we trust we shall see something of the proof of salvation in us day by day. But let's look at [00:07:01] these things closely. The kindness of God. These things that we've mentioned, these awful things, awful features of the flesh energized by Satan. These things are contrary to the mind of God and will of God. And they deserve his wrath, his punishment. And instead of that, he shows kindness, the kindness of God. There's something very warm about the term kindness. I often say that even animals understand what kindness is, what kindness is. Stroke a cat and it purrs, it's contented. Clap a dog and it wags its tail. They appreciate kindness. A little child understands kindness. It's so easy for them to appreciate intuitively what kindness is. No, dear friends, what a marvelous thing when we think of the kindness of God. Surely illustrated for us in David when he [00:08:08] showed the kindness of God to Mephibosheth, a member of Saul's family, the family that showed him hatred, continual hatred, Saul particularly, hunting him like a partridge on the mountains, desiring his death. And yet David says, I want to show the kindness of God to any of the house of Saul. What a marvelous thing that was. And that's just a little illustration of what we have here. Those awful features that are offensive to God. And God says, those people, I'm going to show them kindness. We know why he could show them kindness. We know that when Jesus died on the cross and bore the wrath of God against sin, that enabled God righteously to show kindness to all [00:09:03] those who were offensive to him. Indeed, to the very ones who crucified him in answer to his own prayer, father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Kindness, beautiful term, the kindness of God. But then it speaks about the love of God and who can speak adequately about the love of God. I don't think we can do better than quote the scripture that we quote again and again and again, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Marvelous, marvelous feature of the love of God. So loved the greatness of God's love in sending his son. There is the measure of the love of God. [00:10:01] Tremendous expression of it. And we are very, very thankful that it has brought about a tremendous amount of blessing in the lives of men and women here in his love. Not that we love God, but he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Marvelous demonstration of the love of God. And this too has produced a tremendous crop of blessing in the lives of men and women. I wonder how many people have been converted through listening to John 3 and 16. I think it was Whitfield who preached it again and again and again and again and again. And of course, many, many souls were converted and has been preached by many, many gospel preachers down through the centuries of the Christian era. Thank God for his love. And the wonder of it is [00:11:03] that it doesn't stop. It's not just simply initially meeting us in our need and helping us in our sins, although that is true. At the end of chapter eight of Romans, Paul tells us that nothing, not even death can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Isn't that a comforting verse? All the different things that might come upon us, nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are loved now, we'll be loved throughout all eternity because we are accepted in the beloved and will be assured of that love again and again and again through successive ages. Then it speaks about

mercy. I like to think of the parable of the good Samaritan because it is a perfect expression [00:12:03] of mercy. When the Lord Jesus asked the question, which one showed mercy? Oh, the good Samaritan, go and do thou likewise, show mercy. But there we find a beautiful picture of what mercy means. It means need being met by someone who has adequate resources to meet that need. And that man, the Samaritan, he used his time, he used his resources, what he had with him, and he pledged himself to care for every feature of need that that poor man might require. And so there we have a wonderful picture of the mercy of God. Oh, what need! We think of the tremendous need that exists in the world, has always existed. And oh dear friends, the mercy [00:13:01] of God met that need in all its parts, meeting that need more than enough. And indeed we find the Bible speaks about abundant mercy, great mercy. Many, many other adjectives used to describe this mercy that God has. You can never get to the bottom of it. You can never exhaust it. God, who is rich in mercy because of his great love wherewith he loves us. And so thank God everyone here in this room this evening has known what mercy is because mercy has met their need, that great need initially in forgiving us our sins and day by day meeting our need, whatever that might be. What a wonderful thing it is, the mercy of God. Perhaps you've heard me saying this before, but I'm going to say it again. I was in a Bible reading once and a young brother [00:14:04] asked an old brother to explain what mercy is. No, he said, I'm not going to attempt to explain when you get older, you'll know what it is. And there's a great deal of truth in that. When you look back over your life and you see the way the Lord has led you and preserved you and provided for you, then you have an enhanced knowledge of what mercy means because he's a wonderful God and is great in mercy and delights in meeting the need of his own. So if you think again of that tremendous parable in all its parts, and it indeed is a wonderful parable. We think of the man stopping when others who ought to have had more sense and more sense of what was required passed by. He stopped and he was on a journey, deliberately going somewhere to do something, but he stopped and he used his time and then whatever he had or the oil and the wine [00:15:09] and the bandages binding up the wounds and pouring in the oil and wine and caring for the man and setting him on his own beast. And he walking along beside it, taking the man to an inn, providing for him and saying to the innkeeper, now here's something to look after him. If it's more, just let me know. I'll repay you when I come back. Absolute coverage, nothing missing, everything that was necessary for the man's welfare. And that's what the mercy of God is for you and for me every day of our lives. This abundant mercy spoken of in the gospel by Luke in the early chapters, marvelous thing, the mercy of God. And then the other thing, fourth feature is his grace. And I like to think too of that parable in Luke 15, when the father is watching [00:16:09] for his son coming back from the far distant, dissolute man wasted his resources. Oh, how sad it was coming back from serving the swine, coming back perhaps with the smell of the swine upon him, hungry, tattered, torn, wearied, sad. And his father was watching for him. And his father wasn't concerned about his condition. His father was concerned about his son. Wonderful picture of grace, favor that not only embraced him, kissed him, loved him, brought him into his home and said only the best is good enough for my son. And when we read those verses in the epistle to the Ephesians that we're accepted or graced in the beloved, we understand something of the wonder of the grace [00:17:07] of God. Initially, of course, meeting us in our sins, by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Wonderful grace of God, many, many statements that refer to the grace of God and what it secures initially in our lives, not judgment, not wrath, not punishment, grace, grace meeting us in such a remarkable way. If mercy meets us in our need and deals with that need effectively, grace is an indication of the favor of God that places us far beyond our need, places us in a position before him for his pleasure [00:18:03] and for our eternal blessing. And when we think of that young man brought in from the far country into the father's house with all its feasting and merriment and the robes, the sandals and the ring and everything done to show that

he's home, home in the father's presence to enjoy all that the father has without any sense of all that had transpired in the past. Oh, how wonderful, completely blotted out the past and now in all the favor of his father's provision. We like the story of the little girl who came home from Sunday school and the teacher had been telling her about the parable in Luke 15 and the mother very gently said, now, what did you like best about that story? She said there was no casting up and that's a very, very good description [00:19:04] of it. No reference to the father chiding his son because of wasted resources or wasted time or any dishonor upon his own name. I know, love, favor, embracing, kissing, kindness, all bound up together and what a wonderful thing it is, the grace of God and that beautiful verse I like it very, very much in first Peter chapter five, the God of all grace who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, appalling expression used by Peter and what a marvelous one it is. So I believe there we have these four features, the kindness of God and the love of God [00:20:01] and the mercy of God and the grace of God, those four provisions to secure salvation in the lives of men and women and completely blot out all these evil features that we see in that verse that we read together, verse three. Now that's marvelous. That is a miracle and a miracle that takes place again and again and again in the lives of men and women. Would to God we saw more of it today as we have seen it in the past. People crying out for mercy, people experiencing the love and kindness of God, people experience the warmth of the grace of God and going on their way rejoicing, set free from these evil things that we have been speaking about and it is stressed [00:21:01] it's by God our savior. Isn't that a lovely term? God our savior. We can speak about God in other ways and emphasize his power, the most high God, the almighty God, El the mighty one, many many other ways in which God is spoken of, the everlasting God, the eternal God, but oh how wonderful this simple expression God our savior and mind if we appropriated really those four things that we're speaking about by which God has blessed us then I'm sure it would produce in all our hearts what it produced in Mary. My spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior. That's an act of worship and that's what we require more and more, not simply to be theoretical, not simply to be able to quote the [00:22:05] scriptures, very important to be able to quote scripture, but the proof that the quoting is having an effect upon our lives is the production of worship and testimony. The devil can quote scripture. Dear friends how wonderful to be able to quote and to act in such a way as to prove that these things have an abiding place in our hearts and in our minds and says Paul not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. The renewal of the Holy Spirit is consequent I believe upon the washing. The washing of regeneration if you like is the cleansing away [00:23:05] of all that's obnoxious to God. It's interesting I can't say very much about it but it's interesting to notice how often we find water and the Spirit linked together. John 3 for instance in new birth. John's epistle the three that bear witness the Spirit the water and the blood and here and there may be other ones yes there is in John 7 the well of water springing up into everlasting life and the water flowing out that was chapter 4 chapter 7 the water flowing out this speak he concerning the Spirit and here we find them linked together again the washing cleansing away of all that's obnoxious to God and then the bringing in of all that's powerful and pleasing to God the renewal [00:24:02] of the Holy Spirit. It's not that we had the Spirit and lost it and it was renewed to us it's not that it's the renewal that goes on in the person's life that these evil things don't find any place in the life what is of God is substituted if you want that expression in the power of the Holy Spirit. Isn't it good to know that all that's offensive to God has been cleansed away washed away completely we have a figure of this in the inauguration of the priests or the consecration of the priests first of all they were bathed all over never to be repeated and then we find that they used the labor which was a daily thing in their activities as priests but this is the washing that is done once and for all never to be repeated a new condition that's brought about and it says [00:25:05] so precisely through our Lord Jesus Christ I believe that both things are there and you remember that when the spear pierced his side forthwith came out blood and water and these things

are always connected together we believe and how wonderful that this cleansing action has taken place once and for all before God. God is satisfied with what Christ accomplished and this cleansing has been done to give us a new position and then we find the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit and I want to spend a little time in this because the power that is necessary for the maintenance of this salvation in a practical way in our lives is the power of the Holy Spirit and there isn't a [00:26:03] feature of Christian living where we can afford to neglect or ignore the Holy Spirit and the Bible is abundantly clear that it is necessary for the Holy Spirit to be operating in our lives to secure what is pleasing for God. It's expedient for you that I go away said the Lord Jesus and when he went away the Holy Spirit was poured out that's the word we get here it says which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Very interesting that that word shed or poured out is the same word that is used in connection with the blood of our Lord Jesus. No restraint, no reluctance and this gives us the impression of the tremendous gift that this is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit [00:27:07] mentioned in Acts chapter 2 when so many Jews were converted mentioned in the house of Cornelius when the Gentiles were converted no difference the pouring out of the Holy Spirit without stint without any reluctance on his part to come to show what was available for every child of God in their Christian life and experience. That's very very wonderful and of course it's so easy to forget that we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit it's so easy to ignore this in our coming together and substitute human arrangements for the free activity of the Holy Spirit and so we want to hold on to this great truth it's necessary to hold on to it because if ever it's given up we [00:28:03] fall back upon man's arranging man's ideas and what a hopeless business that is. If you think of 1st Thessalonians chapter 1 Paul speaks about the preaching of the gospel and he says our word came to you not only as man's word he says it came to you in assurance and in power and then he says in the power of the Holy Spirit. Now the agents used for the preaching of the gospel Paul and his companions were upright godly clean vessels and I believe that's why the Holy Spirit could operate through them and that's always true that where there are clean vessels vessels of [00:29:02] integrity before God the Holy Spirit can use them and that was evident in the power of the Holy Spirit that was seen in the preaching of the gospel and so that's necessary today and of course we might ask ourselves humbly why do we not have converts one reason of course is because hardly ever anyone comes into the hall who is unconverted but then various endeavors are made in personal contacts and gospel tracts given away and yet how seldom we hear of conversions of an outstanding character. We need the Holy Spirit's power to help us in this great matter to present Christ to the unconverted in power. When we come to the activities of believers again we need the Holy Spirit. Worship the highest service of the believer must be in the power [00:30:08] of the Holy Spirit if it is to reach the Father's ear with approval. Remember Paul says in Philippians 3 we have no confidence in the flesh we worship by the Spirit of God in contrast to all the material ceremony that mark the old dispensation investments and music and incense and material furniture no the Spirit of God spiritual worship spiritual sacrifices which are well pleasing to God and so true worship with the Father's approval must be in the power of the Holy Spirit. If ever we attempt to organize worship we'll find how flat and how powerless it will be but wherever [00:31:04] we sit down humbly and simply and quietly to make much of Christ then we'll find that worship will flow because the Spirit delights to glorify Christ and the Spirit will lend his power and service and his energy in true worship we worship by the Spirit of God. The activity of prayer Jude says precisely praying in the Holy Spirit not long dissertations telling God the things he'd never heard before oh how well instructed God is when we rise up and pray long dissertations that's not the prayer meeting that's not for the prayer meeting we have to pray in the Spirit things that are vital things they're connected with the local company or an international way [00:32:01] things of need things of concern not that there isn't room to mention the great things of God in prayer there is prayers of Paul are a striking example of that but to pray in the Spirit is to get away from phraseology a continual repetition of the same things again and again praying in the Spirit guided by the Spirit to say the right things in the

right manner nothing more obnoxious of course than praying to your brothers or sisters pray to God if you pray in the Spirit and so how thankful we are that in the power of the Spirit we can pray and please God and then if we think of ministry well we just need to turn to first Corinthians and we have indications how ministry is to be conducted and that in the power of the Spirit and of course when it comes to the [00:33:03] functioning in the assembly so many things that are done in the power of the same Spirit and of course a great variety variety in unity and empowered by the same Spirit as to worship we ought to say this that this is the Spirit's great joy great unique service that he delights to lead us to the Father that we might worship him the Bible says precisely that we address the Father Abba Father in the power of the Spirit the Spirit is shed abroad in our hearts so that we can do this great service for the Father or to the Father and then no man can say Lord in connection with Jesus but by the Holy Spirit and this of course is in contrast to evil spirits that would say [00:34:02] curse on Jesus but those who are empowered by the Spirit delight to refer to the Lord Jesus as Lord giving him his supremacy and his place and so we believe this is the unique service of the Holy Spirit we cannot worship the Son correctly we cannot worship the Father correctly unless by the Spirit this is his unique glory and we are not ignoring him or we're not delegating him to a lower position when we say we do not worship the Spirit or pray to the Spirit we recognize his unique glory that belongs to him that he can lead us in worship to the Father and to the Son and in prayer also and without that Holy Spirit's power and blessing we would be powerless ineffective in addressing [00:35:01] the Father and the Son in worship or in prayer very very wonderful thing thing then to take account of the Spirit the power of this great day in which we live in which many features the results of salvation are seen and we think of that tremendous statement in first Corinthians 12 that in the power of one spirit we are baptized into one body there is a tremendous statement what began at Pentecost exists today great conversations have taken place in relation to what's the main thing in connection with the unity of believers is it light or is it life and the truth is neither of them the great unity that marks believers is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that [00:36:06] life and light are essential matters is abundantly true but without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit there would be no unity of the body and so we're deeply thankful for that tremendous statement beginning at Pentecost and right on to the present day and will continue to the rapture and beyond it we think of this marvelous organism has been brought into being in the power of the Holy Spirit and then access we're told by Paul in second second chapter of Ephesians we all have access in the power of one spirit to the Father marvelous thing that Jew and Gentile privileged to have access to the Father at all times and access means that someone takes you by the hand and brings you into the presence of another an august personage and what a beautiful picture [00:37:06] this is of how we're privileged if you like taken by the hand of the Son in the power of the Spirit into the presence of the Father well these are wonderful things marvelous things and again we want to see how necessary it is to take account of the power of the Holy Spirit abundantly shed forth notice that word no stint the great giving of God I believe commend your it with the giving of his Son oh how wonderful abundantly shedding forth the Holy Spirit for our present and eternal blessing now I've noted one or two things down here that I want to speak about because we've been speaking about salvation and its practical effects in our lives and it would be wrong to [00:38:06] stress all the wonderful things that we brought into in the power of the Spirit and omitting the practical side and if we read in Romans chapter 8 verses 1 & 2 where Paul says precisely about himself the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death now I spoke earlier about quoting scripture now it's very very easy to quote scripture and I'm not saying anything wrong about quoting scripture let us be accurate in quoting scripture but Paul says in that particular context it set me free that was his personal testimony the fact that I quote that scripture it may not be true of me I might quote it actually accurately and it's [00:39:05] right that I should do so but then of course Paul goes on to indicate that what was true in him could be true of others and we want it to be true of us that the law of the Spirit of life the rule the rule of the Spirit of

life in Christ Jesus can set us free from the law of sin and death we have the potential I want to use that word we have the potential to overcome those awful features of and death sin shall not have dominion over you whatever that feature of sin might be some bad habit ill temper any other feature that's obnoxious to God can be overcome in the power of the Spirit we have the indwelling Spirit and if we can use a term reverently we are not using him to his [00:40:02] potential if we do not overcome those evil features that are in us whatever they might be no dear friends when we turn to Galatians 5 what a tremendous challenge that is I don't want to engage you with the list of evil things that is mentioned tremendous list of evil features of sin and the flesh but Paul goes on to tell the Galatians that we are indwelt by the Spirit we can live by the Spirit we can walk by the Spirit and when we do then the fruit of the Spirit is expressed in us in its ninefold features and they are marvelous things peace and love and joy and so on and while they have been divided up into three sections I prefer to let them alone as they are nine features one fruit and all specifically bearing upon the Christian company of course [00:41:09] individually worked out because if you come to the last verse in that chapter you'll find that Paul is referring to harmony and blessing amongst the Saints of God and so any eruption that takes place amongst the Saints is a proof that those fruit or those features of the fruit are not being expressed in the power of the Spirit thank God that we do have the Holy Spirit indwelling us to give us the power to rise above those things to defeat them and to express the fruit beautiful pleasing to God and beneficial to us as it is in practice amongst us day by day awful thing to see the ugly features of the flesh beautiful to see the features of the fruit of the Spirit now there's [00:42:05] a list of here that a list of things here that I want to read out because I can't remember them but I want to draw your attention to them because I think this is one of the key features in the epistle of Paul to Titus and that is good works now very very definitely Paul indicates that we do not have salvation because of our good works he says so precisely verse 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done so they are clearly works are out of court as far as our salvation is concerned then good works they form a very very important part of Paul's teaching I want to point them out to you chapter 1 and verse 16 good works are mentioned there in a specific [00:43:04] way if I make a difference in the quotation I've written these things down from Mr. Darby's translation chapter 2 and verse 7 Titus is to be a pattern of good works if you like an example he himself was to show good works so that others could take character from from him I think in that respect he's very like the man who wrote to him Paul Paul says I have showed you and he showed them by example how to do things that were pleasing to God then it says in chapter 2 verse 14 zealous for good works there is to be a zeal for it it's not something that you're just to wait casually it might come along but to be zealous for good works chapter 3 verse 1 ready [00:44:01] to do every good work not to be taken by surprise oh I wish I had been more alert but to be ready ready at any time to show good works chapter 3 verse 8 to pay diligent attention to good works and then verse 14 of chapter 3 to apply themselves to good works now if you wrote a letter to me and I noticed that again and again you mentioned the same thing I would say well that must be very important they've drawn attention to it six times now Paul has drawn attention here to good works six times in his brief letter to Titus and so good works must be a very very necessary feature of salvation if you like the proof of salvation not the result of not the the power that produces [00:45:09] salvation but the proof of salvation very very wonderful blessing that we can in some way show forth good works things that God approves of you remember Dorcas she was full of good works she died she was too valuable a sister to lose and so Peter was sent for and you remember he raised her out from that condition she was a good worker we're told to provoke each other to love and to good works we might ask what are good works well the Lord Jesus said that they should take account of his good works that he did from the father and we know the kind of works that he did he healed he [00:46:04] visited he was kind he was helpful always ready to show kindness in a very practical way to people that he came in contact with so to ourselves we should be alive and ready to do good works whenever we can it's a very very definite

feature indeed Paul says in the epistle to the Ephesians precisely that we're created for that special reason to show for good works well lastly before I finish in that part you remember the Lord Jesus in Revelation 2 and 3 says to assemblies I know thy works some of them were bad I believe most of them were good but the Lord Jesus knows if any [00:47:03] of us are in chapter 1 I think it's verse 2 hope of eternal life which God promised before the ages of time the God who cannot lie the hope of eternal life was Paul speaking about hope in a speculative sense I might have it or I might not not for one moment that hope was absolutely sure in other other places he speaks about hope with four adjectives attaching to it a clear indication that there's no and there's no speculation attached to it certain hope sure hope living hope dear friends that's the kind of hope we have here eternal life we've been talking about salvation we've been talking about the awful features of life that were exhibited in our unconverted days now he's talking about a quality of life that is unsurpassed eternal life that finds its joy and its energy and [00:48:09] contemplating and enjoying the Father the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit according to John 17 this is eternal life that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent they say that's not a definition of eternal life it comes pretty near it and dear friends what a marvelous thing that this life that we have this quality of life finds its deep satisfaction in singing to the Father and the Son and worshiping them and reading about them in every feature connected with them we enjoy it's the proof of this life that we have a quality of life not even the length of it that's not the point it's the quality of that life so distinct from all that had gone before and of course airship is connected with it which of course connects us [00:49:06] with the display in the kingdom when we shall be joined tears with our Lord Jesus Jew and Gentile alike marvelous place of blessing that shall be ours in contrast to Satan reigning in our lives and producing evil features heirs according to the hope of eternal life what a prospect for us when all that belongs to this poor sad world is gone and gone forever we'll be in a sphere of eternal life and blessing find its joy in divine persons in the power of the Spirit and to take part in the administration of the kingdom all the wonderful wonder of salvation will be realized in a tremendous way well may we be encouraged so much more could be said but these I believe are sufficient to indicate to us marvel of this provision that God has brought to us to [00:50:07] secure salvation in our lives and an ongoing matter in the power of the Spirit and producing this tremendous prospect that we're all looking forward to and the sooner the better may we be encouraged for his namesake