

Elder Bobby Willis



Jonah 2:9, “**...I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.**”

Many of us have vowed vows at times, saying what we intend to do, or what we WILL NOT DO! Jonah vowed in his heart that he would not “**...go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it...**” as the word of the Lord told him. There was great wickedness in Nineveh and the Lord intended for Jonah to “**...preach unto it the preaching that...**” God would give him. Jonah had his own thoughts about the situation and it was not the same as God’s. Notice what Jonah stated, “**They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy**” (Jonah 2:8). It is bad when we lie to someone else for to lie is a sin, but, when we lie to ourselves we have forsaken what we know of God’s mercy. The end result of such is finding our lives turned upside down, even to the point of being cast into a fish’s belly. When our conscience is hurting, we feel as Jonah felt when he said, “**I am cast out of thy sight..**” (Jonah 2:4). If you have ever felt that way, then you can understand a little of what Jonah was going through. But, Jonah had exalted himself above God by telling the Lord what he (Jonah) would NOT do. Words are not recorded as such, but his actions spoke louder than words when he thought he could flee from the Lord and jumped on a ship headed to Tarshish. His trials grew so great that Jonah probably never thought again about the fare he paid to get on the ship, which normally would have added salt to the wound. Notice the words of Matthew 23:12, “**...whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**” Jonah exalted himself which resulted in being cast into the belly of the whale. Then, he humbled himself which resulted in him declaring “**Salvation is of the Lord.**”

For Jonah to declare “**Salvation is of the Lord**” covered two aspects. First, it would be his own salvation from the condition he was in. “**And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land**” (Jonah 2:10). Secondly, the salvation, or saving of the people of Nineveh from the error of their ways, was God’s business and not Jonah’s. Isaiah said it this way, “**For**

my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 55:8).

Oh that we all would look unto God when we find ourselves backed into a corner or in the bottom of a pit. Jonah vowed as he prayed in the belly of the great fish, “...yet **I will look again toward thy holy temple**”(Jonah 2:4). It is then at these times we will be able to declare “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...**” (Ephesians 1:3). “**Salvation is of the Lord**”. *Think About It!*