

SAVED IN CHILDBEARING

“Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing,
if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”
I Timothy 2:15

- I. The Promise of Salvation In Childbearing Must Be Understood In Its Context (I Timothy 2:9-14).
 - A. Women must be adorned with shamefacedness, sobriety, and works (2:9-10 cp I Peter 3:1-6).
 1. **Shamefacedness.** 1. Modesty, bashfulness, shyness. 2. The state of being ashamed.
 2. **Sobriety.** 2. Moderation in any respect. 3. Staidness, gravity, seriousness.
 3. Good works beautify a godly woman, not her broided hair, gold, pearls, or costly array.
 - B. Women are to learn in silence and subjection under the authority of the man (2:11-12).
 1. If a woman will learn anything, she is to ask her husband at home (I Cor 14:34-35).
 2. Women are strictly prohibited from being teachers. They are to be silent in church.
 3. They may not exert any authority over men in public assemblies due to their weakness.
 - C. Women were created after the man, and they were guilty of being deceived in Eden (2:13-14).
 1. Adam was made before Eve, who was created to be a help meet for Adam (I Cor 11:3,8-9).
 2. Because Eve was deceived by Satan, she showed great weakness in the transgression.
 3. The nature of Eve's transgression should lead women to shamefacedness and sobriety.
 4. By her failure, childbearing is cursed, and she is under greater rule of her husband (Ge 3:16).
 - D. Women shall be saved from their condemnation, if they show proper evidence in works (2:15).
 1. **Notwithstanding.** A. *prep.* - In spite of. B. *adv.* Nevertheless, still, yet. C. *conj.* Although.
 2. Since Paul had strongly criticized and/or restricted all women, he now promised salvation.
 3. Note carefully the alternate use of singular and plural nouns and pronouns in this passage.
 - a. It uses "women," "the woman," "a woman," "Eve," "the woman," "she," and "they."
 - b. "The man" and "the woman" are collective nouns: singular in form - plural in meaning.
 - c. Other uses of collective nouns are Romans 1:26-27; I Cor 7:3-4,13-14; 11:3-15; Ps 14:1.
 4. Her salvation will come by way of childbearing. "In" describes relation to the act of birth.
- II. There are basically two or three false interpretations assumed by commentators and most Christians.
 - A. All godly women with good works will be saved from the foretold pain and travail of childbirth.
 1. The salvation here is not "from" childbearing, but "in" childbearing. Birth brings salvation.
 2. Scripture does not teach anywhere else that Eve's curse is lifted for godliness (II Cor 13:1).
 3. It is easy to see in all ages that elect women did not give birth easier than reprobate women.
 - B. Godly women will be saved from the great grief of childbirth, if they have obedient children.
 1. The context has a far greater subject under consideration than the natural pains of delivery.
 2. There is no antecedent for the pronoun "they" to justify applying it to women's children.
 3. The obedience of children is not necessary to joy. Birth itself can bring joy (John 16:21).
 - C. Godly women will be saved eternally in spite of their difficulties in childbirth and its curse.
 1. How are they saved "in" childbearing? What about women that never gave birth, or girls?
 2. How are they saved "in" childbearing? If eternal life is the salvation, how is it "in" birth?
 3. There is a more direct and obvious solution based on scripture itself and this context.
 - D. Commentators understanding this text as explained below are Adam Clarke and John Gill.
- III. The Prophecy of Salvation in Childbearing Is A Glorious Doctrine of the Scriptures.
 - A. When God judged Eve with sorrow in birth, He foretold victory by her birthed Seed (Ge 3:13-16).
 - B. God prophesied to Abraham that His Seed would come from Sarah's womb (Genesis 17:15-22).
 - C. Leah named her fourth son, Judah, in prophesy of the praise that he would bring (Gen 29:35).
 - D. God gave conception to Ruth by Boaz to cause the birth of David's grandfather (Ruth 4:13-17).
 - E. Bathsheba bore a son to David named Solomon, whom the Lord called His son (II Samuel 12:24).
 - F. Isaiah prophesied to Israel that God would cause a special childbirth to occur (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6).

- G. Jeremiah foretold God would create a new thing - a woman would compass a man (Jer 31:22).
- H. Joseph was told to name Mary's virgin-born Son, Jesus; because He would save (Mat 1:18-25).

IV. The Birth of Jesus Christ Was the Event That Fulfilled the Prophecies and the Promise.

- A. Mary brought forth Jesus Christ without the aid of man. It was truly her seed (Luke 1:34-35).
- B. The angels announced the arrival of the Saviour, Christ the Lord, as a babe (Luke 2:8-17).
- C. Mary presented Jesus at the temple, since He was a male Who opened the womb (Luke 2:23).
- D. Simeon, with the Holy Ghost upon him, prophesied about this special child (Luke 2:25-35).
- E. The wise men sought a young child and found Him with His mother (Matthew 2:2,8-11).
- F. Jesus the Redeemer was made of a woman - made of Mary - in childbirth (Galatians 4:4-5).
- G. The apostles and disciples referred to their Saviour as the "holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:27,30).

V. Women May Know They Are Saved In Mary's Childbearing By Continuing In Good Works.

- A. The very act that God cursed is seen as the means of salvation by Mary's childbirth (I Tim 2:15).
- B. Though still under the curse, as is evident in childbirth, women may have hope of salvation.
- C. The "if" conditional statement describes conditions for evidence. Otherwise there is no hope.
- D. Similar language is used with the same intent elsewhere (Col 1:23; John 8:31; Heb 3:6,14; etc.).
- E. Faith (II Pet 1:5,10), charity (I John 3:14), holiness (Heb 12:14), and sobriety (I Thess 5:5-11) are evidences of salvation, not conditions. These works show one who is already saved by grace.
- F. Do you wish you had delivered the Christ child? You can be rather blessed (Luke 11:27-28).

For Further Study:

1. *Childbirth* (a sermon outline relating childbirth to Christ) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/childbirth.pdf>.
2. *The Seed of the Woman* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/seed-of-the-woman/sermon.php>.
3. *The Stronger Man* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/stronger-man/sermon.php>.
4. *The Genealogy of Jesus Christ* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/genealogy-of-jesus/sermon.php>.
5. *The Birth of Jesus Christ* (sermon outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/birth-of-jesus-christ.pdf>.
6. *Salvation by Works* (a sermon outline for works of evidence) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/salvation/salvation-by-works/sermon.php>.

NOTE: This outline was first used in a sermon preached by Jonathan R. Crosby in The Greenville Church on Dec 22, 1985.