

Salvation is of the Lord. To pray a prayer like that without really meaning it will not do anything for anyone. If however, we really do believe on Jesus and repent of our sins, He saves us. Directly opposite the arch in Washington Square Park is the Judson Memorial Church, named after the first foreign American missionary who went overseas, Adoniram Judson. The hand of God undoubtedly led and upheld Adoniram Judson and his family in Burma for many years and through many deep trials. A small concrete fountain, hanging in disrepair and surrounded with black iron to support it, protrudes from the corner of this church (Picture at bottom). Faded words are engraved into the concrete work. It is the Word of God, a Scripture from *Revelation 22:17* that says, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Yes, God's hand of mercy offers to us the gift of eternal life, the water of life, freely! Will you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, take the water of life freely, and come to Christ for salvation? Salvation is an event in God's hand that we can receive when we humble ourselves and depend upon Him for all of our righteousness. If you would like to talk to us, please call us. If you need a church to attend we would count it an honor for you to visit our local church. If you were to visit us we would consider your visit to be an event in the hand of God. We desire that our church be a "standard to which the wise and honest can repair" to find refreshment for their thirsty souls in the worship of our God and in the fellowship of other believers in the midst of our great city.



## **OUR MEETING PLACES**

### **HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

10 am and 11 am

490 Hudson Street / PS 3  
New York, NY  
(Between Christopher and Grove Street)

**Pastor Matthew Recker**

#### **WEDNESDAY PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**

The Heritage Ministry Office • 7:15PM  
519 Eighth Ave., NY, NY 10018  
Suite 807  
(between 35-36 Street)

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES ARE INTERPRETED FOR THE DEAF**



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# The Hand of God



**“Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair; the vent is in the hand of God.”**



This quote, spoken by George Washington, is found on the Washington Square Monument in Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village, New York City. The entire statement grabs my attention, but the final declaration does not let me go: “the event is in the hand of God.” All of the events of life are truly in God’s hand. The forming and founding of our nation was by the power of “the hand of God.” No doubt our first President desired our nation to be an example of freedom where other lovers of freedom could

come and “repair” from their despair. The hand of God speaks of infinite strength and help. The Scripture says we are to humble ourselves “therefore under the mighty hand of God” (1 Peter 5:6). Would you please consider with me why we should humble ourselves and depend upon the mighty hand of God?

First of all, God created man in His image to fellowship with Him. We were created by God to honor and glorify Him! “Thou art worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11). We ought to humble ourselves under the hand of God because He made us.

The Bible says that we all have an insurmountable problem. The problem is sin. Sin occurs when we break God’s law. “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4b). “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). All are under sin and “there is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). All who have ever lived are “guilty before God” (Romans 3:19). The conclusion of the matter is inarguable: “There is no difference: for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:22,23). Because we lack righteousness we cannot enter God’s kingdom through our own good works,

whether they be religious, political, or social. In order to go into heaven we must be righteous, but even “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

This sin problem leads to an awful penalty: death and the lake of fire. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). A wage is a payment for something earned. Because we have all sinned we have all earned a sure payment: death. We have earned physical death which is the separation of the soul from the body. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). We have also earned eternal death which is the separation of a man’s soul and body from God forever in a place called the lake of fire. At the judgment on the last day “death (that is, the physical part of man that was in the grave) and hell (the spiritual part of man that had been in a temporary place of suffering) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death” (Revelation 20:14).

If we go to this place it will be on account of our not humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God. God hates our sin and has to punish it, but God loves us so much that He “gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Jesus Christ died as our completely righteous and sinless substitute. He paid a debt He did not owe because all humanity owed a debt we could not repay unless we all died and went to hell for all eternity! Truly the death of our Lord Jesus Christ was an event in the hand of God. When Jesus was crucified the whole world was gathered against Him “for to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done” (Acts 4:28). “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). After Jesus died He was buried and the third day He rose again from the dead! What an event the resurrection of Jesus Christ was! Jesus’ resurrection powerfully demonstrates that He is God and that through Him there is life after death.

When we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God we trust the Lord Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection to save us from hell and take us to heaven. We must realize that religion, getting baptized, attending church, trying to do our best, or trying to be moral can never save because the best man is at best a

sinner. It is “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5). Salvation is ultimately resting in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. To trust Jesus alone to save us means two things. First, we must repent of sin. This means that we change our mind from thinking that our sin is “not that bad.” We honestly confess we lack any righteousness that can find favor with God. We cease establishing our own righteousness. We sorrow for our sin, and this all leads to a change in our behavior. “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19a). Second, we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a whole-being trust of the mind, will, and emotions. We trust that what He did by dying on the cross and rising again demonstrates His perfect righteousness and is good enough to get us into heaven. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31). “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness” (Romans 10:10). “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24). When we trust “Jesus Christ the Righteous” (1 John 2:1), God declares us righteous in His sight on the basis of His grace. Would you not repent, believe and Christ receive? This event takes place when we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. If we truly believe on Christ from our heart, we will tell God something like this:

“Dear Lord Jesus I know that I have sinned many times against You. I believe the Bible teaches that You are perfectly righteous and I deserve to die and go to hell. But I thank You that You love me, Lord, and sent Your Son Jesus to die on the cross in my place. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all my sins and rose again from the dead. By your grace I repent of my sins and believe on You alone for eternal life. I believe that righteousness can never come through my works, but only through Your work of dying on the cross and rising again. As I humble myself under your mighty hand I thank you for your wonderful gift of everlasting life.”