

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Marvin Derksen

Marvin Derksen was born and raised in Leamington, Ontario. This is how he tells his story of salvation.

“I was born into a God-fearing home where the Bible was read daily and church activities were an integral part of family life. Sports occupied a large part of my time in those early days and I have to admit that I really wasn’t too concerned about spiritual realities.

But God began to speak to me about eternity, first in a terrible accident that killed 3 friends close to home. I also recall my older brother coming home from graduate school with the news that he had gotten “saved”. A while later, I left a Sunday School class in Toronto with a gnawing question in my mind: ‘Could I know for sure that I’d be in heaven when I die?’ It became the greatest issue of my existence.

In my 2nd year of university, I began to attend Gospel services. The Lord’s words to Nicodemus - “You must be born again” - struck me with force for I knew that despite being religious, I had never experienced the new birth. In turmoil, I tried for months to “figure it out”.

By the start of 1971, I knew that I had to get this settled. Nothing else really had eternal significance for if I missed salvation, I would be lost in hell forever. Even my academic studies began to take second place. A kind Christian friend patiently explained God’s way of salvation through the sufferings of Christ on the cross. I had always felt that there had to be something that I had to do but on March 6, 1971, alone on my bed in a boarding house, I discovered that the Lord Jesus had died for my sins and paid my debt for me.

*All my sins were laid upon Him,
Jesus bore them on the tree,
God, who knew them, laid them on Him
And believing, I go free.*

The load was lifted and the burden of guilt was gone. For 40 years now, I have known the Lord as my Saviour and have experienced the joys of salvation.

In 1974, I headed east to help spread the Gospel in Newfoundland and Labrador and spent the next 28 years in the province. In 1979, I married Barbara Tarrant of St John’s and we now have a family of 3 sons. Since 2002, we relocated to S-W Ontario and presently live in the city of Kitchener from where we continue to seek the spread the good news of God’s great salvation. If you’re reading this and are not saved, I can tell you that after 40 years of being saved, you are missing out on life’s *greatest blessing*.

