Heb. 7:25 - That is why he is also able to save absolutely those who approach God through him.

I have been asked, in the list of Evangelistic Messages, to speak tonight on Christ, the Saviour and I have chosen as the basic pronouncement in the K. of God Heb. 7:25 - in these words the strongest possible expression of what this writer believed about Christ.

1. What does it mean when we use this term: SAVIOUR to describe somebody? What does it mean to save - and to be saved? When somebody risks his life in bringing out of the waves a person who is being drowned, or jumping in before a vehicle to grab a child away from an oncoming car, then we call such a man a Saviour because through his action he gave somebody back the life which he was about to lose.

So if we call Christ a Saviour, we mean to say that through his action he gives us back (he returns to us) the life which we are in danger of losing through other ways.

2. Our next question is: Is Christ such a Saviour? What did he do to save us?

There are many ways in which we can prove that Christ is such a Saviour - but that
would be futile, because the point is not whether we can prove it, but whether Christ's own life and actions prove it. What does his own life tell us?

It tells us that God saw that we as humans were incapable, helpless to save ourselves and so He sent His only begotten Son, J.C., who came willingly through His great love for every creature throughout the whole world to give us life everlasting. And He proved his sincerity and his faithfulness by being crucified for us (despised for us, overcome for us) — by taking voluntarily on Himself all our trespasses, all our iniquities.

3. Our next question: From what must a true Saviour save us? From our mistakes, our wrong deeds, our harsh words — or from what?

a) Our parents, friends: They can help us by their advice, their loving care, their wise counsel, but they cannot save us from wrong decisions, wrong acts. But however much they love us, they also make mistakes: in judgment, in

b) Our educators, teachers: They can also help us by their knowledge, by advice but they cannot change our characters, our motives.

c) Religious leaders: They can give us lofty ideals, held before us with motives but they cannot change our utmost self!

— This is exactly what Christ offers: what He does as Saviour: He comes into our life, He changes our sinful nature because He takes it upon himself — and He creates in us a new person, with new pure motives, with new

ideals, new feelings, new wills, new languages, new strivings, new words, new deeds. Where previously we hated or feared or were prejudice, we now love, we forgive, we understand, we now think in pure thoughts, we now are pure; where we spoke in lies or selfishness, we now speak in truth, love; where we lived in lust or dishonesty or selfish pleasure, we now live in purity, in temperance, in selfless sacrifice.

We are saved absolutely — to the utter

meet! Therefore Christ does not only change us personally, He also changes society through us: He opens our eyes for all kinds of injustice, all discrimination, all forms of dishonesty, all sinfull inequality, all

forms of selfishness and greed and He sends us out to give our witness that people with changed lives start changing society. We realize that we will never create a perfect

society, but we ourselves as Christians become part of a new society, a redeemed society, the nation
- Does not mean there will be no persecution, no poverty, no trouble or sorrow— in fact, we are warned that we can only enter the Kingdom of God through many tribulations— but it does mean that the victory will belong to the church of Christ! We must be prepared to sacrifice for that victory.

4. Jesus Christ, the Alpha - Omega of my life:

① Alpha: life, true life for me only begins when I discover Him as Saviour, as Redeemer.
Jesus the Alpha & the Omega.  
John 1: 1-14  

Rev. 21: 6 - For I am the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning and the end.

We have come to the last of our series of messages on "Jesus Christ, the Light of the World" - and it is quite right that we close this with the final pronouncement about the future: Rev. 21:6. To understand this term we must know that these two words άλφα and Ωμέγα denote the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, so that the meaning here is that Jesus says: I am the first and the last:

Jesus Christ, the Alpha: The gospel according to John is quite distinct on this point - in fact it throws a wonderful light on this question when it says that when all things began, Jesus Christ as the Word was there - that nothing was created without him. He was the medium, the Godgiven channel through which the whole creation came into being. Therefore the whole creation rests upon him. The beginning of all life is through Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Omega: But the J.C. will also be the last. At the final consummation of all things, when this world will be brought
before the last judgment: Christ will have the last word. This will be the decisive word. Christ gives us a wonderful picture of this when He tells us in Matt. 25 how He will judge people: whether we visited the sick, assisted the needy, fed the hungry, attended to those in gaol etc. And His word, His judgment will decide whether we will enter His glory or be excluded from ever, cast out in darkness!

What does this tell us about Christ?

1. Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega of Creation:
   He holds the whole universe in his hand — its past, its present, its future. Everything which happens in nature is controlled by him: all storms, earthquakes, droughts, pestilences. Therefore he also controls nature's forces with which man is playing: the deadly H-bomb, the fearful hydrogen bomb (fghg: crater - 9 miles everything shot away - 50 miles every living thing extinguished - within 100 miles the ashes, effect). He controls it!
   - Christian's attitude: hope, comfort, faith

2. Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega of History:
   If he is the beginning and the end, then he is also the one who controls the course between beginning and end. That means, then, that Christ is steering the whole course of history, that he decides the destiny of peoples, countries, nations — that he sees civilizations rise and fall: he knows why they start and guides according to eternal laws of God.
   — living in times of great upheaval, new forces grappling, influencing millions of times, changing the face of the world, of Africa, of S. Africa. As Christians many times we ask with fear, with trepidation: Where is God? Why does he not act, speak, judge? So much unrighteousness, selfishness, blindness of prejudice, greed, hate, murder etc. — is it God who tells it all?

3. Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega of the Church: If Jesus Christ controls everything, if he has the destiny of all things, then surely he, the one who so clearly loves His Church, will see to it that his Church will triumph over all evil! Please remember: his Church is His Bride, His Body, His Own, his house — and we as Christians are part and parcel of his Church — therefore he will guard and strengthen his Church up till the end!
Our last question: How does this saving take place? How are we saved? "Those who approach God through him."

a) We must approach God: — Come out of our own, quite voluntarily. It must be a personal connection, an inner urge to find the true God, to confess our sins, to open our hearts, to dedicate ourselves. But then we must come just as we are —

b) We must come through Christ:

He is God who became man — He became our brother, our friend, our fellow-sufferer. He knows us as we are. He understands us. He has the full and wonderful power to change everything.