

SALVATION

Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

(Romans 10:13)

Behold, now is the “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation.”

(2 Corinthians 6:2)

. . . salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

(2 Timothy 2:10)

This chapter deals with the following questions: What is salvation? Why do we need to be saved—and from what? Who is the Savior? What should we do to be saved?

What is salvation?

According to the Scriptures, salvation is being raised from death into life.

SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8, 9)

Why do we need to be saved and from what?

Jesus said,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

(John 5:24)

When God created man in His own image, He created them male and female (Genesis 1:27), and He put His Spirit in them. They were fully alive, just as God intended for people to be. Adam and Eve had a personal relationship with God. That relationship was interrupted when they disobeyed God. Their sin was unbelief.

UNBELIEF IS THE ROOT OF ALL SINS.

Adam and Eve had all the freedom in the Garden of Eden. The only condition God gave Adam was not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

(Genesis 2:16, 17)

God alone can justly decide what is right and what is wrong. Do you see the wisdom in it? Adam and Eve, being deceived by Satan, disobeyed God, and that resulted in their immediate death. God withdrew His Spirit from them—they died spiritually. Physical death followed years later. Ever since then, people have been *born* in the image of Adam—spiritually dead and in need of life, sinners and in need of forgiveness. They are under the wrath of God and heading for “Judgment Day.” That brings us to our next question.

Who is the Savior?

And He saw that there was no man,
And was astonished that there was no one to intercede;
Then His own arm brought salvation to Him;
And His righteousness upheld Him.

(Isaiah 59:16)

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:4–7)

Yes, our God provided salvation Himself. He did it all. *God is the Savior* (Isaiah 45:21, 22; 1 Timothy 2:3).

God had to deal with two issues concerning salvation—forgiveness and life. Forgiveness without life would not solve the problem, for we were not only sinful, but we were dead. Life without forgiveness would not last too long; for the next time we would sin—there goes the life!

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

First, God had to settle the forgiveness issue once and for all. God is a loving God, but He is also a just God. He had to uphold the law. Sin = death. Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22).

Until Jesus became the Perfect Sacrifice, God had a system for forgiveness of sins. Sins were covered—atoned for—by the blood of bulls and goats. The blood of bulls and goats was only a shadow of things to come. At the appointed time in history, Jesus became the Lamb of God, and He did not just cover sins, but He took them away.

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God who *takes away* the sin of the world!”

(John 1:29)

On the cross, God reconciled the world to Himself through the blood of Jesus. Justice was executed, Jesus—our substitute—died, and from then on, the gap between the holy God and sinful people has been bridged. God has done it all. Alleluia! Glory to God!

For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Colossians 1:13, 14)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.

(Ephesians 1:7, 8)

The forgiveness is in Christ Jesus. (Read chapter “Forgiveness.”)

IF YOU HAVE JESUS, YOU DON’T GET FORGIVEN. YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

Forgiveness, as important as it is, is just a part of salvation. We are not saved by the death of Jesus only; we are saved by His life.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, *we shall be saved by His life.*

(Romans 5:10)

God . . . has caused us to be born again to a living hope *through the resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1:3)

This life is “eternal life.”

Jesus said,

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

(John 3:36)

[Not to obey the Son = not to believe in Him]

Jesus said,

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

(John 6:40)

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 20:30, 31)

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

(Acts 4:12)

And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

(1 John 5:11, 12)

As we have just read, the life is in Christ Jesus. As soon as we step out in faith and receive God's gift—Jesus—as our Lord and Savior, we receive eternal life and forgiveness of our sins.

The judgment is already pronounced

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(John 3:16–18)

[The literal Greek translation of “the only begotten Son” is “unique One.”]

If you have Jesus, if you believe in Him—you have forgiveness and eternal life. If you do not have Jesus, if you do not believe in Him—you will die in your sins (John 8:24); you will perish.

Salvation is through Jesus

Jesus said,

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

(John 10:9)

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

(1 Timothy 1:15)

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

(1 John 4:14)

Jesus is the Author of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10); Jesus is the Source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9).

Salvation is for all

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to *everyone who believes*, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

(Romans 1:16)

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

who desires *all men* to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

(1 Timothy 2:3–6)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to
all men.

(Titus 2:11)

What do I need to do to be saved?

We learned that salvation originated with God and that He has done it all for us through Jesus Christ. Our part is to believe it and to step out in faith and receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. Head knowledge alone doesn't save anyone. Just to know facts without applying them doesn't accomplish anything. It is not what we know in our mind, but what we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that brings salvation.

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

(Romans 10:8–10)

We need to receive the gift of God—Jesus. God knows our heart, and as we verbalize our desire to receive Jesus, we speak of that which is in our heart. For those who are still lost and without salvation, for those who are ready to change their current condition, I am adding a prayer as a guideline. Jesus is only a prayer away.

Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead three days later. I would like to receive the life You are offering me, and the forgiveness of my sins, which was accomplished by Jesus on the cross. I am stepping out in faith in Him and His completed work on the cross and through His resurrection, and I am saying, "Come, Jesus, become my Lord and Savior." Thank you.

Anyone who received Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior is born again—born from above, born of the Spirit, born of God. Without the physical birth—water, and the spiritual birth—Spirit, no one will enter the kingdom of God. Those are the very words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

(John 3:5, 6)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.
(1 John 5:1)

God Himself indwells the born again person for eternity. Once again people become fully alive just like Adam and Eve before their fall. And why is it that we can never die spiritually like Adam and Eve? Because sins are forgiven, taken away for good. Thank you Jesus! You are truly worthy to be praised!

We are now brand new creatures; the old is gone, behold the new is here (2 Corinthians 5:17). No more “in Adam,” but “in Christ.” No more darkness, but light; no more death, but life.

Christians have a new identity:

Children of God	Romans 8:16
Beloved by God	1 Thessalonians 1:4
Citizens of heaven	Philippians 3:20
Saints by calling	1 Corinthians 1:2
Sons of God	Galatians 3:26
Friends of Jesus	John 15:15
House of Christ	Hebrews 3:6

And there is so much more to our new identity in Jesus. Praise God! (Read chapter “Christians.”)

Brothers and sisters, our salvation is final and complete. In Christ Jesus we are secure. No wonder we call the Gospel “Good News”!

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . .

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:35, 38, 39)

Verses often misunderstood:

There are verses in the Scriptures that sound like we could lose our salvation. But since we know that a genuine believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit for eternity, we understand that these verses are addressing a different group of people, not born again believers. We have to read the letters (and that is what the New Testament consists of), and see the “whole picture.”

The *sum* of Thy word is truth.
(Psalm 119:160)

Keep in mind that the Scriptures are for all people.

. . . the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 3:15)

A number of times the writers are presenting Jesus and the gospel message. Many people believe in God, but not necessarily in Jesus Christ. The truth is presented to them, but if they fall away from truth—reject Jesus—they are being warned that nothing else is available. Jesus is the only provision for salvation.

We, the true believers, already overcame the world, because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We *will* endure till the end; we *will* continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast. We *will* not move away from the hope of the Gospel. Why? God Himself is the Guarantor of that.

The following verse is often misunderstood:

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.

(John 15:2)

The Greek word “Airo,” translated “takes away” or “cuts off” has its most fundamental meaning “lifts up.” Just like a vine-grower would pick up a cluster of grapes from the ground (but still attached to the vine), brush off the dirt, and support it—lift it up to the sun, so God picks up His child wallowing in “dirt,” and lifts him or her up to the Son. Brothers and sisters, cement this in your mind: The eternal life in Christ Jesus is indestructible (Hebrews 7:16) and imperishable (1 Peter 1:4). That is why it is called “eternal.” Glory to God!

But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.

(Acts 15:11)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,

in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.

(Ephesians 5:14)

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

(Hebrews 9:27, 28)