

## Salvation

What do the following verses say about salvation?

### 1. Colossians 1:13

**Salvation means to be saved or rescued.** Other words that describe the Biblical use of the word *salvation* include cure, remedy, recovery, redemption and welfare. *The full Christian usage means saving a person from eternal death and endowing a person with everlasting life.*<sup>1</sup> Salvation includes being saved from the penalty (Romans 5:9), power (Romans 6:7) and, eventually, the presence (Revelation 21:4) of sin.

### 2. 2 Timothy 3:15

**Salvation is understood through the Scriptures.** Only Scripture provides the information needed to understand why and how to experience salvation. Because the content of Scripture is the witness of Jesus Christ (John 5:39, Luke 24:27, Romans 1:16).

### 3. Romans 3:28

**Salvation is by faith.** (Acts 13:39) Salvation is experienced through continuous, ongoing belief. Charles Ryrie defines saving faith as *“confidence, trust, to hold something as true...to have faith in Jesus Christ means to have confidence that he can remove the guilt of sin and grant eternal life.”*<sup>2</sup> It is not just intellectual belief, but active trust. It is not the kind of belief one has by looking at an airplane and saying it will fly. It is the kind of belief one has by actually boarding that plane. Saving faith is not mere intellectual ascent but active participation.

### 4. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

**Salvation is through Jesus Christ** (Acts 4:12, John 1:12, 3:16, 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, Acts 4:12). The person and work of Jesus Christ is the sole and essential object by which a person experiences salvation.

### 5. Acts 13:38

**Salvation is centered on forgiveness** (Luke 1:77, Romans 5:15). The New Covenant is centered on forgiveness. It was announced in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34) and inaugurated by Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24-26, Hebrews 12:24). Forgiveness means to give up the right to exact judgement or

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<sup>1</sup> Basic Theology, page 322.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 377.

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punishment. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God gave up with right to exact judgment upon us.

*“There can be no Good News for the person who does not sense that he needs Good News. And there can be no sense of need without some realization of sin. Of course, sin has many symptoms that can alert an individual to the basic problem, sin. Therefore, a Gospel presentation can focus on lack of joy or peace, or the need to have help in solving problems; but those are symptoms of the sin that alienates from God. Nevertheless, one does not need to be saved in order to have joy or peace or the solution to problems. **He needs to be saved in order to have sins forgiven.** Lack of joy is not what bars people from heaven. Sin is. The Gospel believed solves the sin problem.”*<sup>3</sup>

### 6. Ephesians 2:4,5

**Salvation is merciful and gracious.** Mercy is compassion upon man’s hopeless and helpless state. (Romans 5:6-8) It triggers grace. Mercy is the emotion, grace is the resultant action. Grace is undeserved, unconditional, unmerited favor. Salvation can’t be earned, and, therefore, is not obtainable through works or effort. It is a gift and can, therefore, only be received. Mercy, (Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 1:3), Grace (Ephesians 2:5, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24, 5:15) and faith are the only means by which salvation is experienced.

### 7. John 10:28,29

**Salvation is secure.** Genuine salvation cannot be lost. (John 6:39,40) *No one* means just that, no one. *“Scripture gives no hint that a Christian can lose new birth, or that he can be “disindwelt,” or that he can be removed from the body of Christ, or be unsealed. Salvation is eternal and completely secure to all who believe.”*<sup>4</sup> Evidence of the security of the believer comes from the following sources;

- The Holy Spirit’s sealing is on the day of redemption, not until a day of sin. In other words, personal sin does not unseal the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:30)
- The completed future event of justification, and the same number being chosen as justified. (Romans 8:30)
- The term *eternal* speaks of a secure salvation (John 3:16).
- There is no successful accusation against the believer’s eternal standing. (Romans 8:33)
- The repeated use of the term *once and for all* and the Lord’s intervention preventing Satan’s accusations. (Hebrews 7:25)

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<sup>3</sup> Ryrie, Charles C. (1999-01-11). *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Kindle Locations 6339-6343). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, Moody Press, Chicago, page 384.

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- The Spirit's baptism is not spoken of as somethings that is reversed, but rather, in a tense (aorist) that communicates a one-time act with lasting results. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- God's love, not the believer's actions, is the basis for the security. (Romans 8:38, 39, 2 Timothy 2:13)
- Hebrews 6:4-6 speaks of those who at first appear to respond positively to the gospel but then reject it as a means of salvation. There is no way back to salvation because there is no side door to heaven. They have rejected the only entrance into heaven, faith in Jesus Christ.

### 8. Hebrews 2:3

**Salvation is immeasurably wonderful, unimaginably significant and incredibly undeserved.** The magnitude of salvation is communicated by the following terms.

*The gospel, or "good news," is...a message about how God's enemies become God's friends (reconciliation), prisoners bound by sin are set free (redemption), spiritually dead people are made alive (regeneration), people under God's wrath receive his mercy (propitiation), people in the kingdom of darkness move into the kingdom of light (sanctification), the guilty become acquitted (justification), and people in the family of the evil one become members of the family of God (adoption). It is the message that the Creator is renewing and will renew his broken creation. It is a message about life after death and life here and now (John 10: 10). Payne, J. D. (2012-01-17). *Evangelism: A Biblical Response to Today's Questions* (Kindle Locations 377-382). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.*

- a. **Substitution.** (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, Hebrews 9:28, Isaiah 53:4-6) Jesus died in the place of sinners. Our sin was imputed (credited) to him and his righteousness was imputed to us.
- b. **Redemption** (Mark 10:45) The idea behind redemption is payment of a price, resulting in deliverance or freedom. Jesus is the redemption for people's salvation. He, himself is the payment that results in our deliverance. Redemption is seen in the following terms: freed (Romans 3:24), rescued (Galatians 3:13), ransomed (Revelation 5:9, 1 Peter 1:18), and bought (1 Corinthians 6:20). Ryrie states, *"Redemption may be summarized around three basic ideas. First, people are redeemed from something, namely the market place of sin. Second, people are redeemed by something, namely by the payment of a price, the blood of Christ. Third, people are redeemed to something, namely, to a state of freedom; and then they are called to renounce that freedom for slavery to the Lord who redeemed them."*<sup>5</sup>
- c. **Atonement** (propitiation) (Romans 3:25, 1 John 2:2, Hebrews 2:17, 5:9, 1 John 4:10) Propitiation means appeasing the wrath of God. Jesus appeased the wrath

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<sup>5</sup> Basic Theology, page 336.

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of God directed toward the sin of man. The blood of Christ averted the judgment of God upon man. The wrath of God is satisfied by the blood of Christ. *“This is the message we bring to a lost world. Receive the Savior who, through his death, satisfied the **wrath** of God.”*<sup>6</sup>

*“Our problem with sin is not just that we “feel” broken and lost, but that we are eternally separated from God, whether we feel like it or not. The reality is “the wages of sin is death,” eternal separation from God. Standing under God’s holy judgment, we desperately need a Savior. It is because of this very real need that God sent His Son into our world to live a sinless life and to become the sacrifice to bear the weight of our sin, taking the wrath of God’s judgment in our place.”* — Dave Höng

- d. **Reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 5:10) Reconciliation means to change the state of a relationship from enemy to friend, from hostility to peace. God takes the initiative and reconciles the world to himself through Christ. The world now becomes savable. However, individuals become saved only upon faith in the person God reconciled the world through, namely, Jesus Christ.
- e. **Justification** (Romans 3:24) Justification is the result of salvation. It is a legal term and includes the idea of a favorable verdict. In the biblical context it means to be declared righteous or in a right relationship with God. It is:
- By faith alone (Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16)
  - Based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 4:25)
  - Because of the the death of Christ (Romans 5:9)
  - By grace, it is a free gift. (Romans 5:16)
  - The work of God (Romans 8:30).
    - *“Justification is not only one of the great benefits of the death of Jesus Christ, but is also a cardinal doctrine of Christianity, because it distinguishes it as a religion of grace and faith. And grace and faith are the cornerstones of the doctrine of justification.”*<sup>7</sup>

### 9. 1 Peter 2:2

**Salvation is both obtained and grown into.** The believer is complete positionally at the point of belief (Colossians 2:10); however, there is growth in the practical realm that can be obtained (Philippians 3:16, Ephesians 4:15, 2 Peter 3:18). The three aspects of salvation are justification, sanctification and glorification. Justification occurs the moment a person believes. Sanctification is a life-long journey of spiritual maturity that is done in partnership with the Holy Spirit. Glorification is an event (Romans 8:30) that marks the culmination of existence in this life and the beginning of existence in an eternal state. As Rick Warren states, “People are as spiritually

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<sup>6</sup> Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, Moody Press, Chicago, page. 342.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, page 343

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mature as they choose to be.”

### 10. Ephesians 1:4,5

**Salvation confirms election** (Acts 13:48, Galatians 1:15). Election is the act whereby God chooses people to become the recipients of salvation. It is a sovereign act. It is determined in eternity past and is providential. However, it is never separate from free will and the need for the elect to choose to believe. Election is not salvation. Election is God's choice of people. Faith (belief, trust) is people's choice of God. Salvation only confirms election. Nowhere does it state in the Bible that people are chosen not to receive salvation. Nowhere does it state that some people are “non-elect.” That is only determined if they die in a state of unbelief.

### 11. Salvation is...

- a. **Urgent** (2 Corinthians 6:2) The urgency of salvation is seen in the nearness of the completion of this age. It is spoken of as near (Luke 21:28), today (2 Corinthians 6:2), last days (Hebrews 1:2), last hour (1 John 2:18).
- b. **Necessary** (Acts 4:12) The human soul “MUST” be saved (1 Peter 1:9). It is saturated with sin nature and incapable of self-salvation. It is destined to exist forever (Daniel 12:2). The only question is, “Where, heaven or hell?”
- c. **Available** (Romans 10:13) Salvation is obtainable by ANYONE who calls upon the Lord Jesus to be saved. God wants everyone to experience salvation (1 Timothy 2:4). The things that precede salvation are conviction about personal sin, Christ's righteousness and God's judgment (John 16:8-11). The things that accompany salvation are repentance (Mark 1:15) and the right kind of sorrowful heart (2 Corinthians 7:10).

What was the most meaningful verse in this study to you personally? Explain.