

What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

(All passages are taken from the NASB)

The mess we are in:

We are all sinners:

Rom. 3:23

²³For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

We are all helpless:

Romans 5:6

⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

We are slaves:

Romans 6:16

¹⁶Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Our sin had separated us from God::

Rom. 6:23

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What did God do?

Because of God's holiness (perfect character), God can not have a relationship with anyone who also is not perfect and holy. In order to restore the relationship with us that was lost when He gave us (Adam and Eve) a choice to love Him or go our own way, He Himself had to provide the means to satisfy that requirement. Payment had to be made on our behalf as a substitution for us with a Person Who was blameless, sinless and perfect. His Son was the only One Who could do this. Our sin did not take Jesus to the cross. It was His love for us that did.

The word "redeemed" means to "buy back":

1 Corinthians 6:20

²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Galatians 3:13

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—

He gave us Jesus as a "propitiation" for our sins. Propitiation means to "satisfy" His holiness. He did this while we were yet without hope.

1 John 4:10

¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:6-8

⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

What is our part?

What must we do to be saved?

1) REPENT (to turn to God and away from sin).

Matt. 4:17

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

2) BELIEVE:

The first verse I think of when someone says, 'what do I do to be saved' is John 3:16. What is interesting about that verse is the word "believe".

John 3:16

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

The Greek for the word "believe" is "pisteuo" which is translated to "believe, entrust, have faith in". This goes far beyond accepting the fact that Jesus is God's Son, died on the cross and rose again. There is more than that.

There is a transfer of trust and obedience to Him as our Lord (Master) and Savior.

Even the demons believe and shudder!

James 2:19

¹⁹You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

(In this context, it refers to believing who Jesus is, but lacking obedience to, and love for Him.)

3) RECEIVE:

John 1:11-12

¹¹He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

What does it mean for Jesus to be my "Lord?"

Romans 10:9 brings out the issue of "Lord" a bit better:

Rom. 10:9-10

⁹that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Here, the Greek word for lord is "kurios" which means lord or master.

Jesus is THE Lord and Master over all. Satan and his demons "believe" who He is. But, they clearly don't have loving submission to Him and therefore do not have an intimate relationship. For example, look at the response of some demon possessed people. They clearly "believed":

Mark 1:23-24

²³Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Before the famous verse of John 3:16, there is dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who was seeking truth from Jesus:

John 3:1-5

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

The phrase "born again" actually means "born from above" or "born anew". Titus 3:5 lends a bit more light to this:

Titus 3:5

⁵He 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,

What happens now?

We are saved from the **penalty** of sin (forgiven):

Romans 6:23

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are saved from the **power** of sin:

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

We will soon be saved from the **presence** of sin:

Revelation 21:1-4

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them." ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

1 Corinthians 15:52

⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

When we become a child of God, we are brand new:

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he* is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

We are no longer condemned:

Romans 8:1

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We now have peace with God:

Romans 5:1

¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

We become God's child:

1 John 3:1

¹See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

We receive His mercy and grace:

Heb. 4:16

¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Salvation is NOT from our good works:

Eph. 2:8 - 9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of

yourself, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We were bought with a price. Jesus paid the price we could not pay for a debt He did not owe:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Evidence of our salvation

By our "fruits":

Matthew 7:20-23

²⁰"So then, you will know them by their fruits.

²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

²²"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Gal. 5:22 - 23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Faith in Jesus naturally leads to good works:

James 2:26

²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Those who say they believe in Him and are not obedient are liars!

John 14:15

¹⁵"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1 John 2:4

⁴The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

John 8:31 - 32

³¹So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

The whole point of Jesus' willingness to be the sacrificial Lamb (to pay for our sins) is to restore a relationship with God the Father, broken by our sin, and to give us intimacy with Him and the joy that it brings. He paid the price we could not pay for a debt He did not owe!



John 14:6

⁶Jesus said* to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
