

Salvation (Part 1)

What is it, why do we need it, and how do we get it?

First, the mess we are in:

- A loving God desired to create and love us but not out of “programing” but out of a choice to love Him by faith. God is Creator and is Love.
(Isaiah 40:28; 1 John 4:16)
- This required an act of “free will.” We were given a choice, and our first parents chose to go their own way. But choice always has consequences, either good or bad.
(Genesis 2:16-17)
- They then fell out of relationship with God.
(Genesis 3:6-13)
- Creation was cursed, as the consequence of Adam and Eve’s choice brought pain and death. (Genesis 3:16-19)
- God’s perfect nature required judgement, and punishment, for disobedience.
(Why would His love for us require consequences for disobedience?).
(Psalm 9:7-10)
- Out of love, He had already prepared a Way to restore that relationship with those who choose to love Him.
(Hebrews 10:5-7)
- His perfect “holiness” demanded a Sacrifice (blameless, sinless and perfect) to “pay” for the sin committed by turning away from Him and disobeying.
(Hebrews 10:1-14)
- The only One who could pay the price was God Himself. So, He sent His Son (the exact representation of God) to enter into humanity, become a human, and give Himself as the Sacrifice for our sins for those who accept Him as Lord and Savior.
(Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:19-20; Galatians 4:4-5)
- This could not be done by our “good works” which are seen as “filthy rags” in His eyes compared to the work done by Jesus Christ on the Cross.
(Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8)
- We are then “credited” with the “payment” of Jesus’ death on the cross through repentance and faith in Him and we are then seen as forgiven; and the relationship with God is restored.
(Romans 4:4-8)
- We now live our lives to please God because Jesus loves us and now lives in us.
(Galatians 2:20)
- With the restoration comes eternal life and the blessings (“P’s of Christ”).
 - ▷ Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - ▷ Purpose (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 8:28)
 - ▷ Promises (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
 - ▷ Passion / Desires (Psalm 37:4)
 - ▷ Power (2 Timothy 1:7)
 - ▷ Provisions (1 Timothy 6:17)
 - ▷ Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
 - ▷ Propitiation / His holiness satisfied (1 John 4:10)

Salvation defined:

The Greek word used in the Bible for “salvation” is “Sozo” (to deliver and protect).

In the Christian sense, what does this mean? From what or for what is a person saved?

Saved from:

Sin, which was what got us into this mess to begin with (ALL have sinned - Romans 3:23)

- **The Penalty of sin** -

Physical death (Genesis 3:19)

Spiritual death (separation from God and away from His power, protection and peace)
(Ephesians 2:1-3)

- **The Power of sin** - We are slaves to whatever is our master (either God, Satan or self (the flesh and the world). (2 Peter 2:19).

We are with Him or against Him (Matthew 12:30).

With God, we have power over our sinful nature. (Romans 8:5-11)

- **The Presence of sin (soon)** - The new heaven and earth; all things will be made new. (Revelation 21:3-5)

Saved For:

Position: A restored (reconciled) relationship with God comes first, and then we enter into His family (our eternal brothers and sisters), and all that He owns (Romans 5:8-11, 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

Purpose: To do the work of God and expand His Kingdom (now possible with His power, and not ours - He gives us spiritual gifts and the power to carry out His plan for our lives. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

How to get saved?

- **Repent** (Metanoeo) - (to think differently / to change one's mind - (Matthew 4:17).

▷ Godly sorrow (true heart-felt sorrow) brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets (2 Corinthians 7:10).

▷ Worldly sorrow (like feeling bad for "getting caught") brings death (2 Corinthians 7:10).

- **Believe** (Pisteuo) - "to have faith and trust". - (John 3:16).

By just "believing" that Jesus existed does not make anyone a Christian any more than believing Hitler existed makes one a Nazi.

▷ Demonic faith (James 2:19)

▷ Dead faith (James 2:17; 26)

▷ Dynamic (saving) faith (James 2:21-24)

- **Receive** (Lambano) - to take hold of; "to accept and be amazed"; (to give oneself to another - yield my will (**surrender**) to Christ) - (John 1:12)

By yielding / surrendering to Jesus as our Lord (Romans 10:9-10):

▷ We receive God's position in our lives as our "Dad" (Galatians 4:4-7).

▷ We receive God's Spirit who lives in us (2 Timothy 1:14).

▷ We receive God's eternal family (Ephesians 2:19)

▷ We receive God's blessings (see the P's of Christ above)

**Are you a "fan" of Jesus, just watching the "game" from the bleachers,
or a true "follower" of Jesus Christ having made Him your Lord and Savior?**