

The Basics of Salvation

I. Introduction

- A. The first step in becoming a Christian is allowing Jesus to transform us from sinners into saints-in-the-making.
- B. What does "salvation" mean? What does "born again" mean? What does "being redeemed" mean?
- C. When we have faith to allow Christ to live in us and work through us we talk about "salvation" as meaning escaping the death penalty.

II. The Person of Salvation

- A. God's "great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3) is only because of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. **Acts 4:12** Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us.
 - 2. **Galatians 2:16** Yet we know that a person is made right with God not by following the law, but by trusting in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus, that we might be made right with God because we trusted in Christ. It is not because we followed the law, because no one can be made right with God by following the law.
 - 3. **Matthew 1:21** She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
- B. Jesus is the Savior.
 - 1. He is the Redeemer.
 - 2. Only through Him can anyone be "born again."
 - 3. The new birth is completely a work of Christ's Spirit.
 - 4. Organized religion plays no part in this great miracle.
- C. Salvation does not depend on your mental agreement. It does not depend on any emotional experience.
- D. The word salvation occurs 164 times the Bible.
- E. Redemption is a result of God's mercy. We are redeemed because Jesus came to earth as a man, was obedient to God in every way, died on the cross, and was raised from the dead.
- F. God redeemed us completely. Redemption covers every aspect of human life. Jesus provided redemption for us in every area of our lives.
 - 1. The judicial (legal) side of redemption satisfies the law of God.
 - 2. In the ethical (moral) side of redemption, Christ has redeemed us from all unrighteousness, and we belong to Him. He purifies us unto good works.

3. As to the physical aspect of our redemption, Jesus has released our total persons—spirits, souls, and bodies—from the power of sin.
4. Not only is God's law satisfied, but our lives are also purified. God is seen as just, while we are justified.
5. Jesus has also redeemed our moral nature in delivering our wills from the bondage of sin and gifting us with the power to choose and accomplish works of righteousness.
6. All this is the work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

III. The Promise of Salvation

- A. There is nothing in the Bible we can be more sure about than our salvation.
 1. God confirms, explains, and applies His promise of redemption from Genesis through Revelation.
 2. This consistent theme is often called the scarlet cord of the Bible. The blood of Jesus binds the sixty-six books of the Bible into an connected whole.
- B. All ten major divisions of the Bible speak of God's promise to save His people.
- C. The people in the Old Testament looked forward in faith to the fulfillment of God's promise to save His people.
- D. In that same faith, we New Testament believers look backward to the cross of Jesus.

IV. Pictures of Salvation

- A. In the Bible, God demonstrates our salvation with visual aids, types, shadows, and human experience.
- B. From the clothes made from animal skins which God made in Eden (Genesis 3:21) to Zechariah's "a fountain will be open for David's descendants and for the people of Jerusalem to cleanse them of their sin and uncleanness." (Zechariah 13:1), the Old Testament is filled with types and shadows that predict the coming sacrifice by Jesus.

V. The Purpose of Salvation

- A. There are three major objectives in God's redemption.
 1. Release us from sin.
 2. Restore us to life.
 3. Bring us back into fellowship.
- B. Calvary answers the problem of sin, the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin.
- C. Christ's cross completely answers:

1. God's problem with sin
2. Society's problem of sin
3. Our individual problems with this evil force, the Bible calls sin.
4. The theological word for this is "justification." By action of His will, God cannot remember our cleansed sins.

Colossians 2:13-14 When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross.

- D. God releases us from sin's power so that He can restore us to victorious living.
- E. A third purpose of salvation is to bring us back into fellowship with God. The theological word for this is "reconciliation."

Romans 5:10 While we were God's enemies, he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are his friends, he will save us through his Son's life.

Colossians 1:21-22 At one time you were separated from God. You were his enemies in your minds, and the evil things you did were against God. ²² But now God has made you his friends again. He did this through Christ's death in the body so that he might bring you into God's presence as people who are holy, with no wrong, and with nothing of which God can judge you guilty.

- F. Colossians 1:21-22 summarizes the four basic steps in Christ's bringing us back to God.
1. The need to be brought back (reconciled) because we are separated from God.
 2. The nature of God's work is restoration back to God.
 3. God brought us back through the blood of Jesus Christ.
 4. The result is that we are fully acceptable to God.
- G. God was in Christ working to bring us back into fellowship with God.

2 Corinthians 5:19 God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace.

VI. The Requirements of Salvation

- A. There are at least three things we must do to become a participant in God's salvation.
1. We must confess. (1 John 1:9)
 2. We must repent. (Acts 3:19)
 3. We must believe. (Mark 1:15)