

“Being Saved!”

The word **SAVED** refers to being rescued from danger or being delivered into a position of security and safety. For example, if a person were in a house which was on fire, she would need to be rescued from the fire. It is used in a spiritual sense in the Bible over and over again.

TWO ASPECTS OF SALVATION

1) **From** – we need to be saved from *our sins* (Matthew 1:21) as well as from *God’s judgment* (1Thessalonians 1:9). Think of someone swimming across a lake, and someone else puts a bag of bricks on their back – they will certainly die. But if someone took the bricks away, he will be saved – they are saved from the immediate problem of the bricks, and from the final problem of drowning at the bottom of the lake. The bad things that we do (our sins) are like the bricks on our souls, and they will take us down into God’s judgment. Salvation comes and takes away the sins, and thus takes away the judgment.

2) **For** – we can be saved to glorify and love God on earth, and one day to live perfectly with God in heaven. Salvation allows me to have the peace of knowing that I am forgiven right now, and it will change my life dramatically. But it will not make me perfect (Christians still sin) – but one day in heaven, the Christian will be perfected!

THREE INSTALLMENTS (PARTS) OF SALVATION

1) *The Past* – we all have sins in our past which need to be forgiven. Being SAVED means that these sins are forgiven by God and I will not be penalized for them – ***it is being saved from the PENALTY of sin.***

2) *The Present* – we all need to live more righteously in the present. Being SAVED means that through the Holy Spirit, God gives help to live a righteous life – ***it is being saved from the POWER of sin.***

3) *The Future* – we all long for a time when there will be no more sin. Being SAVED means that one day God will take me to a heaven where there is no sin – ***it is being saved from the PRESENCE of sin.***

FIVE IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT SALVATION

WE MUST BE SAVED – Acts 4:12 shows us *OUR GREATEST NECESSITY*

In the verse, Peter was preaching to very religious people in Israel, but he told them that they needed to be saved. God is angry because our sins caused the death of His Son; we must be saved from His judgment.

WE CAN BE SAVED – John 3:17 shows us *THE GREATEST POSSIBILITY*

Sin is not like some diseases for which there is no cure, and salvation is not like some cures which only work some of the time. The Lord Jesus didn’t come into the world to judge us, but to save us. Because of His death at the cross for our sins, salvation is a possibility for every person in the world! He will come back later to judge.

BELIEVERS ARE SAVED – 1Corinthians 1:18 shows us *THE GREATEST REALITY*

It is not presumptuous to say “I am saved” because it is based on the truths of God’s Word. Once you are saved, there is a new power in your life – the power of God to change you into what God wants you to be.

UNBELIEVERS ARE NOT SAVED – Jeremiah 8:20 shows us *THE GREATEST TRAGEDY*

YOU WILL BE SAVED, IF ... - Isaiah 45:22 shows you *THE GREATEST PROMISE*

This is a promise from God, and the promises of God are sure and **certain**, because God cannot lie. He has written it down for added security! Check out the other similar promises (John 10:9; Romans 10:9; Acts 16:31).

But a person must LOOK TO JESUS, which means we must turn to Him in faith (trust). Looking at something is a very simple action that even a child learns very early to do. Just like if I promised to do something for you, you would say “I am looking to Stephen to do this for me.” You can look *confidently* to Christ for salvation, because He has *already finished* the work that saves people by dying for their sins at the cross!