

July 14, 2013

BIBLICAL SALVATION
11 Timothy 1: 9; Ephesians 2: 8-9

SALVATION is a (very) **IMPORTANT** term in the scriptures. **It is a VITALLY important doctrine. And,** fallen humanity (men and women) in every age want to know about it. **We** all want to understand what it means to **BE SAVED**. **We** all want to understand how we can count ourselves among the **SAVED**.

The thief on the cross asked Christ to consider (remember) him in this matter. “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

The jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas on this matter. “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

In Luke 13: 23 one questioned our Lord, “Are there few that be saved?”

So, **SALVATION** is a subject of interest to everyone. **And,** the scriptures are filled with exhortations to sinners to find themselves among those who are **SAVED**.

Look at Mark 16: 14-16 “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

SALVATION is not just an **IMPORTANT** (vital) term in the scriptures, it is also a (very) **COMPREHENSIVE** one. **It** covers a lot of doctrine. **It** takes in a lot of ground. **It** reaches all the way back to eternity and all the way forward to final glory.

The Scriptures declare several ASPECTS of salvation.

1. Sinners have **BEEN** saved.
2. Sinners are **BEING** saved.
3. Sinners **WILL BE** saved.

All three ASPECTS are true (and taught) in the Scriptures. That is what we will consider today from the scriptures.

FIRST: Sinners have **BEEN** saved. **Salvation** reaches all the way back to eternity.

It starts with God CHOOSING a people.

Look at Ephesians 1: 3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him.”

God CHOSE a people öin Christö and öblessedö them with öall spiritual blessingsö. Note: **These** sinners were NOT öchosenö arbitrarily (i.e. without a cause). **Nor**, were they öchosenö because of anything (foreseen) in them. **I.e.** God did NOT look down a telescope of time to see that they would believe and choose them on that basis.

But, God WAS looking at someone when He chose them. **He** was looking at Christ. **They** were öchosenö IN CHRIST. **Christ** was their appointed Representative, their Mediator before God. **He** was their Substitute, who would stand in their place before God's bar of Justice. **He** was their Surety, assuming their (legal) debt in eternity and who came in time and paid that debt in full.

The fact that sinners have BEEN saved is as ASPECT of salvation that unregenerate (untaught) sinners are TOTALLY ignorant of. **This** is not something that WILL happen. **It is** not something WAITING to happen. **This** is not something depending on the sinner TO MAKE it happen. **This** is something that has ALREADY happened. **It is DONE. It is FINISHED. Christ FINISHED it.**

Christ spoke in anticipation of this work just prior to His going to the Cross.

Look at John 17: 1-4 **“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:**

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”

When Christ spoke these words, He was still on the earth. **He** had not yet gone to the Cross. **So**, how could He say that He had ALREADY done these things?

How could He say that He had ALREADY öglorified the Fatherö? **How** could He say that He had ALREADY öfinished the work His Father had given Him to doö?

He could SAY it was DONE because it was CERTAIN to be done. He could SAY it was DONE because it could not FAIL to be done. **Christ** is God, the Son, Incarnate (i.e. God in human flesh). **When** God PURPOSES (anything) to be done, it is as good as done, even BEFORE it is done. **And**, He (unlike us) can COUNT it ALREADY done (even BEFORE it is actually done).

Christ could declare His work DONE (before) it was (actually) done, just like His Father could declare Abraham a father of many nations when Abraham didn't even have a son.

Look at Romans 4: 17 **“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”**

Christ could declare His work DONE (before) it was (actually) done, just like His Father could declare Abraham justified on the basis of Christ's righteousness charged to him even BEFORE Christ (actually) came in time and established that righteousness.

Look at Romans 4: 1-3 “**What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?**

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”

God öcountedö Abraham righteous on the basis of the righteousness Christ would come in time and establish. **He** did the same for Abel, testifying of his sacrifice that öHE WAS righteousö. **He** said of Noah, “**Thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.**” The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is about numerous Old Testament ösaintsö, who all ödied in the faithö. **Meaning** they died giving evidence that they were righteous on the basis of Christø righteousness imputed ALONE.

On the Cross Christ declared the work He was given FINISHED. **He** declared it ACCOMPLISHED.

Look at John 19: 30 “**When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**”

God, the Father, declared Christø work ACCOMPLISHED when He raised Christ from the dead. **Paul**, the Apostle, declared this ASPECT of salvation. **He** is describing the work and salvation that Christ had ACCOMPLISHED on the Cross for those He was given. **But**, he is also describing the work and salvation the Father had looked to and counted on from eternity.

Look at Romans 4: 25 “**Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**”

Christ öwas deliveredö (to the Cross) BECAUSE the sins of His people were imputed to Him. **He** öwas raised againö because THOSE (whose sins He bore) stand justified based on His righteousness imputed to them. **He** öwas raised againö because His obedience unto death met all the conditions, fulfilled all the requirements, established the righteousness by which God has ALWAYS declared THESE sinners (forever) righteous in His sight.

THESE sinners are, NOT ONLY, not (legally) guilty, (i.e. not charged with sin, not liable to any punishment because of sin; not even changeable with sin). **They** are ALSO justified. (I.e. They are declared eternally/unchangeably righteous in Godø sight). **God** has never viewed THESE sinners any other way. **This** ASPECT of salvation is ACCOMPLISHED. **Christ** FINISHED it on the Cross. **But**, it is the ASPECT that God counted on öbefore the world beganö.

A multitude of sinners has BEEN saved. **This** ASPECT of salvation is revealed throughout the scriptures. **But**, one of the clearest is found in Paulø writing to Timothy.

Look at II Timothy 1: 9 “**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**” Explain the verse!

The angel told Joseph, “Call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.” **When** Christ died on the Cross, He fulfilled that prophecy. **A multitude** of sinners has BEEN saved. **This** ASPECT of salvation is a FOUNDATIONAL truth. **This** is what ALL (every ASPECT) of salvation rests on. **This** ASPECT is key (vital) to understanding salvation as the Bible records it. **I.e.** UNTIL you get THIS right, you have NOTHING right.

UNTIL a sinner understands and believes how sinners have BEEN saved, they have no RIGHT knowledge (no scriptural knowledge) of how sinners are BEING saved or how they will be FULLY/FINALLY saved.

When I say sinners have no RIGHT knowledge, I don’t mean we don’t have IDEAS. **We** have IDEAS. **I don’t** mean we don’t DESIRE salvation. **Everybody** WANTS to be saved. **But**, our IDEAS and DESIRES are NOT Scriptural. **The** IDEAS and DESIRES of the “natural mind” are presumptions of the fallen, depraved human heart. **They** are illustrated in scriptures in the “broad way” (that is leading to destruction) and the way that SEEMS right (which ends in death).

These IDEAS are about how fallen sinners THINK (imagine) God saves. **But**, they are far from how God REALLY saves. **These** DESIRES are about how sinners WANT to be saved (based on something found in them and NOT based on Christ ALONE). **They** are far from God’s salvation, which reveals Him to be Just and the Justifier of the ungodly. **The** Scriptures will not support these fallen IDEAS and depraved DESIRES.

(Outline). **That** is the first ASPECT of salvation. **A multitude** of sinners of God’s choosing has BEEN saved. **Christ** has redeemed them from the eternal wrath they deserved. **They** are (unchangeably) righteous, justified, holy and unblameable in God’s sight based on Christ’s righteousness imputed ALONE. **And**, they have been so (in God’s mind and purpose) from “the foundation of the world”.

The second ASPECT of salvation taught in the scriptures is that sinners are BEING saved.

Look at 1 Corinthians 1: 18 “**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**”

The verb tenses in this verse are both present tense, which indicates continuous action. **And**, they describe the two categories of sinners always present in the world.

There are those who “ARE perishing”. **They** haven’t perished YET. **No** sinner has perished until that sinner dies in unbelief. **But**, apart from the Gospel, placing no value on the Christ revealed in the Gospel, seeing no need for His righteousness imputed for all of salvation, these sinners remain aligned with those who “ARE perishing”.

Then, there are those who “ARE (being) saved”. **These** sinners have already BEEN saved. God chose them IN CHRIST “before the foundation of the world”. Christ redeemed them by His death on the Cross. **But**, they still need TO BE saved. **They** MUST (and shall) be brought to the knowledge of the God who chose them and the Christ who redeemed them.

Paul describes this more clearly in His letter to the Ephesians.

Look at Ephesians 2: 8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

“By grace you ARE BEING (continue to be) saved.” The sense of this verse is that those that have BEEN saved are continuing TO BE saved. Based on the original, it might read like this, “Having BEEN saved by grace, you continuing BEING saved by grace through the faith (the Gospel). And that (that salvation by grace) is not of yourselves (in any sense). It (salvation by grace) is the gift of God. It is not of works, lest any man should boast.”

WHO is Paul speaking to? By grace YOU are saved. WHO is represented by YOU? The YOU are those sinners who have BEEN saved, yet, are still BEING saved.

Look back in the context at Ephesians 2: 1 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”

Paul is speaking of *spiritual* death. Being *spiritually* dead does not (necessarily) mean condemned. Nor, does it (necessarily) mean living an immoral life or a life of UNCONCERN about spiritual things.

Being *spiritually* dead means being ignorant of, having no value for God’s redemptive glory; having no knowledge of or value for “the righteousness of God”; having no knowledge of or value for how God is just to justify ungodly sinners who deserve nothing but His eternal wrath. *Spiritual* death is revealed by a sinner’s walk.

Look at Ephesians 2: 2 “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience;”

Spiritual death is revealed in a sinner’s “conversation” (which is just another word for “walk” or manner of living).

Look at Ephesians 2: 3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

ALL (even those who have BEEN saved) are born *spiritually* dead. ALL are born “walking” in league with Satan. ALL are born “going about to establish a righteousness of our own”. ALL are born IGNORANT of what Christ has (already) done to deliver the sinners He was given from the wrath they deserve. ALL are born ignorant of how God can be doing right (How He can be Just) to declare ungodly sinners righteous in His sight. ALL are born walking among, looking like and acting like those who “are perishing”.

Satan (called “the god of this world”) would have us ALL remain that way.

Look at 11 Corinthians 4: 3-4 **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

Satan blinds the minds of ALL by nature. **To** what? **It** says, ðour Gospelö. **It** means that which DISTINGUISHES the Gospel from ALL (other) messages (that CLAIM to be gospel). **Satan** blinds the minds of sinners to the Redemptive Glory of God.

It does not matter if you are the most moral, most sincere, most religious person on earth, if you are ignorant of ðGodø righteousnessö your mind is being ðblinded by Satanö. **You** are aligning yourself with those in this world who ðare perishingö.

How are sinners delivered from such BLINDNESS? God sends them a Gospel preacher. **They** are ðcalledö by the Gospel. **They** are ðcalled with an holy callingö.

Look back at 11 Timothy 1: 9 **“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”**

What is a ðholy callingö? **It** is THE Gospel.

How are sinners delivered from such BLINDNESS? **God** intervenes with *spiritual* life. **Look** back at Ephesians 2: 1 **“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”**

Those who ðARE perishingö are the ðspiritually deadö. **They** are those STILL (those who CONTINUE) seeking salvation and acceptance with God in something other than the finished work of Christ, His righteousness imputed ALONE. **I.e.** These are those who remain ignorant of or placing no value on the Redemptive Glory of God.

Those who ðARE (being) savedö are those who are ðquickenedö. **They** are delivered from ðspiritual deathö. **They** are given *spiritual* life. **This** is the BEGINNING point of the identification of those who ðare BEING savedö. **They** are brought to rest in Christ and repent from their dead works and idolatry.

How are sinners delivered from such BLINDNESS? **Look** at 11 Corinthians 4: 6 **“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”**

The GREATEST need of fallen humanity is to hear (the) Gospel. **Jim’s** lesson: ðThe NECESSITY of Hearing the Gospelö. **Belief** or unbelief of THE Gospel is what distinguishes between those who ðARE perishingö and those who ðare (being) savedö. **VALUE** or NO (value) for ðgodø righteousnessö is what distinguishes.

That is why Christ commanded His disciples to ðgo into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”.

Look back at Mark 16: 15-16 “**And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Christ’s command to His disciples is (crystal) clear. He didn’t say go feed the hungry or heal the sick or teach people how to grow crops. His command was, “Go and preach THE GOSPEL.”

Declare unto sinners what God has done to save a multitude of His choosing by the doing and dying of Christ ALONE. **Declare** a salvation (already) ACCOMPLISHED by Christ for every sinner He was given. **Declare** the righteousness Christ established by His obedience unto death, as the only thing that makes it RIGHT for God to justify (otherwise) ungodly sinners.

Tell sinners about GOD’S salvation. **And**, THOSE sinners that God CHOSE and gave all spiritual blessings to; THOSE sinners that Christ redeemed at the Cross; THOSE sinners who have BEEN saved; THOSE sinners will be made known. They will be made known by their response to the God and Savior declared in the Gospel. EVERYBODY (needs) a Savior like Christ, (who fulfilled all requirements, met all conditions for God to be just and the justifier of ungodly sinners).

How can you or I tell if we are aligned with those who “are perishing” or those who “are BEING saved”? 11 Corinthians 4: 6.

(Outline). **So**, sinners have BEEN saved (from God’s wrath by Christ’s work on the Cross). **And**, sinners are BEING saved beginning with regeneration and conversion (their BEGINNING to value God’s Redemptive Glory).

Now, there is one last ASPECT of salvation. **Sinners** WILL BE saved. **There** is one ASPECT of salvation YET to be accomplished (even for those who have BEEN saved and those who ARE BEING saved).

Look at Romans 8: 22-25 “**For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”

No one has been finally glorified. **But**, justified, regenerate sinners see the reality of final glory in the scriptures. **We SEE** it through God given faith. **And**, we HOPE for it. **We** “wait patiently for it”. **We** know it is a CERTAINTY.

Look at Hebrews 9: 28 “**So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**”

The emphasis here is that Christ is coming back for those who look **FOR HIM**.

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