

TOPIC: SALVATION

TEXT: Matt. 1:21; 1Cor. 15:1-2; Eph. 2:4-6, 8; Tit. 3:5-7

This series of Bible teachings are designed to remove doubts or confusion and stabilize the hearts of saved people, who may have been afflicted with such doubts or confusion as to whether they are saved. They are also intended to facilitate the salvation of the unsaved, who may have thought that they are saved just because they are in the midst of the people of God.

To aid understanding of the Bible teachings in this series commencing with the topic **“SALVATION”**, the following definitions are necessary: **“THE CHRISTIAN FAITH”** or **“THE FAITH”** means, ***the body of beliefs and doctrines that the Lord Jesus taught or upheld***, BY **“FUNDAMENTALS”** it is meant, those foundation experiences, which any true disciple of Christ must have.

In this study, we shall be concerned with the first experience, **“SALVATION”**. Hereafter, we shall progress to the others (as much as possible) in the order they should be experienced.

1. SALVATION DEFINED

SALVATION in this context does not mean, “being saved from sickness, death or some kind of evil situation”. These however are forms of salvation (eg. Judges 6:36-37; 7:7).

SALVATION is referred to as ***“the state of a sinner being forgiven, justified, and freed from the power of sin by God”***. SALVATION has two sides to it:

(i) **“Being forgiven, justified and freed from the power of sin in the now”** (eg. Lk. 7:50; 18:42; 1 Cor. 1:18; 15:1-2; Eph. 2:4-6).

(ii) **“Being allowed entry into the kingdom of God at last”** (1Cor. 5:5; 1Thess. 2:16,). One may be saved in the now but lost at last, if one eventually loses the salvation experience in one lifetime on earth, as stated in Ezek. 18:24-28.

It is this first aspect of SALVATION that is referred to in the Bible as follows:

“Being Born of God” (Jn. 1:13; 1Jn. 3:9).

“Being born again” (Jn. 3:3,5)

“Being quickened” (resurrected from spiritual death) Lk. 15:24; Jn. 5:21).

“Being regenerated” (Tit. 3:5)

“Being in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17).

2. SALVATION, HOW?

To enhance understanding of how SALVATION can be had, the following FOUNDATION KNOWLEDGE is necessary:

Ø Through Adam’s sin, all his descendants (the entire mankind) were made sinners (i.e. received a sinful nature) Gen. 5:3; Psa. 51:3.

Ø No one can by any means redeem (save) his brother or himself (Psa. 49:7),

Ø But through the obedience and righteousness of Jesus Christ (the second Adam), all who come into union with Him are saved and made righteous (Rom. 5:1, 17b, 19)

Ø This is because Jesus Christ's sufferings, death, and resurrection were pre-planned by God for the justification/redemption of sinners who will come into union with Him through their faith in the said sufferings, death, and resurrection (cons. Isa. 53:3-12 and Acts 4:27:28)

Ø This is the reason the scripture says, "By grace are you saved through faith (in Christ' justifying, death and resurrection)..." Eph. 2:5,8-9;

Now, to be saved one must realize that, by one's nature of sin and actual sins, one has been separated from God (Psa. 51:3; Isa. 59:1) but that in God's mercy, judgment for one's sins has been laid on Jesus Christ (Isa. 53:4-12; 1Cor. 15:3). All that one is therefore required to do to come into favor with God is to wholeheartedly renounce sin, confess and reject all sins and wholeheartedly believe and receive Christ into one's heart.

Upon this exercise, God's forgiveness, justification, and the earnestness of the Spirit of God are released into one (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 1:12-14; 2Cor. 5:5). The one has now been saved or redeemed, justified, or born of God, or born again, or regenerated.

Note: Those who have indwelling evil spirits will need to have such expelled from them before a genuine salvation experience can take place. This is because the Spirit of God cannot dwell in the same body with the evil 2 Cor. 6:15-16).