

## Salvation

Dictionary definition of salvation:

1. Preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss.
2. Deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ

The Gospel (good news) about where we will spend eternity (salvation) is the foundation of our belief. Without this we would have nothing.

...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **1 Corinthians 15:17-19**

We are all sinners. We cannot save ourselves. Trying to be good enough is always going to fail. We need a saviour.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23**

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

We are not sinners because we break God's law. The law cannot save us because we are fundamentally sinners. The law is there to demonstrate this fact to us. There is no hope for us without someone to save us. We need a saviour.

No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. **Romans 3:20**

The consequences of mankind's sin and rebellion against God are that our relationship with him is broken, our world is diseased and messed-up. We deserve the wrath of God.

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23**

<sup>35</sup>The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. <sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. **John 3:35-36**

God loves us and has mercy on us. He sent Jesus to die for us.

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

Jesus alone can bring us salvation. There is no alternative. He is the Saviour we need.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. **Acts 4:11-13**

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! **Galatians 1:6-8**

How did Jesus bring salvation to us?

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:4-7**

We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep (died) in him. **1 Thessalonians 4:14**

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 3:9-11**

How do we access the Gospel (good news)? Repent (change direction, forgiveness of sins), believe on Jesus (have faith in him, trust him) and confess him as Lord and Saviour (witnessing - tell others - be baptised).

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. <sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' **John 3:1-7**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." **Acts 16:29-31**

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **Romans 10:9-10**

When we are born again we become a new creation. Pass from darkness to light; old man to new man; old life to new life.

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **1 Peter 2:9**

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **1 Corinthians 5:17**

<sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **Ephesians 4:22-23**

Salvation is immediate (justification), ongoing (sanctification) and for the future (assurance).

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." **Luke 23:39-43**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. **Philippians 2:12-13**

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **John 14:2**

<sup>4</sup> When the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Titus 3:4-6**

Salvation belongs to God. It is his gift to us. We cannot deserve it or earn it by good works, meditation, worship etc. The Gospel of salvation is unique. Religion, cults, new age, world systems (including Christendom) will always:

1. Deny the divinity of Jesus

<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the

Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." **Mark 14:60-62**

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven." **Matthew 6:15-17**

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. **1 John 5:5**

2. Depend upon the goodness/works/achievements/status of the believer

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **Philippians 3:7-9**

Jesus sacrifice was once and for all and covers all of our sins past, present and future (and the consequences both now and eternally). There is no need to repeat the sacrifices as they did for the sin offerings in the Old Testament or to add anything else to the Gospel.

<sup>11</sup> Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. <sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: <sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." <sup>17</sup> Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. **Hebrews 10:11-18**

<sup>9</sup> What shall we conclude then? Do we (*being Jews*) have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup> As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." **Romans 3:9-12**

Salvation was God's plan all along, it is seen emerging throughout the Old Testament and was fulfilled in the New Testament when Jesus came. St Augustine put it like this, "The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed."

<sup>8</sup> Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." <sup>9</sup> So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **Galatians 3:8-9**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Gospel means “good news” but it is more than “we go to heaven when we die” (as if that were not good enough). Jesus died for us and took away our sins but he wants to remake us in his image. He has died to deal with all of our hurts, shame and pain. There is power, healing and restoration in the cross. Divine exchange at the cross.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” **Romans 1:16-17**

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” **1 Peter 2:24**

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **1 Peter 5:10**

We may leave God but He will never leave us. We have this assurance. If we fall away we may still be saved but we have no assurance of this. (Was I really saved in the first place?)

<sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. **Hebrews 6:19-20**

<sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,<sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Romans 10: 11-13**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved - even though only as one escaping through the flames. **2 Corinthians 3:11-15**

Our good works are evidence of our faith in Jesus, not a substitute for it. Faith comes first.

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. **James 2:14-18**