

Salvation Through Jesus Christ

The very mission of the Son of God in coming to earth was to bring salvation to lost, sinful man, and to reconcile man's relationship with his heavenly Father through the removal of sin.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." ~ Luke 19:10

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." ~ 1 Tim 1:15

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." ~ John 14:23

Salvation means: 'The act of saving or delivering.'

In theological use, deliverance from the power and penalty of sin.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
~ Matthew 1:21

When Christ saves you, he delivers you from the power of sin in your life.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." ~ 1 John 3:5-10

Is complete salvation from all sin a possibility now? Yes!

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." ~ Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

But salvation can be neglected in this life.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" ~ Heb 2:3

Salvation is a reality to those who believe, when they fully believe from the heart.

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." ~ Acts 16:30-31

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." ~ Rom 10:9

'Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.' When God speaks to your heart, do not put it off until another day.

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." ~ 2 Cor 6:2

The Word of God records that many obtained salvation in the apostolic times.

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." ~ 1 Pet 1:9

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." ~ 1 Cor 1:18

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls... ..Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." ~ Acts 2:41 & 47

Salvation is described by three different aspects of the same work: Justification, Conversion, and the New Birth.

Justification:

Justification is the legal aspect of salvation: to absolve from guilt, to be acquitted before God.

An individual is justified by faith. Christ has paid the ransom, he took the penalty for our sins. He became sin for us, so that we could become righteous. We need only take it by faith.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." ~ Rom 3:23-28

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." ~ 2 Cor 5:21

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" ~ Rom 5:1

If we are justified from the penalty of sin, shall we continue in sin?

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" ~ Rom 6:1

Conversion:

Bible conversion is a real change of heart and life. Conversion must mean as much to you and me as it did to Paul on the Damascus road.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." ~ Acts 3:19

"And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shown from heaven a great light around about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, who are thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with him saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. And I said, what shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go unto Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devote man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness upon all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." ~ Acts 22:6

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matt 18:3

Bible conversion is more than changing a sinner into a 'sinning Christian'. It changes a sinner into a saint and touches every fiber of his life. So this doctrine of the "New Birth" is fundamental and absolutely necessary in becoming a Christian.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." ~ John 3: 3

All men are the creatures of God, but all men are not the children of God, as popular belief has it today.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." ~ John 1:11

The New Birth:

The New Birth is necessary because in order for man to obtain salvation he must become spiritually alive.

"And you hath he quickened (or have been made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins; 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:" ~ Eph 2:1-2

Is it possible to be born again in this life?

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him." ~ 1 John 5:1

It is impossible to experience the New Birth through our good deeds or good moral life. New Birth comes from above.

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believeth on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:" ~ 1 John 5:11-14

The New Birth is being born into eternal Life.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is past from death unto life." ~ John 5:24

'Ye must be born again' (John 3:3). Infant baptism, ceremonial rites, joining the church, or going to the altar cannot replace the New Birth.

There are evidences of salvation within our own hearts that will assure us that we are saved. The apostles themselves knew it as a blessed reality.

"We know that we have past from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." ~ 1 John 3:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" ~ Romans 8:14-16

We can know that there has been a change when our sins have been forgiven.

"To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins," ~ Luke 1: 77

Not only is there a freedom from the burden and guilt of sin, but there are new desires, new hopes, and holy directions in our hearts directing lives.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us to the ministry of reconciliation;" ~ 2 Cor 5: 17

Another evidence of salvation is that we love God, and we will obey His word.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." ~ John 14:23

Our salvation will cause us to even love our enemies.

"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." ~ Matt 5:44-45

There will be a very special love for God's children when we have been born again.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." ~ John 13:35

We will have the internal witness of the Spirit of God.

"The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" ~ Rom 8:16