

## What does it mean to be **SAVED**? What is **SALVATION**?

There are many misconceptions about what it means to be a Christian. Living in a “Christian country”? Being religious? Being a good person? Believing in God? Praying a prayer? Reading the Bible? Going to church? Intellectually agreeing with the statement, “Jesus died for my sins”? Doing “this” and not doing “that”? None of these are wrong, but none of them are complete.

Dictionary definition of *salvation*: deliverance from harm, ruin, loss

A very brief summary of Genesis tells us... God created everything, called it good, and was in relationship with humanity (Adam & Eve). There was harmony in all relationships – with God, each other, and creation. Imperfection (sin) entered the world when humanity rebelled by disobedience (doing it their way). The relationship was broken between God and his creation – they were separated. The rest of human history is the story of sin and its consequences – disobedience, carelessness, indulgence, insecurity, anger, malice, immorality, death, etc.

Because of this, we need salvation; to be delivered from the harm of separation from God.

### What does the Bible say someone needs to **know**, **believe**, and **do** to be saved?

Here are a few scriptures that help to explain & show “what it means to be saved”. There are questions (Q:) following each scripture to use for reflection.

#### **John 3:1-5, 14-18 (NIV)**

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.

Q: How are Nicodemus and Jesus views of “born again” different?

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

Q: What did God give? What is needed to have eternal life? God sent his son to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Colossians 1:21-23 (NLT)

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. <sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. <sup>23</sup> But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.

Q: Describe the “before” and “after”. What is the result (benefit to you) of Christ’s death?

## Ephesians 2:1-5; 8-9 (NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup> You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.<sup>[a]</sup> He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!

Q: Describe the “before” and “after”. What did God give us? Why?

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Q: How are we saved? How are we *not* saved?

## Romans - “Roman Road”

3:9-12 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> What shall we conclude then? Do we 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.”

Q: What is the human condition related to God?

3:23 (NIV) <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Q: Who has sinned? Who lives up to God’s standard?

6:23 (NIV) <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q: What is the result (consequence) of our sin? What is the result (consequence) of God’s gift?

5:8 (NIV) <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Q: Why did Jesus die for us if we were sinning?

10:9-13 (NLT) <sup>9</sup> If you openly declare that 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 by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” <sup>12</sup> Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

Q: What do we do to receive God’s salvation?

**Luke 13:3 (NLT)**

And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.

Q: Jesus is giving his listeners the way to “not perish”... what needs to happen?

**John 14:6 (NIV)**

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Q: Jesus is 3 things, what are they? What is the only way to God?

**John 10:27-30 (NIV)**

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

Q: What do the sheep do? What does Jesus do for his sheep? Why can no one take the sheep?

Other Resources:

[Steps to Peace with God](#) – Billy Graham

[4 Spiritual Laws](#) – Bill Bright