

## OUR SALVATION

The Christian life begins with a spiritual new birth, even as your natural life began with your natural birth. When you become a Christian, you are brought into the family of God, with full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child of God. This experience is also referred to as *salvation*, *the new birth*, and *born again*. Let's examine more carefully what is involved in becoming a Christian.

### I. THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR SALVATION

The Bible says to become a Christian we must be *born again*. Jesus told Nicodemus that, *unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*. (John 3:3) Here are some facts about our salvation.

#### A. GOD LOVES US

God loves us and wants us to have an abundant life here on earth. (John 10:10) He also offers us eternal life. Jesus went on to say to Nicodemus, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*. (John 3:16) To *believe in* means to have faith in, to trust in, to entrust to Christ one's complete well-being, spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationally. In verse 17 Jesus said, *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*. The word *salvation* in the original Greek of the New Testament is *soteria*, (pronounced *So-tay-ree-ah*), and means *rescue or safety, (physically or morally) deliver, health*, according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. The Old Testament Hebrew word for salvation is *yeshuwah*, which means *deliverance, aid, victory, prosperity, health, help, saving (health), welfare*. *Jesus* is the translation of *yeshuwah*, indicating that Jesus' name means salvation and all of its benefits to our spirit, soul, body, finances, and relationships, and in fact, to every facet of our beings.

## **B. WE ARE SINNERS**

In Romans we read, *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* (Romans 3:23) God is holy, but all of us sin. A sin is a *transgression of religious law, an offense against God.* (Webster's 3rd Intern'l Dictionary) We all have violated God's laws. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

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## **C. SIN HAS A PENALTY**

Romans tells us, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 6:23) Because man is a sinner, he deserves the penalty of death, not only physical death, but also spiritual death, or separation from God. (Read also Ezekiel 18:4 and Hebrews 9:22) Sin brings not only separation from God spiritually, but also sorrow emotionally, sickness physically, poverty financially, and grief relationally. Sin brings a curse to every part of our being. For a fuller description of the curses which God promised Israel for her disobedience, read Deuteronomy 28:15-68. Note the spiritual consequences of separation from God, as well as the references to emotional sorrows, physical sicknesses, financial curses, and relational separation from God and others. Then note verses 1-14, which give the blessings from obedience, freedom from any curses, whether spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, or relational. God offers us deliverance from sin and its consequences, the free gift of salvation, or eternal life in Jesus.

## **D. CHRIST PAID OUR PENALTY**

Jesus Christ paid our penalty by dying in our place. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8) God loves us and wants fellowship with us, but He is also righteous and can't overlook our sins. In order to forgive our sins and reconcile us to Himself, He sent Jesus to die in our place. He paid the penalty for our sins at the cost of His own blood. Paul declares in Galatians 3:13, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become*

*a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'). When we receive salvation in Jesus Christ, God provides to those who walk in obedience and faith the fullness of deliverance from the curse of the law both here and hereafter. Isaiah 53:4, 5 tells us the extent of the work which Jesus did on the cross for us: Surely He has borne our griefs (literally sicknesses), and carried our sorrows (literally pains), yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. The prophet is telling us that in the beating and crucifixion which Jesus suffered, He atoned for our sins and all sins' consequences, including separation from God spiritually, sorrows emotionally, sicknesses physically, poverty financially, and problems relationally. Matthew 8:16,17 confirms the availability of physical healing in Christ's redemption : When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.'*

## **II. OUR PART IN OBTAINING SALVATION**

We need to do three things to receive God's free gift of salvation.

### **A. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE SINNERS**

We are not ready to be saved until we realize our sinful condition and need for the Savior. Jesus said, *Those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.* (Luke 5:31,32)

### **B. REPENT OF OUR SINS**

Jesus said, *Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.* (Luke 13:3) Repentance is more than being sorry for or convicted of sin. D.L. Moody defined repentance this way: *Man is born with his back toward God. When he truly repents, he turns right around and faces God. Repentance is a change of*

*mind, a change of heart, and it results in a change of action.* Sin is so awful that Christ had to die for us to obtain forgiveness. We must repent of our sins and desire God to free us from sin's control. (Isaiah 55:7)

### **C. RECEIVE JESUS**

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.* (John 1:12) When we receive Jesus Christ personally as our Savior and Lord, we become children of God. This means we accept what He has done for us by dying for our sins (though He Himself never sinned). We also accept the fact that He was resurrected, as the proof that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice. (Romans 4:25) Because Jesus lives, God can credit to the account of each person who responds by faith His righteousness.

### **III. HAVE YOU RECEIVED SALVATION?**

Before continuing with this course, you need to be sure you are saved. Paul said, *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.* (2 Corinthians 13:4) Have you acknowledged that you are a sinner? Have you repented of your sins? Have you received Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord? If not, receive Him now by praying a prayer something like this:

*Dear Lord, I acknowledge that I am a sinner and I repent of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and was raised again to give me new life, spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationally. I receive Jesus as my personal Savior, Lord, and Healer. Thank you, Lord, for my full salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **IV. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

It is necessary for a strong Christian walk that we have assurance of salvation. We can have that assurance from God's Word.

## **A. KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED**

John tells us that we are to know that we are saved if we have received Jesus. *And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.* (1 John 5:11-13; emphasis supplied)

## **B. KNOW THAT YOU ARE SECURE**

Once Jesus Christ saves you, you cannot lose that salvation. Jesus said, *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.* (John 10:27,28)

## **C. KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOVED**

God has provided salvation because He loves you. He offers you daily the full benefit of that healing, spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationally. So praise Him as the Psalmist did: *Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.* (Psalm 103:1-3)

The Psalmist declared, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* (Psalm 119:105)

## **D. IT PRODUCES FAITH**

Paul revealed, *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* (Romans 10:17)

## **E. IT REVEALS SIN**

Hebrews states, *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* (Hebrews 4:12)

## **F. IT PREVENTS SIN**

The Psalmist wisely observes, *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.* (Psalm 119:11)

## **G. IT DEFEATS SATAN**

Paul said, *Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* (Ephesians 6:17) (Also Matt 4:4,7,10)

## **V. YOUR USE OF THE BIBLE**

### **A. READ THE WORD**

Read the Bible daily, perhaps reading through it in a year.

### **B. MEDITATE ON THE WORD**

The righteous man's *delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.* (Psalm 1:2)

### **C. MEMORIZE THE WORD**

As noted above, the Psalmist confidently declared, *Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.* (Ps. 119:11)

### **D. OBEY THE WORD**

James exhorts believers to, *be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* (James 1:22)

### **E. SHARE THE WORD**

Jesus said, *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.* (Mark 16:15)

God said: *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.* (Joshua 1:8)



