



Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation - Part 1



The Meaning and Scope of Salvation

Even a casual look at the world quickly reveals man's condition in sin and the awful plight in which this fallen condition has left him.

Furthermore, it is a condition against which mankind is completely helpless when left to his own human resources.

In spite of all man's expectations of a new society in which he is able to bring about peace and prosperity, the world remains shattered and torn by the ravages of sin locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Bible speaks, however, of God's gracious plan to provide a solution to man's problem.

We call it salvation or soteriology.

The imminent Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Th.D, Ph.D writes:

Soteriology, the doctrine of salvation, must be the grandest theme in the Scriptures.

It embraces all of time as well as eternity past and future.

It relates in one way or another to all of mankind, without exception.

It even has ramifications in the sphere of the angels.

It is the theme of both the Old and New Testaments.

It is personal, national, and cosmic.

And it centers on the greatest Person, our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term salvation encompasses the total work of God by which He seeks to rescue man from the ruin, doom, and power of sin and bestows upon him the wealth of His grace encompassing eternal life, provision for abundant life now, and eternal glory see:

Ephesians 1:3-8 New International Version

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 he^[a] predestined us for adoption to sonship^[b] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

Ephesians 2:4-10 New International Version

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 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.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Peter 1:3-5 New International Version

Praise to God for a Living Hope

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

John 3:16 New International Version

16 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.

John 3:36 New International Version

36 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 10:10 New International Version

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.



The word “salvation” is the translation of the Greek word *soteria* which is derived from the word *soter* meaning “savior.”

The word “salvation” communicates the thought of deliverance, safety, preservation, soundness, restoration, and healing.

In theology, however, its major use is to denote a work of God on behalf of men, and as such it is a major doctrine of the Bible which includes redemption, reconciliation, propitiation, conviction, repentance, faith, regeneration, forgiveness, justification, sanctification, preservation, and glorification.

On the one hand, salvation is described as the work of God rescuing man from his lost estate.

On the other hand salvation describes the estate of a man who has been saved and who is vitally renewed and made a partaker of the inheritance of the saints.

2 The Motivations for Salvation, when we look at the stubbornness and rebellion of man, we ask the question, why should God want to save sinners?

And especially, why should He want to give His unique and beloved Son to die the agony of God’s holy judgment in bearing our sin on the cross?

Scripture’s answer is that salvation redounds to the glory of His grace.

Salvation brings glory to God and it does so because it manifests the nature and character of His person:

Ephesians 1:6 New International Version

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Philippians 2:11 New International Version

11
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Salvation reveals a number of things about God that bring glory to the person of God and show us something of the reasons for salvation:

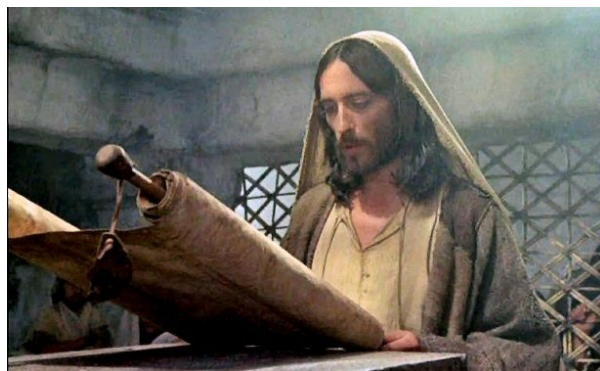
It reveals His love.

That God would reach out to sinful man by sending His only begotten Son is the greatest manifestation of His love.

It declares God provided salvation because He is a loving God:

John 3:16 New International Version

16 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.



1 John 4:7-10 New International Version

God's Love and Ours

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:16 New International Version

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Salvation through the person and work of Christ is also a manifestation of God's grace, the non-meritorious favor of God:

Ephesians 2:7-9 New International Version

7 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.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Only Christianity offers a salvation based on grace rather than works.



All the other religions of the world have man working to acquire salvation.

The salvation of the Bible also manifests the holiness of God.

God provided salvation through the person and work of His Son because He is a holy God.

In His love and grace God desired fellowship with man, but man's rebellion and sin created a barrier between God and man that hindered any fellowship with man whatsoever because of God's infinite holiness.

Both God's holiness and His love are satisfied, however, by the person and work of God's Son so that man can be reconciled to God and fellowship restored.

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God that they might give a visible display of God's character as they walked in fellowship with the invisible God.



But when the human race fell through Adam's sin, the image was not only marred, but man lost the capacity for fellowship with God. Through salvation, the capacity for fellowship is restored and also is man's ability to manifest, though imperfectly, the goodness of God.

The Three Phases (Tenses) of Salvation

Salvation in Christ, which begins in eternity past according to the predetermined plan of God and extends into the eternal future, has three observable phases in the Bible.

Understanding this truth can relieve a lot of tension from the standpoint of security and enable the believer to relax in the Lord and His grace while simultaneously moving forward in spiritual growth.

Phase I.

This is the past tense of salvation—saved from sin's penalty.

Several passages of Scripture speak of salvation as wholly past, or as accomplished and completed for the one who has believed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

This aspect views the believer as delivered once and for all from sin's penalty and spiritual death:

Luke 7:50 New International Version

50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

1 Corinthians 1:18 New International Version

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 2:15 New International Version

15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Ephesians 2:5 New International Version

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:8 New International Version

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Titus 3:5 New International Version

5 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,

Hebrews 7:25 New International Version

25 Therefore he is able to save completely^[a] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

2 Timothy 1:9 New International Version

9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,



Friends, please remember, that You can't buy your way into Heaven, or out of Hell.

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

