

# Appendix I: God's Plan of Salvation

by Kathy Phillips

*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy; by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Titus 2:5-6*

You may have some questions about your salvation...

## What does the Bible say about our need for salvation?

The Bible says there is good news and bad news and good news.

- ❖ The good news is that man was created in God's image. We were created to freely relate to God without guilt or shame.
  - ✦ *And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27*
  - ✦ *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day... Genesis 3:8*
- ❖ The bad news is this relationship has been broken because of our sins, (we have chosen to live independently of God). We are separated from a holy God.
  - ✦ *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. Isaiah 59:2*
  - ✦ *And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 1 John 1:5-6*
- ❖ The good news is that God has provided a way to deal with our sins and draw us back into relationship with Himself.
  - ✦ *But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6*

The Bible lays out God's plan for salvation, showing us how we can return to the relationship with God we were created for.

### **Do I have to be good enough to receive eternal life?**

The only way you could be good enough to receive eternal life is to never have sinned. (Sin is when we choose to live independently of God, to go my way, not God's way.) The Bible teaches that we have all sinned. No matter how good we are, we do not measure up to the perfection of the holiness of God. We are under God's condemnation.

- ❖ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- ❖ There is none righteous, not even one. Romans 3:9
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

But God does not want a single one of us to perish, He has made a way back to Himself!

- ❖ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

### **Why did Jesus have to die for my sins?**

Early on in the Bible God began to unveil His plan of salvation – His way to bring us back into relationship with Himself. He used audio-visual messages to paint the picture of the coming Messiah, the One who would make this possible. These rituals and traditions of the Old Testament foreshadowed the Lord Jesus Christ. By setting up the sacrificial system in the book of Leviticus, God began to instruct man about the necessity of a blood sacrifice.

- ❖ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for you souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement. Leviticus 17:5
- ❖ According to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22

Another picture that God instituted in the Old Testament was the Passover Feast picturing the shed blood of an unblemished, innocent lamb providing safety and salvation.

- ❖ And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you; and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13

There are many other Old Testament prophecies and pictures that point to the Messiah. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, prepared the way for His coming. He “connected the dots” of the Old Testament pictures, proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah.

- ❖ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

Looking back over the life, death and resurrection of Christ, Paul summed it up this way:

- ❖ For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7

The good news is that we are not stranded in our sins without a way back to God. God has done something about our situation. The Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, lived a sinless life and died a substitutionary death on the cross. His shed blood was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His blood covers our sins so that we are considered righteous in God's eyes. We can freely relate to Him with no guilt or shame. We simply must believe Him and receive His salvation. This is a gift, not something we deserve.

- ❖ And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:11-12
- ❖ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- ❖ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13-14

### **So if I cannot earn my way into heaven through good works, where do good works fit into God's plan for my life?**

We *are* created for good works, but they don't make us acceptable to God. After we come to the Lord for salvation and receive His new life, then we are to walk in the good works that He has prepared for us.

- ❖ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

### **My family is Christian, so doesn't this make me one automatically?**

No, salvation is a personal matter, it is a decision that each person must make on an individual basis. No one else can make this decision for you. We cannot ride on the coattails of our heritage, nor be rejected by God because of it. Each one of us must decide for ourselves whether we will become a Christian or not.

- ❖ 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

### **I have been baptized, does that make me a Christian?**

No, but after we become believers in Jesus Christ, we are commanded to be baptized. Baptism is a symbol of the inner reality of our new life/identity in Christ. Baptism alone cannot save you from the penalty of your sins. Only the blood of Jesus can do that.

### **But is Jesus the only way to get to heaven? Aren't there other ways?**

The Bible unequivocally teaches that Jesus is the only way to the Father. If there were any other way, God would not have put His Son through the agony of the cross.

- ❖ There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

- ❖ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6

### **What do I need to do to receive salvation?**

Receiving God's gift of salvation is very simple. All you have to do is tell the Lord that you want to exchange your sins for His salvation. This has nothing to do with you being good enough or earning His approval. You simply pray this prayer from your heart, thanking Him for His gracious provision. This prayer can be something like, "Heavenly Father, I thank You for the sacrifice that the Lord Jesus Christ made on the cross for my sins. I turn from my sins and thank You for His righteousness. I invite you to come into my life as my Lord and Savior." If you do this, you will receive eternal life through Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20
- ❖ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18
- ❖ If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. Romans 10:9

### **How does the Holy Spirit fit into my salvation?**

If you have prayed this prayer to receive the gift of salvation, then you have also received the gift of the Holy Spirit who comes to live within your spirit at the moment of salvation, in a sense, you have a new life in Christ. Some people are aware of this, some are not, but this happens to all believers at the moment of their salvation.

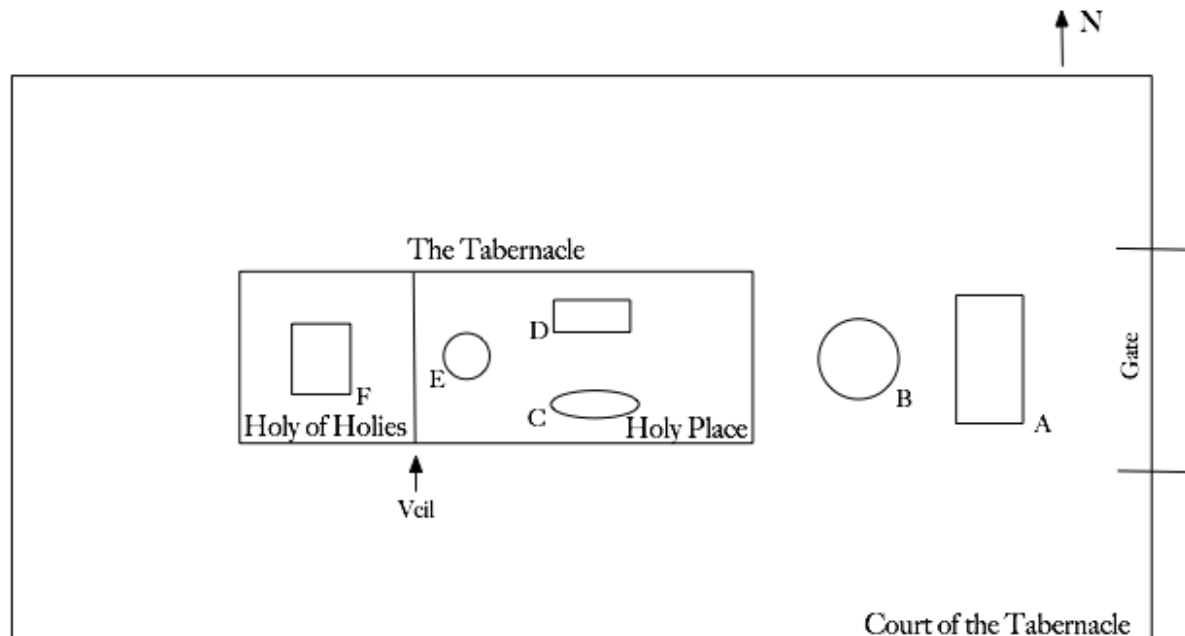
- ❖ Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creature, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ❖ In Him you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

If you have received the Lord as your Savior, you may want to acknowledge the gift of the Holy Spirit living in you by thanking God and asking Him to fill you anew, overflowing with His Spirit within you. Take some time to do that in the space provided below.

If all of this does not make sense to you, simply ask the Holy Spirit to give you a seeking heart and reveal to you the truth about who Jesus Christ is. If you ask Him sincerely, He will show you.

*And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.  
Jeremiah 29:13*

## Appendix II: The Tabernacle



### The Court of the Tabernacle

The Court of the Tabernacle (Exodus 27:9-19) was accessible to all Israelites. They entered by one gate on the eastern end of the court.

- A. The **bronze altar** (Exodus 27:1-8) was the first furnishing the Israelites saw as they entered the court. It had four horns on each of its corners to which the animals were tied when they were sacrificed. In the altar was a grate. The burning coals were placed under the grate, and the sacrifice was laid on top of the grate.
- B. The **bronze laver or basin** (Exodus 30:17-21) was filled with water. The priests washed their hands and feet before they entered the Tabernacle or approached the altar to offer sacrifice so that they would not die.

The Tabernacle itself (which is sometimes referred to as the Tent of Meeting) was a tent divided into two sections: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, which were separated by a veil.

### The Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-34)

Only the priests could enter the Holy Place. They entered daily to perform the required tasks.

- C. The **lampstand** (Exodus 25:31-40) was made of pure gold and held seven lamps.
- D. The **table of showbread** (Exodus 25:23-30) was located inside the Holy Place and made of acacia wood covered with gold. The bread of the Presence was kept on it, before the Lord at all times. Every Sabbath, twelve loaves of bread representing the twelve tribes of Israel were placed on it, and at the end of the week, the priests ate the bread (MacArthur, 222).
- E. The **altar of incense or the golden altar** (Exodus 30:1-10) was overlaid with gold as well. The priest placed the burning coals from the bronze altar (see A) on the golden altar. The high priest burned fragrant incense every morning and evening, so that the aroma rose before the Lord perpetually. The altar also had four horns, like the bronze altar. Once a year, the high priest made atonement at the golden altar by placing the blood of the bull and goat on the horns of the altar (Leviticus 16:18-19). (MacArthur, 222)

### The Holy of Holies

Behind the veil inside the Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, and he was only allowed to enter it once a year on the Day of Atonement (also known as Yom Kippur).

- F. The **ark of the covenant** (Exodus 25:10-16) was placed inside the Holy of Holies. It held the tables of the covenant (or the Law as it was given to Moses), and the author of Hebrews tells us that it also contained Aaron's rod and a golden jar holding manna (Hebrews 9:4).

On top of the ark of the covenant was the **mercy seat** or the **atonement cover** (Exodus 25:17-22) made of pure gold with two cherubim on either end, facing each other. It was from the mercy seat that the Lord met with Israel.

After Moses and the Israelites finished constructing the Tabernacle according to the Lord's instructions, "the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34). Throughout all the journeys of the Israelites through the Wilderness, there was the cloud of glory by day and the fire of glory by night on the Tabernacle. The location of the glory determined Israel's movements. If the glory rested, so did Israel, but "whenever the cloud was taken up, the sons of Israel would set out" (Exodus 40:36-38).

## Sources

- Alcorn, Randy. "Scriptures on Whether True Christians Can Lose Their Salvation" *Eternal Perspectives Ministries*. 8 March 2010.  
<http://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Mar/8/scriptures-whether-true-christians-can-lose-their-/> Accessed 31 December 2011.
- Allen, David. *The New American Commentary: Hebrews*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2010.
- Arthur, Kay. *Precept Upon Precept – Hebrews Part 1: Consider Jesus, Your Merciful High Priest (Chapters 1-4)*. Chattanooga, TN: Precept Ministries International, 2008.
- Arthur, Kay. *Precept Upon Precept – Hebrews Part 2: Draw Near to His Throne (Chapters 5-13)*. Chattanooga, TN: Precept Ministries International, 2001.
- Blue Letter Bible Online. 1996-2011. <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- Cameron, Bruce M. *Hebrews: Lessons 1, 2 and 3*. Online. 2012. <http://www.gobible.org>. Accessed October 2011.
- Constable, Thomas L. Dr. *Constable's Expository (Bible Study) Notes: Notes on Psalms*. 2010 Edition. <http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/hebrews.pdf> Accessed 26 December 2011.
- Joy of Living Bible Studies. *Hebrews*. Oak View, CA: Joy of Living Bible Studies, 1984.
- MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1983.
- New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.
- New International Version of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Swindoll, Charles. *Hebrews Vol. I*. Fullerton, CA: Insight for Living, 1983.
- Tozer, A.W. *Experiencing the Presence of God: Teachings from the Book of Hebrews*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2010.