

FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

THROUGH THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000

Josh Franklin, PhD

God's Rescue Mission

Article 4: Salvation¹ - "Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

- A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.
 - Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.
- B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.
- C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
- D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

I. Understanding Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ.

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

II. Key Aspects of Salvation

A. Regeneration - The new birth, a work of God's grace where believers become new creatures in Christ.

John 3:3: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

B. Justification - God's full acquittal of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ.

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

¹ From the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/#iv>.

C. Sanctification - The process of being set apart for God's purposes, growing toward spiritual maturity.

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

D. Glorification - The culmination of salvation and the final blessed state of the redeemed.

Romans 8:17: "And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

III. The Necessity of Christ's Atonement

Christ's death was a substitutionary atonement for sin, taking our place and paying the penalty.

1 John 2:2: "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

CEV: "Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world's people."

IV. The Role of Faith and Repentance

Faith and repentance are inseparable experiences of grace, turning from sin and committing to Christ.

Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Bible terms or concepts made simple:

1. **Salvation** (Being rescued from sin) Matthew 1:21
2. **Atonement** (Punishing Christ for my sin) 1 John 2:2
3. **Regeneration** (Receiving God's life on the inside) John 3:3
4. **Justification** (Being declared "not guilty", and being declared "righteous") Romans 3:24
5. **Redemption** (Being purchased out of slavery) 1 Peter 1:18-19
6. **Reconciliation** (Bringing together me and God) 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
7. **Repentance** (Turning from sin to God) Luke 13:3, 5
8. **Saving Faith** (Knowing, believing, and trusting Christ for salvation) Acts 16:31
9. **Grace** (God's kindness to me I don't deserve) Ephesians 2:8
10. **Righteousness** (Right Standing before God) 2 Corinthians 5:21
11. **Assurance of Salvation** (Confidence you are a child of God forever) 1 John 5:13
12. **Perseverance of the Saints** (God's strength to endure to the end) John 10:28
13. **Sanctification** (Set apart for God) Philippians 1:6
14. **Adoption** (Welcomed into God's eternal family) Romans 8:15-17

Applications:

- 1) Remember that repentance and faith go hand in hand. Someone who is trusting Jesus for salvation will be expressing repentance. Do not forget to emphasize repentance. (See Acts 20:21)
- 2) When you sin, realize that you are positionally the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). You have broken fellowship, but your relationship is intact. Ask God to forgive you (1 John 1:9), and praise God for His mercy, love and forgiveness.
- 3) When considering someone who has walked away from the faith, understand you do not know the condition of their heart. True believers will persevere until the end. (See 1 John 2:19, Matthew 7:21-23)