

SOTERIOLOGY:
The Doctrine of Salvation
Gulf Coast Baptist Church
Bible Institute

DEFINITIONS OF SALVATION

A. Salvation from God's Point of View

In the New Testament, salvation from God's perspective is the application of the benefits of Christ's completed cross work to the one who received the gospel concerning Christ (1 Cor. 15:3-4) by faith, changing the individual from an enemy into a friend resulting in deliverance from eternal condemnation, which is a result of the fall, unto eternal life.

B. Salvation from Man's Point of View

New Testament salvation from man's perspective is the application of the benefits of Christ's completed cross work to the one believing the gospel concerning Christ resulting in deliverance from the enmity and condemnation resulting from the fall and the change from being enemies of God to being friends resulting in peace with God, eternal life, a position in Christ with all the riches of divine grace. This salvation has three tenses.

SALVATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DISPENSATION OF GRACE

A. A Description of the 3 Tenses of Salvation in the New Testament

1. Past tense salvation: Initial salvation with the idea of "to rescue from danger," to deliver from condemnation
 - a) Christ came to save sinners, i.e. to rescue from danger - 1 Tim. 1:15
 - i. It's God's desire that all men might be saved - 1 Tim. 2:4
 - ii. Christ's death is sufficient for all mankind - 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:20
 - b) In a state of being saved (perfect tense) by grace, through faith, Eph. 2:5, 8
 - i. Salvation begins at a point of time in the past with continuing results
 - ii. Hints at the fact that there is more to salvation than the initial moment
 - c) Saved by the standard of God's mercy - Tit. 3:5
 - i. What is mercy? - God's compassion on us, even when experiencing the consequences of sin and the weakness of the flesh
 - d) Saved by believing the gospel concerning Christ - 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 - i. What is faith?
 - A. Hope is built upon a promise(s) of God - Eph. 2:12; Acts 26:6
 - B. Hope is not hope if it can be seen - Ro. 8:24
 - C. Faith is the making real of a confidence one has in an unseen promise of God - Heb. 11:1
 - ii. The Gospel for Initial Salvation - the promise to be believed is that forgiveness and acceptance with God is only possible through faith in the Christ's death for sins, burial, and resurrection
 - e) The salvation of those who believe by the foolishness of preaching - 1 Cor. 1:21

- i. Man's perspective
 - ii. Makes no sense
- f) Saved us and called us with a holy calling - 2 Tim. 1:9
 - i. The believer has been set apart calling to God's will and purposes
 - ii. God's will and purposes for the believer
 - A. Conformity into the image of Christ - Ro. 8:29
 - B. Loving one another as Christ loved the church - Jo. 13:34-35
 - C. Do all things to the glory of God - 1 Cor. 10:31
- 2. Present Tense Salvation with the idea of being kept safe or preserved
 - a) What is the significance of Eph. 2:5, 8 for the believers Present Tense Salvation
 - i. Spiritual enemies - the Flesh, Satan, and the World System
 - ii. Eternal security:
 - A. Everlasting life - Jo. 5:24; 6:47
 - B. If salvation is by grace, works play no part in salvation (initial or present) - Ro. 11:6
 - C. Christ's sacrifice has perfected the believer forever - Heb. 10:14
 - b) The preaching of the cross is the power of God to the ones presently being saved - 1 Cor. 1:18
 - i. Context: Those that are perishing have a distaste for the Gospel
 - ii. Those that are being saved (present passive participle) recognize that "it is the power of God"
 - c) God will complete the work that He began in each believer - Phil. 1:6
 - d) Paul as a sweet odor to those being saved - 2 Cor. 2:14-16
 - i. Paul living out a real experiential relationship with God
 - ii. This odor is distasteful to the lost but is a refreshing aroma to those being saved
 - e) The instruction to work out your own salvation - Phil. 2:12
 - i. Conveys the idea, work out that which is already in you
 - ii. This working out is not accomplished by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps but relying upon what God has provided us as part of our salvation - 2 Pe. 1:1-8
- 3. Future Tense Salvation with the idea of being made whole
 - a) We shall be waded from wrath through Christ - Ro. 5:9
 - i. The believer does not need to fear "the" wrath of God
 - ii. The believer is free from future condemnation - Ro. 8:1
 - b) We shall be saved by His life - Ro. 5:10
 - i. Christ is the Resurrection and the Life - Jo. 11:25
 - ii. The Resurrection is the basis for our future life with God - 1 Cor. 15:20-23
 - c) At the Bema Seat - we shall be saved as if by fire - 1 Cor. 3:15
 - i. The believer need not fear future judgment of sin
 - ii. The believer's works since they were saved will be judged
 - d) We shall be preserved (saved) into His heavenly kingdom - 2 Tim. 4:18
 - e) He is able to save believers unto the uttermost ("to the all end") - Heb. 7:25
 - f) We shall experience a complete redemption of the body - Ro. 8:23
 - i. Promise of future glorification of the physical body - 1 Cor. 15:53-54
 - ii. The believer's body will one day be like Christ's glorified body - 1 Jo. 3:2
 - g) We shall experience the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls - 1 Pe. 1:9
 - h) Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed - Ro. 13:11

