

FOR WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES ABOUT SALVATION?

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The greatest possession that anyone can have is salvation or forgiveness from fast sins. The hope of eternal salvation is worth more than anything this world can give. Salvation is available to all who desire it.

The Need of Salvation

There are many passages that testify to the need of salvation. In Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Peter told the people on Pentecost that they were guilty of crucifying Christ. The need of their salvation was evident. Since sin first entered this world through Adam and Eve, man has been in need of salvation. "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom.5:12). "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Salvation In Christ

Our salvation comes through Jesus Christ. Both the promises and prophecies in the Old Testament tell of this. The promise God made to Abraham was fulfilled when Jesus came to earth (Gal.3:16). The hope of eternal life can only be enjoyed in Christ, "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eph.3:11). God sent his only begotten Son into this world that we might have life (John 3:16). Christ himself affirmed that he came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). Thus, the divine side of salvation has been completed. It is up to man, to complete his part in this matter if he is to enjoy the forgiveness of God.

The Bible Plan of Salvation

God's plan for saving man is simple and easy to understand. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk.16:16). Two things are mentioned in this passage that are necessary to salvation. Faith plus baptism. Both are required. Neither can be rejected. In Acts 2 when Peter was preaching, the people asked "what shall we do," the answer was plain and to the point: "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). In Acts eight the nobleman from Ethiopia asked "what doth hinder me to be baptized?" He was told "thou mayest if thou believest with all thine heart." His reply: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He then was baptized. If you are interested in salvation, you can be saved just as all these people were. Do you believe in Christ? Are you willing to repent of your sins? If so, you need to confess Christ and be baptized in water for the remission of sins. Your sins will be washed away (Acts 22:16).

The Great Salvation

We read in Hebrews 2:2-3 "For if the word spoken by angel was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." We do not earn salvation. It is a gift from God. However, we can escape the punishment of hell by obeying the

commandments given us by God. This salvation is great, for many reasons. First of all, God gave his only begotten son (Jn.3:16). Secondly, Jesus shed his blood and purchased our redemption through his death on the cross (Acts 20:28). Thirdly, it is an eternal salvation (Heb.5:8-9). And finally, it saves us from an everlasting punishment (Rev.20:12-15; Mt. 25:41).

A Conditional Salvation

God's plan for the redemption of mankind, is offered to all on the same terms. The rich receive no special privileges. The poor are not excluded. The lowly and down-trodden are welcome. Those who accept the conditions specified by God, will receive the salvation promised by Him. If one rejects the conditions, everlasting torment will be the punishment. "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 7:21). In Hebrews 5:9, we learn that Jesus "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Thus when one complies with God's stated plan of salvation he can be saved. To try and achieve salvation some other way, or on some other terms is useless. We cannot afford to listen to men who change and add to God's plan. The results will not be the same. Salvation can only be had by doing what God commands.

What about you today, are you saved? Have you ever availed yourself of the salvation offered by the gospel? If not, don't you think its about time?