

New Covenant Principles: Lesson 3 - Salvation

Most Christians have been taught that salvation is the event that happens when you receive Jesus forgiveness of sins and invite him into your life. This qualifies you to escape hell and go to heaven. This is a very limited understanding of what biblical salvation is and unfortunately has contributed to most Christians missing out on the blessings that God wants them to enjoy in this life; blessings that Jesus paid for on the cross. This study is designed to expand your understanding of what God did when he “saved” you and how that affects your life today. Let’s start with the definitions of the Greek words from which we get the words saved and salvation:

Sodezo (verb) - to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

Soteria (noun) - *rescue* or *safety* (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.

These definitions show that saved/salvation mean a lot more than just being rescued from the punishment of sin. The full implication of these words is that “you are delivered from everything that came into the earth because of Adam’s sin”. God wants you to know that he “*sodezo’s*” you (verb) – heals you, protects you, delivers you, grants you success, makes you complete and whole in every area. The state you now live in is “*soteria*” (noun) – rescued, delivered, healthy, and saved from the consequences of Adam’s sin (from the curse that came because of sin). These Greek words show that God wants you living the way he designed man to live before Adam sinned – healthy, protected, provided for, at peace, joyful, free, fulfilled, etc.

Write the following scriptures and answer the questions using the full definitions of salvation:

Ephesians 2:4 _____

What is God rich in? _____

What motivates God’s mercy? _____

Why did God save us? _____

Ephesians 2:5 _____

What state was man in that qualified him for salvation? _____

This verse says “*made alive (quicken) together with*” which is from a single Greek word ‘*suzoopoeio*’. When Jesus was made alive again (raised from the dead), God made the same ‘made alive’ available to everyone who will receive it. This verb ‘*suzoopoeio*’ is in the Aorist tense, which means: it happened at a single point in time. So the day you received God’s forgiveness in Jesus, you were made alive in the same way that Jesus was made alive when God raised Him from the dead. Our Jesus was raised free from the curse and seated at the right hand of God with victory over every work of the devil (the curse). Since we were raised together with Him the day we were born again, that means we are living in the same state that Jesus is living in now (see 1 John 4:17b) – free from the curse: from sickness, disease, poverty, pain, oppression, addiction, guilt, condemnation, loss, accidents, confusion, failure, depression, etc. – free from everything negative in this world (the curse). If you don’t see this in your life today, it’s not because it isn’t true; it’s because you have not believed and received its reality.

What aspect of God saved us? _____

Let's examine the amazing phrase found at the end of this verse: "*by grace you are saved*". It is three Greek words "*charis este sodezo*". The word Grace (Gk: *Charis*)(noun), is defined as: the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; - acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thanks, thankworthy. It can be summed up as "*unmerited, unearned favor*". The other two Greek words in this phrase are both verbs: *are* (Gk – este) and *saved* (Gk – sodezo). The verb "*are*" is in the present tense and "*saved*" is in the perfect tense. As a reminder, the present tense means it is happening right now and the perfect tense means it happened at a point in time and has continuous ongoing results.

Now meditate on this phrase with an understanding of the Greek meanings and tenses used and in your own words write out what this phrase means for your everyday life: _____

Let's continue our examination of this passage on salvation. Write out the verses and answer the questions:

Ephesians 2:6 _____

What two things did God do to you when you accepted Jesus: the day you received forgiveness and were made righteous – i.e. when you were born again? _____

The King James Version (KJV) uses the phrase "*in heavenly places*" to describe where we are now seated because we are in Jesus Christ. This phrase comes from one Greek word: '*epouranios*'. This is a compound of two Greek words: '*epi*' that means "superimposition (in time, place, or order)" and '*ouranos*' that means "the abode of God – by implication happiness, power, eternity". This means that the day you were born again you were raised out of the curse (bondage) in this natural world and placed in Jesus – seated together with him in the eternal world (spiritual/real world) with all the happiness and power of that realm released into you.

Meditate on this truth – being saved means: you are seated with Jesus in the eternal realm, delivered from the curse and given the full of the power of God. How should you think about the issues in this natural world since God has delivered you from it and has already given you the victory that Jesus won when he destroyed the curse? Write your thoughts: _____

God did all this for you for a reason. Let's explore what this is in the next verse – write it out:

Ephesians 2:7 _____

In your own words write out what God wants your life to show: _____

When does God want this showing to take place? (hint – its already over 1900 years since the time this was written): _____

Now write out the next verses and answer the questions:

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

What qualities of God save you? _____

What do the verses say about how you receive salvation? _____

What does your effort have to do with it? _____

Why can salvation have nothing of your effort in it? _____

Note that the phrase “*are ye saved*” is identical (in Greek tenses and words “*este sodezo*”) to verse 5 that was discussed on page 2. This phrase underlines the truth that your daily deliverance from the curse (being saved) is a gift from God, not something you get by your efforts. Living in divine health, protection, provision, peace, joy, fulfillment, and so on is a free gift from God. You simply have to receive it on a daily basis. Note, when you try to earn these things by your performance (thinking you need to pray, read your Bible, meditate on scripture, give, help the poor, etc.) you prevent God from manifesting the gift of salvation in your life (self effort stops it).

Now lets’ look at a key aspect of how to receive the fullness of salvation into your daily life:

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) starts with “For by grace are you saved through faith”. The qualities of God that bring you salvation are His grace and faith. To get further insight into how you receive salvation we need to dig into the concept of how God’s grace (unmerited favor) is delivered to you “through faith”.

To understand our role in salvation we need to comprehend the two aspects of faith that are involved in salvation. Firstly there is God’s faith and secondly there is our faith. The statement “through faith” in verse 8 is a combination of these two aspects – namely Jesus faith that laid hold on and received His Father’s promise to deliver mankind from the curse and our faith in the reality that by His faith, Jesus purchased our salvation.

When Jesus went to the cross to pay the price for sin in order to deliver us from the curse, the only thing He had to rely on was the promise of His Father – that is faith. The promise of the Father was that if Jesus took the punishment it would enable the Father to deliver all mankind from the curse and restore them to a right relationship with Him. Jesus had to use His faith to proceed with accomplishing His death to deliver us.

Let's look at how this concept is described in scripture. Write out the following verses and answer the questions:

Galatians 2:16 _____

Whose faith produced your justification? _____

How many times does this verse state this truth? _____

What activity has nothing to do with your justification? _____

The Greek word for justify is "*dikaioo*" which means to render (that is, show or regard as) just or innocent: - free, justify (-ier), be righteous. The reality is that our being made righteous (justified) is the result of Jesus faith. By going to the cross and paying the price for sin, Jesus delivered us from the curse. The logical summation is that Jesus faith is what saved us from the curse and is what enables that salvation to manifest in our lives every day. What a wonderful truth this is – it's not my faith that saves me (heals me, delivers me, blesses me, makes me successful, protects me) – it's Jesus faith that already did it. So what role does my faith play? My faith is believing that Jesus faith is big enough and has already done it. When my mustard seed size faith latches onto the reality of what Jesus gigantic faith has already done, then God can make my salvation manifest in this natural world.

Galatians 2:20 _____

According to this verse, whose faith do you live by in the flesh? _____

Linking this truth with John 6:28-29, what role does your faith play in living in God's salvation (in deliverance from the curse)? _____

Write out Galatians 3:13. _____

What has Jesus set you free from? _____

Biblical salvation means you get to live free from the curse every day – believe it and receive it.