

SOTERIOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

Salvation is work of God on behalf of a repentant sinner who places all of their trust in the finished work of Christ at Calvary for the forgiveness of their sins and deliverance from a lost sinful condition. At the moment of salvation God exchanges the sins of the sinner with the perfect righteousness of Christ. It is through this transaction that God can accept a sinner not on his own merits but on the merits of Christ. Salvation is a gift that must be accepted. It can never be lost. The repentant sinner receives forgiveness of sins, acceptance into the family of God, the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, a new birth which allows the Christian to live and experience God according to God's standards, eternal life and a home in Heaven for all eternity.

1. The greatness of salvation. Salvation is great because of:

- **The price paid to procure it – Matt. 20:28 -.**
- **Its universality – John 3:16 -.**
- **It is eternal in its duration – John 10:28 -.**
- **It is incomparable – Eph. 2:7-10 -.**

2. The aspects of salvation.

- **Justification** – A legal term by which God justifies or declares satisfaction upon the sinner as a result of accepting Christ as Savior. The sinner is declared not guilty because his guilt was paid for in full by Christ – **Rom. 3:23-28 -.**
- **Redemption** – The buying back of a sinner as a result of the ransom paid by Christ – **Rom. 3:24 -.**
- **Grace** - God's unmerited favor. It is through this favor by God that man has the opportunity to accept God's gift of salvation. Grace is the vehicle which allows the sinner to arrive at the place of salvation – **Eph. 2:8-9 -.**
- **Propitiation** – Atonement or satisfaction. Jesus is the atonement that satisfied the justice of God. Nothing man does can atone for his sins. It is only through the sacrificial work of Christ that man can receive eternal satisfaction for his sin debt owed to God – **1 John 2:2 -.**
- **Imputation** – To credit, count or transfer. The righteousness of Christ, which alone God accepts is imputed to the sinners account. The Christian receives credited righteousness which allows God to accept the believer on behalf of Christ. Our trust in the work of Christ triggers this credit – **Rom. 4:19-25 -.**

- **Forgiveness** – The act of God on behalf of the repentant sinner, which provides complete forgiveness for all sins. The sinner at the moment of belief has all sins paid in full through the redemptive work of Christ – **Eph. 1:7 -**.
- **Sanctification** – The act of setting apart a believer for a Divine purpose. Believers are separated from a life of sinfulness unto a life that is pleasing to God and equipped for service. Believers are set apart or sanctified for the purpose of conforming the believer daily into the image of Christ – **1 Cor. 6:11 -**.
- **Regeneration** – A new beginning or new birth. At the moment of salvation a sinner is regenerated with a new nature that allows him to know and experience God. All that is old will pass away if the new nature is fed and nourished. It is with this new nature that the believer not only stands against the desires of the old nature but also allows him to live a life that is pleasing to God – **Titus 3:5 -**.
- **Reconciliation.** The act of making peace. The sinner at the moment of salvation is reconciled or brought back into a right and peaceful relationship with God. The work of Christ is the only work that brings about reconciliation – **2 Cor. 5:18-19 -**.
- **Glorification.** A future event whereby the rewards of salvation are fully provided with the believer's entrance into Heaven. The believer will experience a glorified body free from the curse of sin, a glorified nature free from the power of sin and a glorified home free from the presence of sin – **Rom. 8:29-30 -**.