

## Salvation/Saved – The Misunderstood Word

November/December, 2013

Both the Hebrew/Greek word for “salvation” is so much more than we fully understand. The word salvation implies the idea of deliverance, safety, preservation, wholeness, soundness and healing.

With this in mind, we read from the book of Romans, Chapter 1: verses 15 and 16: “so as much as is me, I am ready to preach the *gospel* to you that are in Rome also: for I am not ashamed of the *gospel of Christ*, for it is the power of God *unto salvation* to everyone that believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (gentiles).”

Now we first must understand that this book is written to the “Saints” i.e.; believers living in Rome. Their *faith* in Christ was known throughout the whole world (vs 8 chapter 1).

So Paul is writing to believers, telling them what, as believers, they now possess.

Thus he begins by presenting the gospel to people already on their way to heaven, telling them what they should be enjoying. That is, the **full salvation** of God.

Salvation is the great all inclusive word of the gospel, gathering into itself all of the redemptive acts and processes as: justification, redemption, grace, propitiation, imputation, forgiveness, sanctification and glorification.

Each of these redemptive acts must be fully understood to enjoy the full salvation of God. That is the reason Paul wrote the book of Romans.

I do not know the exact portion of the body of Christ which believes that the word salvation means only **going to heaven**, but it is a large portion.

We have even divided the body of Christ into different denominations, based upon a misunderstanding of this important word. One group says “once saved, always saved, another states “unless you are water baptized, you are not saved” another claims that unless you speak in tongues, you are not saved, and on you go with it.

Each of these groups believe that the word “saved” only refers to ones “going to heaven, when they die.” Problems occur when you read such scriptures as; **Titus 3:5** which states “not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us.” In other words, it was He who saved us, and not anything we have done. Then we are faced with another scripture In **Philippians 2:12b** “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Well which is it? Does He do it or am I supposed to do it, if the word means “going to heaven”?

Beloved, the word for a person going to heaven is **justification**. Positional righteousness is in view with this very important word.

Now here is the rub. Salvation can mean going to heaven, but it can also mean *deliverance, safety, preservation, healing* etc. In Titus 3:5 it is talking about going to heaven. In Philippians 2, it is referring to deliverance, or healing for your body.

Do you understand what I am saying here?

In Titus, you and I can do nothing through our own works to merit heaven. None of our works can merit a *positional righteousness*. That is accomplished only through “**believing**” in the name of the only begotten son of God, Jesus Christ. John 3:16 & 18.

However, there is much you and I can do in order to maintain our *health*. We can eat right, exercise, get enough sleep, reduce stress in our lives etc.

Look at the statement Moses made as he and the children of Israel were about to cross over the parted Red Sea. Exodus 14:13 and Moses said to the people, do not be afraid. Stand still and see the **salvation** of the Lord.”

Well there is no way the word salvation here means “going to heaven.’ What it does mean however is “*deliverance*.” Stand still and watch God deliver us, which is exactly what happened.

Salvation in scripture is a verb. We remember from our English teaching that a verb is an action word. The word salvation refers to having “**been saved**”, **being saved**” and in the future “**will be saved**”

I **have been saved** from the **guilt and the penalty** of sin – why? Because Jesus Christ paid for sin with His death on the cross. **I am being saved** from the habit and the **dominion** of sin, because of the Holy Spirit within my body, and I **will be saved** in the future from the **presence** of sin, at the Lords return, from all of the infirmities that are the results of sin.

For the group which claims “once saved always saved” if they mean *justified*, then once justified, always justified and they are correct.

To the group that claim you must be water baptized to be saved, if they mean *justification*, they are wrong, if they mean *delivered* from the pollution of this world, they are correct.

To the group that believes you must speak in tongues to be saved, if they mean *justification* they are wrong, if they mean to *enjoy the full salvation of God*, they are correct. Do we understand?

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