

Topic: Defining Salvation?

Acts 16:25 - 32 (NASB)

First Convert in Europe

²⁵BUT ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS OF PRAISE TO GOD, AND THE PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM; ²⁶AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME A GREAT EARTHQUAKE, SO THAT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE PRISON HOUSE WERE SHAKEN; AND IMMEDIATELY ALL THE DOORS WERE OPENED AND EVERYONE'S CHAINS WERE UNFASTENED. ²⁷WHEN THE JAILER AWOKE AND SAW THE PRISON DOORS OPENED, HE DREW HIS SWORD AND WAS ABOUT TO KILL HIMSELF, SUPPOSING THAT THE PRISONERS HAD ESCAPED. ²⁸BUT PAUL CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, "DO NOT HARM YOURSELF, FOR WE ARE ALL HERE!" ²⁹AND HE CALLED FOR LIGHTS AND RUSHED IN, AND TREMBLING WITH FEAR HE FELL DOWN BEFORE PAUL AND SILAS, ³⁰AND AFTER HE BROUGHT THEM OUT, HE SAID, "SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

THE JAILER CONVERTED

³¹THEY SAID, "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD." ³²AND THEY SPOKE THE WORD OF THE LORD TO HIM TOGETHER WITH ALL WHO WERE IN HIS HOUSE.

Paul and Silas - All in a night's work:

- 1. Singing hymns & praising God w/beaten bodies, in dark, in prison, unjustly.*
- 2. Survives beating, earthquake, refuses easy escape & prevents mass exodus.*
- 3. Stops a suicide, saves a life and wins a soul/family.*

Saved, defined:

The word "saved" has become a distinctively Christian term, though in the Greek language the original verb 'sozo' which is translated "saved" could mean temporal deliverance. It was a word used to describe rescuing someone from danger, preserving someone safe from harm, delivering someone out of potential ruin and disaster, salvaging someone in the midst of death. Saved also means:

- Make whole
- Deliver from the penalties of God's judgment
- Recover

Physical, temporary sense:

Matthew's gospel a number of times there are such usages of the word in temporal ways. Matthew 8:25 where the disciples who were in a storm on the Sea of Galilee said, "Save us, Lord, we're perishing."

Permanent, spiritual sense:

In the spiritual sense, however, which is its main usage in the New Testament it has the idea of being saved from sin, being rescued from sin, from sin's power, from sin's penalty, being preserved therefore safe and unharmed from divine wrath, from judgment, from hell, from eternal punishment.

Positive and negative sense:

Negative connotation, that is of rescuing us from imminent disaster and deadly danger. Positive connotation of putting us into blessing, not only delivering us from punishment but bringing us to glory, not only taking us out of the threat of hell but giving to us the hope of heaven.

1. Who saves us?

MATT 1:21 (NLT) ²¹AND SHE WILL HAVE A SON, AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.”

- Jesus = Greek for Joshua - which means Savior or the Lord saves. Salvation is of God." His name revealed the redemptive nature of his ministry.
- Jesus, His name, like Joshua, is the Hebrew equivalent - "Yahweh (the LORD) saves."
- Jesus in Hebrew, "Yeshua," meaning "Yahweh - God is my salvation."

(For He will save His people from their sins = that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true goal in life, which is God's will)

Acts 4:11 - 12 (NLT) ¹¹FOR JESUS IS THE ONE REFERRED TO IN THE SCRIPTURES... ¹²THERE IS SALVATION IN NO ONE ELSE! GOD HAS GIVEN NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED.”

Rom 5:8 (NLT) ⁸BUT GOD SHOWED HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US BY SENDING CHRIST TO DIE FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS.

Acts 2:47 (KJV) ⁴⁷PRAISING GOD, AND HAVING FAVOR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED.

EPH 2:8 - 10 (NLT) ⁸GOD SAVED YOU BY HIS GRACE WHEN YOU BELIEVED. AND YOU CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS; IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

⁹SALVATION IS NOT A REWARD FOR THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE DONE, SO NONE OF US CAN BOAST ABOUT IT.

¹⁰FOR WE ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO.

2. *Saved from what?*

Answer: Sin, death and hell. (*Habitual sin, eternal death and the Lake of Fire!*)

ROMANS 6:23, "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH." DEATH, HELL, ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. IT MEANS TO BE RESCUED FROM IMMINENT DEADLY DANGER.

1. *Jesus saves us from all past sin by His death on the cross.*

1 JOHN 1:9 (KJV)

⁹IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

2. *Jesus saves us from present sin by the gift of the Holy Spirit:*

GAL 5:16 (NLT)

¹⁶SO I SAY, LET THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE YOUR LIVES. THEN YOU WON'T BE DOING WHAT YOUR SINFUL NATURE CRAVES.

3. *Jesus saves from future sin by glorification.*

1 COR 15:51 - 55 (NLT)

⁵¹BUT LET ME REVEAL TO YOU A WONDERFUL SECRET. WE WILL NOT ALL DIE, BUT WE WILL ALL BE TRANSFORMED!

⁵²IT WILL HAPPEN IN A MOMENT, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WHEN THE LAST TRUMPET IS BLOWN. FOR WHEN THE TRUMPET SOUNDS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WILL BE RAISED TO LIVE FOREVER. AND WE WHO ARE LIVING WILL ALSO BE TRANSFORMED.

⁵³FOR OUR DYING BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE; OUR MORTAL BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO IMMORTAL BODIES.

⁵⁴THEN, WHEN OUR DYING BODIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE, THIS SCRIPTURE WILL BE FULFILLED: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.

⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

WHAT IS REALLY CONSIDERED SIN?

1 Cor 6:9 - 10 (NLT) ⁹Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality,
¹⁰or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Gal 5:19 - 25 (NLT) ¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,
²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,
²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.
²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Eph 2:1 - 5 (NLT) ¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.
²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.
³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,
⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.

James 4:17 (NLT) ¹⁷Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

Monday Morning Moment

You can't appreciate where you are, until you realize where you've been!

Eccl 1:9 (ESV)

⁹ WHAT HAS BEEN IS WHAT WILL BE, AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IS WHAT WILL BE DONE, AND THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

1 PET 2:8 - 9 (NLT)

⁸ ...THEY STUMBLE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT OBEY GOD'S WORD, AND SO THEY MEET THE FATE THAT WAS PLANNED FOR THEM.

⁹BUT YOU ARE NOT LIKE THAT, FOR YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE. YOU ARE ROYAL PRIESTS, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S VERY OWN POSSESSION. AS A RESULT, **YOU CAN SHOW OTHERS THE GOODNESS OF GOD, FOR HE CALLED YOU OUT OF THE DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT.**