

FUNDAMENTALS OF SALVATION AND ITS SCOPE

Opening Scripture:

Hebrews 2:3

"How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him."

Salvation is the cornerstone of our faith. It is God's ultimate plan to **redeem** humanity from sin, **reconcile** us to Himself, and grant us **eternal life**. Today, we will explore the Fundamentals of Salvation and Its Scope, delving into its key Seven principles and their implications for our lives.

What is Salvation?

Salvation is not a religious relations.

Salvation is a state of being saved from sin and its consequences, ultimately avoiding eternal separation with God.

- a. Salvation is to be saved from death (Romans 5:12-14).
 - Death is the consequence of sin.
 - Sickness is also a consequence of sin.
- b. Salvation a state of being saved from eternal separation.

Salvation is not only going to heaven. It is a package that believers have been given to them. So, Salvation means:

- Salvation means to be secured.
- Saviour means safety and welfare (well provided for or looked after).
- Salvation also means prosperity (God is also interested in your prosperity).
- Salvation also involves victory.
- Salvation means to be preserved (preservation).

SALVATION IN THREE TENSES:

1. We are saved (were saved) by the work of God in history (Past Tense);
2. We are being saved (by being in a justified state) (Present Tense); and

3. We will be saved (by consummation of our redemption in heaven) (Future Tense).

FOUR POSSIBLE POSITIONS IN RESPECT WITH ASSURANCE OF SALVATION:

1. **People who are unsaved and know that they are unsaved and they don't want to be saved.** They have nothing to do with what Christ has offered - bold to proclaim that they do not need Christ.
2. **People who are saved but do not know that they are saved.** These people are in the state of grace but are uncertain of it. Perhaps they are wrestling with sin in their lives and doubt their own salvation because of a troubled conscience.
3. **People who are saved and know that they are saved.** These are people who are certain of election and calling. They have a clear and sound understanding of what salvation requires. These have the testimony of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16).
4. **People who are not saved but confidently believe that they are saved.** These people have assurance of salvation without salvation. Their assurance is a false assurance.

DIMENSIONS OF SALVATION:

The Dimensions of Salvation explain various aspects of God's saving work as revealed in Scripture. Here are the dimensions of Redemption and Reconciliation:

1. Redemption

Redemption **refers to Christ's act of delivering humanity from sin, death, and the power of the devil by paying a price—Jesus' own blood.**

It involves liberation and the purchase of freedom for those enslaved by sin (Romans 6:22).

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

The Greek word for **redemption (apolutrosis)** implies a **ransom paid for deliverance.**

Spiritual Dimension:

Redemption frees believers from:

- The penalty of sin (justification).
- The power of sin (sanctification).
- Ultimately, the presence of sin (Glorification).

2. Reconciliation

Reconciliation **refers to the restoration of a broken relationship between God and humanity caused by sin.** Through Christ, God bridges the divide and brings us back into fellowship with Him.

It emphasizes **peace** and **unity with God.**

"God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them" (**2 Corinthians 5:19**).

Reconciliation requires both God's initiative and the individual's acceptance.

Spiritual Dimension:

- **Vertical reconciliation:** Between humans and God (Colossians 1:20).
- **Horizontal reconciliation:** Between individuals, breaking down barriers of hostility (Ephesians 2:14-16).

These dimensions underscore the holistic and transformative nature of salvation, addressing both individual redemption and restored relationships.

ORDERS OF SALVATION

The Order of Salvation (or Ordo Salutis) describes the sequence of events in God's saving work. Below is a brief explanation of each step:

1. Regeneration:

This is the work of the Holy Spirit in giving spiritual life to the sinner, making them "born again" (**John 3:3-8**). It is the divine act that enables a person to respond to God.

2. Faith:

Once regenerated, a person responds to God by placing their trust in Christ alone for salvation (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Faith involves both belief in the gospel and a personal reliance on Jesus as Savior and Lord.

3. Justification:

Through faith, the sinner is declared righteous before God (**Romans 5:1**). This is a legal act of God, imputing the righteousness of Christ to the believer, so they are seen as guiltless in His sight.

4. Sanctification:

This is the lifelong process of being conformed to the image of Christ (**Romans 8:29**). It involves growing in holiness and spiritual maturity through the power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13).

5. Glorification:

The final step in salvation, where believers are perfected and receive glorified bodies in the presence of God (**Romans 8:30**). This occurs at Christ's return and marks the culmination of salvation.

This order reflects God's sovereignty and the believer's response in salvation, highlighting both divine grace and human responsibility.

NATURE OF SALVATION:

1. Salvation is Eternal (Hebrews 5:6);
2. Salvation belongs to God (the Work of God not man, Romans 1:16); and
3. Salvation is by Grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION:

1. Nature of Sin and Its Consequences

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Sin is universal and affects all humanity. It is not just an act but a condition of the heart, separating us from God (Isaiah 59:2).

The consequence of sin is death—both physical and spiritual (Romans 6:23). It distorts our purpose, hinders our fellowship with God, and leads to eternal separation if unresolved.

Application:

Recognizing the reality of sin is the first step to appreciating salvation. We must humble ourselves and acknowledge our need for a Savior.

Let this awareness lead us to repentance and a deeper understanding of God's mercy (1 John 1:9).

2. Role of Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Grace is God's unmerited favor, the divine enablement given to us despite our unworthiness.

Salvation through grace is entirely God's work, made possible by the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11).

Embrace grace as a gift. Avoid falling into the trap of legalism or self-righteousness.

Application:

Grace of God is an extreme kind of love to humanity.

Live in gratitude, allowing grace to empower you to live righteously and serve others (2 Timothy 2:1).

3. Role of Faith

Romans 10:9-10

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Faith is the channel through which we access God's grace. It is a confident belief in the finished work of Christ.

Faith involves both belief in the heart and confession with the mouth. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

Application:

Strengthen your faith by hearing and meditating on the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Let your faith be visible through your actions, as faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

4. Justification and Righteousness

Psalms 32:2

"Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit."

Romans 4:7-8

[7] saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, And whose sins are covered. [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Justification is the act of God declaring a sinner righteous through faith in Christ. It is a legal act where our sins are forgiven, and Christ's righteousness is credited to us (Romans 4:5).

Every born again man is justified righteous.

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

This righteousness is imputed, not earned. We stand blameless before God because of Christ's sacrifice.

Righteousness is a gift of God. The pathwah to righteousness is faith.

Abraham was imputed with righteousness even before being circumcised. Whatever God calls become.

Application:

Rest in the assurance of justification. Let this truth free you from condemnation (Romans 8:1).

Live a life that reflects the righteousness imputed to you, becoming a testimony of God's grace.

5. Regeneration (Being Born Again)

John 3:3

"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Regeneration is a spiritual rebirth, a transformation of our inner being. It changes our nature, making us new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This rebirth is accomplished through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:23). It restores what was lost through sin and aligns us with God's purpose.

Application:

Embrace your new identity. Walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Continually renew your mind with God's Word, allowing it to transform your life (**Romans 12:2**).

6. Repentance

Metanoia:

The Greek word for repentance emphasizes a transformation in thinking. It is recognizing that, as a new creature, sin no longer defines you.

Repentance is a change of mind and direction. It is essential both before and after salvation.

- **Repentance Before regeneration:** repentance involves turning away from sin and accepting God's forgiveness. (Acts 3:19).
- **Repentance After regeneration:** it is about maintaining fellowship with God, realigning with His will. (1 John 2:1, 2).

Application:

Cultivate a lifestyle of repentance and humility. Be quick to confess and turn away from anything that hinders your walk with God (2 Corinthians 7:10).

7. Eternal Life

1 John 5:11

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

Eternal life is the divine life of God, received at the moment of salvation. It begins now and extends into eternity.

Jesus defines eternal life as knowing God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3). It is both a relationship and a reality.

Application:

Live in the consciousness of eternal life. Let it influence your daily decisions and priorities.

Share this life with others, leading them to Christ, the source of eternal life.

Closing Reflection:

Salvation is a **gift, a process, and a relationship**. It begins with the recognition of sin, is made possible by grace, accessed through faith, and transforms every area of our lives. Let us live daily in the light of this great salvation, sharing its scope with the world.

Philippians 2:12-13

"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the gift of salvation. Help us to walk in its truth, live in its reality, and share its message with others. May Your Spirit guide us as we reflect Your love and grace in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.