

## SAVED!

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that brings *salvation* has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

The word salvation appears in the Bible about 156 times and it is central to our Christian faith.

A well-known Christian author said:

**“Though the Bible was written over sixteen centuries by at least forty authors, it has one central theme—salvation through faith in Christ.”** Max Lucado

### **What does salvation mean?**

It's primary meaning in the Bible is: deliverance from sin and its consequences.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Every person on this planet is born in a fallen state where sin rules their lives, separating them from God, who is a Holy God. This is why we need salvation and a Saviour before we die and step into eternity. We will all stand before our Creator to give an account of our lives.

### **Hebrews 9:27**

**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (...)**

Eternal judgement is a basic doctrine of the Christian faith.

**Hebrews chapter 6:1-2** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

The Bible clearly states that one day God will judge the world.

**Psalms 98:8-9** Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together 9 before the Lord, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

### **Ecclesiastes 12:14**

**14** For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, whether good or evil. **Acts 17:31** because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

The idea that one day everyone will give an account of their lives to God has never been popular, but in our amoral, post- modern world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it's even less popular.

When that day comes, and everyone is standing before God including all of us present here, the deciding factor will be if we are saved or not. The choices that we've made while we lived on earth will determine which type of judgement we will be facing.

It's very important to understand God's heart and will in this matter. God loves all people and He desires all people to be saved.

**1 Timothy 2:3-5 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**The Bible makes mention of two types of judgement.**

We are told in the Bible that on the day of Judgement books will be opened. The people who did not repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as the Son of God will be judged unto condemnation.

**Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**

Believers in Christ will face a different judgement and it's not for condemnation. It's called the judgement seat of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

On that day what will matter for all believers is the Book of Life. The book of life contains the names of all the people who have believed and followed Jesus while they were alive on earth.

Jesus mentioned the book of life one time when His disciples were super excited with the demonstration of the power of God, that they could cast demons out:

**Luke 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."**

The apostle Paul also mentioned the book of life when he wrote the letter to the Philippian Church: **Philippians 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.**

When believers in Jesus come before God to give an account of their lives and works, it will not be for condemnation because Jesus has already paid the penalty for our sins when He died on the Cross. This judgement will only determine what type of rewards we will receive, if any.

**1 Corinthians 3:14-15 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

What we do in terms of good works in this life cannot give us salvation because the Bible is very clear on that:

**Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

Charles Spurgeon said: "Not that our salvation should be the effect of our work, but our work should be the evidence of our salvation".

The requirements for salvation are not complicated or difficult:

### 1. Genuine repentance.

Acts 2:38

**38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

### 2. Faith. (believe in your heart)

**Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Salvation is also an ongoing process. It starts with a decision to become a follower of Christ, but it does not end there. We are a work in progress.

**God is the only One who can determine if someone is saved or not, but here are 3 important changes that happen when someone is saved:**

## **1. A HEART CHANGE**

Ezekiel 36:26-27

**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**

a) When you're saved you start desiring God and the things of God. The desire to do the things of the old life begins to disappear, to wane. Old habits, old places, old friendships, things that were once part of our life, if those were bad God may require that we leave them all behind.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

b) The love of God comes into your heart as we read in Romans 5:5 and you are now able to love other believers with God's love.

**Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

**1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.**

## **2. A MIND CHANGE**

**Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

When you're saved a process of transformation also begins in your mind. It's the work of the Holy Spirit in you. A desire to please God and obey His Word is now present in you.

### 3. OUTWARD CHANGE

When you're saved the output of your life will be different.  
Jesus called us to bear fruit.

**John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."**

**Matthew 12:33**

**"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."**

**Matthew 3:8 "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,"**

**Matthew 7:20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**

The change in your heart and mind will reflect on your conduct, behaviour, actions and direction in life. Your outward change will have a positive impact on others around you.

**2 Corinthians 2:15**

**15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.**

If we are saved than we should walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

This does not mean that once you're saved you will never sin again.

We all sin occasionally, no one is perfect. Does that mean that every time I make a mistake, I'm going to lose my salvation? No.

**1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

This verse shows us that God will help us in this whole process when we walk with Him.

The gift of salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive from God. Let's rejoice in our salvation!