



Chapter II: Salvation

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Chapter II: Salvation

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. (Gal 3:22)

A. Man's Need Of Salvation

God's original intention was one of covenant and relationship with mankind. However, the "fall" and "sin" have caused a separation and allowed death to reign. Man's need of salvation is as a result of sin, as a holy God cannot touch sin.

A.1. Sin Separates

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God." (Isa 59:2a)

A.2. Sin Is Universal

"There is no one righteous, not even one." (Rom 3:10b) All of mankind is party to sin:

- By birth:

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all men, because all sinned." (Ro 5:12)

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners," (Rom 5:19)

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Ps 51:5)

Therefore, sin is our spiritual heritage as a result of the fall.

- By action:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom 3:23)

A.3. Sin Has A Penalty

The penalty for sin is divine judgement and death. "For the wages of sin is death." (Rom 6:23a) "The soul that sins is the one who will die." (Eze 18:4b)

A.4. Summary

All of mankind is subject to sin. Sin separates mankind from God's intent which is covenant relationship and intimacy. Sin enables (allows / permits) death to reign.

B. God's Provision Of A Saviour

B.1. Man Is Impotent (helpless) To Save Himself

" And all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." (Isa 64:6a)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Eph 2:8-9)

B.2. This Does Not Leave Us Without Hope

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jn 3:16)

"Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (1 Jn 3:16a)

B.3. What Qualifies Jesus To Remove The Effects Of Sin?

- He was born to a virgin and therefore was not subject to sin passed on as a heritage (original sin, see, for example, Ro 5:12).
- He committed no sin himself (Heb 4:15).

- Jesus suffered the punishment (wrath) of God for sin and so He became the sacrifice who atones for sin and stands as a substitution in the place of sinful mankind:

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Rom 5:8-9) "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." (Isa 53:5a, Ac 4:12)

He broke the power of death in that He rose from the dead (see 1Co 15:3-6 and Heb 2:14-15).

B.4. Summary

God created man, man fell, and all are subject to the power of sin. God has provided a Saviour as the solution: the Saviour died as a substitutionary (to stand in place of) sacrifice.

This redemption does not apply to everyone because the Bible states that some will be committed to hell at the judgement. Some won't say YES to Jesus – but all will have the opportunity to choose.

C. Who Can Be Saved?

Potentially, all people can be saved. It depends on their response to the revelation of God. It is God's desire that all should be saved (1Ti 2:4), He died for the "world" (Jn 3:16). But in actuality not everyone is saved. The question then is, "How is one saved?"

D. How Is One Saved? Rom 10:9-10

Paul urged the people to "turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus" (Ac 20:21). Jesus began His preaching saying, "The time has come, the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mk 1:15). Both texts highlight the twofold biblical requirement for salvation: repentance and faith (see Heb 6:1-2). What do they involve?

D.1. Repentance

The Greek word "metanoia" literally means "to change one's mind." This means that repentance is not a state of remorse or feeling sorry but rather a decision. It is an act of the will rather than an issue of emotion. Of course, the decision may be accompanied by great emotion but repentance itself is the changing of our mind.

This changing of our mind and consequently of the direction of our entire life is:

- A recognition of our sinfulness.
- A decision to live according to God's revealed will for His chosen people.

" 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!'" (Ac 2:38a)

D.2. Faith

This requires us to put our trust in and adhere to the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Saviour. There is no work or action that a person can do to entitle him to justification.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works." (Eph 2:8-9a) A gift cannot be earned it can only be received.

"We have been justified through faith." (Ro 5:1a) Justification is a legal term which applies to those who have been absolved (pardoned and released) of their guilt. To be absolved from the guilt applicable to all mankind because of sin, one must believe in the saving work of Jesus Christ. Faith then is believing God's word.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2Co 5:21)

God's word is truth (Jn 17:17) and contains no lie. Therefore we can trust it wholeheartedly.



E. Working Out Your Salvation

From the moment we repent and believe in Jesus, we enter God's kingdom. This is described as being "born again" (Jn 3:3). From this point of entering the kingdom until the end of our earthly life, we need to live in repentance (*a constant submitting to the word of God and changing the way we think about life and Godliness*) and faith (*belief and trust*) in Jesus as Saviour.

Jesus said in Jn 10:27-30, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

So, once we are saved our salvation is protected by Jesus - no one can rob us of it. But the Bible also says in 2Ti 2:12b, "If we disown him, he will also disown us."

And so, we are encouraged to persevere in our faith until we die, or until Christ returns. Heb 10:35-36 says, "So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." As we persevere in righteousness, good works, faithfulness, and persecution we are rewarded with eternal treasures by God (see, for example, Heb 11:26, Mt 6:1-6, Mt 6:16-21, Mt 10:41-42, Mt 16:27 and Lk 6:22-23).