

Redemption is the price paid to
ransom you from slavery to sin.

- Exodus 12:13
The Father "passes over" you (i.e. Passover).
- Ephesians 1:13
He seals and protects you.
- You therefore profess a dependence upon this
"covering" of the blood of Christ for your life.
- You then are no longer bound by your tendency
to commit sin.

"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way" (Isa 53:6). Since man couldn't help himself God decided to solve the problem. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son" (Jn 3:16) as a propitiation. He was "revealed" (1Ti 3:16) and sent "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (Ro 8:3), "has come in the flesh" (1Jn 4:2), and was made "in the likeness of men" (Php 2:7) as a "descendant of David" (Ro 1:3). He "was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification" (Ro 4:25). God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf" (2Co 5:21) and he was "offered once to bear the sins of many" (Heb 9:28). "He died to sin once for all" (Ro 6:10) and "condemned sin in the flesh" (8:3). Therefore "consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (6:11). We are "always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body" (2Co 4:10). Because of what Christ accomplished "the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God" (Gal 2:20). Paul said "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (:20).

Obtain salvation through Christ

2 Timothy 2:10

***Those who are
chosen . . . may
obtain the
salvation which is
in Christ Jesus and
with it eternal
glory.***

1 Thessalonians 5:9

***For God has not
destined us for
wrath, but for
obtaining salvation
through our Lord
Jesus Christ.***

It appears as though you're leading a double life. But that's not a good thing because "a double-minded man, [is] unstable in all his ways" (Jas 1:8). Therefore you have to stay focused. "The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Ro 8:6). "Set your mind on the things above" (Col 3:2). "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Ro 12:2). "As He is, so also are we in this world" (1Jn 4:17) and, of course, He is in heaven. To put it into practice we "present yourselves to God . . . as instruments of righteousness" (Ro 6:13). "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men" (Col 3:23). Even the twenty-four elders didn't take credit for what they did because they "cast their crowns before the throne" (Rev 4:10). It is a matter of perspective giving credit to God who created it all. John said "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). "If we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord" (Ro 14:8).

Grace brings salvation

Titus 2:11

***The grace of God
has appeared,
bringing
salvation to all
men.***

Ephesians 1:7

***In him we have
redemption
through his blood,
the forgiveness of
our trespasses,
according to the
riches of his grace.***

The way God justifies today is based upon how he declared Abraham righteous. God promised Abraham "'in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed'" (Ge 22:18). God referenced the stars and stated "'So shall your descendants be'" (15:5). "Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness" (:6). His hope was in the promise and his faith was in "the assurance of things hoped for" (Heb 11:1). Abraham had "the faith . . . that he might be the father of all who believe" (Ro 4:11). He believed that God was "able also to perform" (:21) it. Then God's ability produced Isaac and Abraham became "heir of the world" (:13).

Only one way by Christ

1 Timothy 2:5

***For there is one
God, and one
mediator also
between God and
men, the man
Jesus Christ.***

Psalm 3:8

***Salvation
belongs to the
Lord.***

There is more to this promise than meets the eye. It was also made to "'your seed,' that is, Christ" (Gal 3:16). "Scripture . . . preached the gospel beforehand" (:8) in the Old Testament which was a "covenant previously ratified by God" (:17). That is why it is not a blanket promise to heirs of the Jewish race as "to seeds" (:16) but rather to "the seed [who] would come to whom the promise had been made" (:19). The promise is the "blessing of Abraham which might come to the Gentiles" (:14). "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise" (:29). The promise is "given to those who believe" (:22). "It is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham" (:7), "blessed with Abraham, the believer" (:9), and ultimately "sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (:26). This is the promise of the gospel which says "he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and . . . has passed out of death into life" (Jn 5:24). We therefore "receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal 3:14). The righteousness of God is revealed "through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe" (Ro 3:22). This results in justification and being written in the "book of life" (Rev 20:15).

Christ is the only way

John 14:6

***I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life; no
one comes to the
father, but
through me.***

Acts 4:12

***And there is
salvation in no one
else; for there is no
other name under
heaven that has
been given among
men, by which we
must be saved.***

What is justification composed of? You are "justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness" (Ro 3:24-25). Christ gave "His life a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28) and therefore "in Him we have redemption through His blood" (Eph 1:7). If you believe that he is the "propitiation for our sins" (1Jn 2:2) then "by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works" (Eph 2:8-9). You become "the righteousness of God in Him" (2Co 5:21). God justifies you by declaring you righteous because you believe that Christ accomplished something for you since you couldn't do it yourself. To him who "believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness" (Ro 4:5). Crediting is an accounting term denoting transferring value to someone's account. God deposits Christ's righteousness to your account if you believe which results in justification.

Fear and cooperate with God

Psalm 85:9

***Surely His
salvation is near
to those who
fear Him.***

Psalm 50:23

***He who offers a
sacrifice of thanks-
giving honors me;
and to him who
orders his way
aright I shall show
the salvation of
God.***

In addition, just as Abraham was circumcised "having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph 1:13). God "gave to us the Spirit as a pledge" (2Co 5:5). The goal becomes being "conformed to the image of His Son" (Ro 8:29). This is accomplished "through sanctification by the Spirit" (2Th 2:13). "'To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God'" (Rev 2:7).

Jesus spoke a parable about a farmer sowing seed (Mt 13:3-23). The seed is "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven" (:11). The soil is the one who "hears the message" (:18) and "hears the word" (:20). There is the one who "received the seed . . . and understands it" (:23). In the disciples' case Jesus prayed, "'I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them'" (Jn 17:8). But in the parable Jesus cautioned that trouble, persecution, worries or wealth could counteract the word. Hebrews warns "we must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away (2:1)

Humble yourself and wait for God

Luke 18:13-14

"God, be merciful to me, the sinner." He who humbles himself shall be exalted.

Psalm 62:1-2

My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation.

The apostle Peter said that the prophets were "searching intently" (1Pe 1:11) but "we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it" (2Pe 1:19). The apostle John said "we proclaim to you what we have seen and heard" (1Jn 1:3) and "this is the message we have heard from him and declare to you" (:5). "See to it that you do not refuse him who is speaking" (Heb 12:25). Hebrews points out that "this salvation, which was first announced, was confirmed to us by those who heard him" (2:3). What Peter and John taught is official doctrine. Jesus advised let "my words remain in you" (Jn 15:7) and for them to "remain in me, and I will remain in you" (:4). He also said "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love" (10). He warned the church of Ephesus, "You have forsaken your first love" (Rev 2:4) and instructed "do the things you did at first" (:5). "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb 2:3).

Repent and change your mind

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Luke 13:3

"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will likewise perish."

2 Corinthians 7:10

God produces a repentance . . . leading to salvation.

When Jesus appeared to John from heaven he cited works done by some churches (Rev 2:2,19; 3:1,8,15). But for Sardis he said, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead" (3:1). For Laodicea he said, "I know your deeds, that you are neither, cold nor hot" (:15). There's a saying "out of sight, out of mind." So if you don't cultivate a consistent, personal relationship with God through prayer, your deeds may be cerebral, but not from the heart serving God. To be in touch Peter suggests "set your hope fully on the grace to be given you" (1Pe 1:13). To stay focused "prepare your minds for action" (:13) and "be self-controlled and alert" (5:8). But there's another worldly saying that a religious person can be "so heavenly preoccupied that he's no earthly good." Are heaven and earth mutually exclusive? Peter refers to God's people as "strangers in the world" (1Pe 1:1) and to "live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear" (:17). But when something bad happens do you revert back to survival mode? Peter explains that when you "suffer grief in all kinds of trials [they happen] so that your faith . . . may be proved genuine" (:6-7).

Consequences of unbelief

Mark 16:16

He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

John 3:36

He who believes in the son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.

This perspective is such that "you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (:9). "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him" (1Pe 1:3). Therefore "in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord" (3:15). Peter says "live as free men" (2:16) and "love life and see good days" (3:10). Be eager to do good (:13) and keep a clear conscience (:16). Respect everyone (2:17) and do not fear what others fear (3:14). Speak as though they are God's words (4:11) and serve with the strength God provides (:11). Resist the devil standing on your faith (5:9) and after a while God will restore you and make you strong (:10).

Faith leads to salvation

Romans 5:1

***Therefore having
been justified by
faith, we have
peace with God
through Jesus
Christ our Lord.***

1 Peter 1:9

***For you are
receiving the
goal of your
faith, the
salvation of your
souls.***

The ultimate test was experienced by some in Smyrna who the devil threw in prison who Jesus told to, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10). However, we "through faith are shielded by God's power" (1Pe 1:5). Furthermore, Jesus said, "If you remain in me . . . ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (Jn 15:7). He said you can even "say to this mountain 'Move from here to there' and it will move" (Mt 17:20). Nonetheless, Jesus asked "may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (26:39). "Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1Pe 2:21). "He did not retaliate . . . [but rather] entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (:23). On the cross he called out, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Lk 23:46).

Believing results in forgiveness

Acts 10:43

Through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation of every one who believes.

How would you answer a person who asked, "Why would I have to repent if I didn't sin like Adam?" (Ro 5:14). Adam sinned because he broke God's commandment (Ge 2:17). He disobeyed (even rebelled) because he was not deceived (1Ti 2:14). Perhaps he ate the fruit Eve gave him because he just wanted to keep her happy. Maybe he rationalized that death would be only a temporary disciplinary action. It's possible he considered knowing more and becoming wiser would be worth it. "Through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners" (Ro 5:19). It's as though we, as descendants, have inherited the "original sin." Since "by a man came death" (1Co 5:21), through solidarity with Adam, "death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Ro 5:12). "Like Adam they have transgressed the covenant" (Hosea 6:7). Our guilt is imputed in a legal way as if a contract has been violated and a judgment has taken place because the ground has been cursed (Ge 3:17-18). This is the Adamic Covenant where Adam, as the representative of the human race, causes God to introduce physical death saying, "'You [will] return to the ground, because from it you were taken'" (:19). Others may say that Adam's nature became corrupted by the sin and that we inherit the corruption and sin automatically (Ro 5:19). Calvinists believe that we are incapable of being spiritually saved except for God's grace. So if you repent for these reasons you acknowledge that "through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous" (:19).

The word of faith is in your heart

2 Timothy 3:15

***The sacred writings
are able to give
you the wisdom
that leads to
salvation through
faith which is in
Christ Jesus.***

Luke 8:12

***And beside the
road are those who
have heard; then
the devil comes
and takes away the
word from their
heart, so that they
may not believe
and be saved.***

Repentance is therefore necessary. John the Baptist began preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2). The purpose of it was "for the forgiveness of sins" (Mk 1:4). It is because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Ro 3:23). Then "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel'" (Mk 1:14-15). Paul said, "Having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent" (Ac 17:30). Isaiah said to "turn from transgression" (Isa 59:20) and Ezekiel said to tell him to "turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way" (Eze 3:19). Paul said "the Lord will . . . bring to an end . . . the activity of Satan . . . with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth to be saved" (2Th 2:8-10). The disciples told Jesus about the Galileans who Pilate had killed. He replied, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Lk 13:3). To perish means to die or be destroyed. God said to Ezekiel, "Warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live" (Eze 3:18). Jesus said, "Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). Also, "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish" (10:28). The Lord is "patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2Pe 3:9). "Do you not think . . . that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" (Ro 2:4). "The sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation" (2Co 6:10). It is "repentance toward God" (Ac 20:21).

Today is the right time

2 Corinthians 6:2

***Behold, now is
'the acceptable
time.'***

2 Cor 6:2

***Behold, now is
'the day of
salvation.'***

There is a second kind of birth. Jesus said "no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit" (Jn 3:5-6). This is possible whereby "all of us who were baptized into Christ" (Ro 6:3) were "all baptized by one Spirit" (1Co 12:13). Therefore "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2Co 5:17). Furthermore Jesus will "baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mt 3:11). "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ" (Ro 8:9). It is not God's will that anyone should perish (Mt 18:14). The gospel is "the power of God to salvation" (Ro 1:16). To keep from perishing, the gospel provides "a righteousness that is by faith . . . [so that] the righteous will live by faith" (:17). The theme of Romans is justification by faith. No one lacks faith because it "comes by hearing" (10:17). "What may be known about God is plain because God has made it plain" (1:19 NIV). The truth (:18) is more accurately defined in verse 25 as the "truth about God." The truth is "known" (:19,:21), "seen, understood" (:20), "knowledge" (:28), and "knowing" (:32). "What may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them" (:19 NKJV). "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities . . . have been clearly seen" (:20). They include his eternal power and deity.

Steps to Salvation

- **John 5:24**
Hear the call.
- **John 1:12**
Believe in his name and **receive** him.
- **Romans 10:9**
Believe in your heart & make confession.
- **Acts 3:19**
Repent from sins.

God is "clearly seen" (Ro 1:20) and "they knew God" (:21). "God made it evident to them . . . since the creation of the world" (:19-20). They saw "His invisible attributes . . . through what has been made so that they are without excuse" (:20). This includes "His eternal power and divine nature" (:20). This revelation is "faith [which] comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (10:17). In Greek it is "rhema" which means the "Living Word" or God himself speaking. It would "show the work of the Law written in their hearts" (2:15). "God made it evident to them" (1:19) and since it was "within them" (:19) "the word is . . . in your heart (10:8). God has allotted to each a measure of faith" (12:3). Even Paul recognized that he "received [his revelation] from the Lord" (1Co 11:23) and he "received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal 1:12). This was "the word of faith which we are preaching" (10:8). Therefore "believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (10:9). How do you hear with your heart? "If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Rev 3:20). Communication is "inspired by God" (2Ti 3:16). "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit" (Ro 8:16). When Peter heard, Jesus said, "flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (Mt 16:17). It is by "faith which comes through Him" (Ac 3:16). "By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8-9).