

What is Salvation

Introduction

Biblically there is a past, present, and future aspect to salvation. When the Bible talks about salvation it is in relationship to what Christ has done on the cross dealing with our past, present and future. Today I want to look at these three aspects of salvation. Today we will look at all three aspects of salvation, what Christ has done in salvation, which will include why we were saved and what salvation is, what Christ is doing in salvation, and the final work of Christ in future salvation.

Turn to **2 Corinthians 1:10** to see all three of these aspects mentioned.

You were Saved

First we will look at the past aspect of salvation, this aspect involves the beginning of our salvation, when we first came to Christ.

Origin of Sin

In the beginning God had created man and woman to have unbroken fellowship with Himself. He walked with Adam in the Garden and talked with him. There was no wall between man and his God. God came to Adam and his wife and blessed them to be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the earth that God had made. God's design was for humanity to multiply in fellowship with their God and His blessing would be upon them.

Everything that God had created was for man and woman to enjoy, except for one small tree. God had placed a tree in the garden and commanded man not to take part of that tree. This was to see if Adam would have a choice to obey God on his own. As long as Adam obeyed his Creator and did not eat of the tree, he would live in the fellowship that he enjoyed with God. Once Adam disobeyed, his disobedience would result in death, but it would also cost him his fellowship with God. **Romans 6:23** states that the wages of sin is death. This was the only option that man had in the beginning. He could chose to obey God and have life and remain in God's fellowship, or eat of the fruit of the tree and receive God's judgment. What would man do?

Genesis 3:1 gives us the answer to that question. Man chose to disobey God and took of the fruit. Satan had deceived woman and she took of the fruit, and gave to her husband and instead of taking the dominion that God gave him and stomp on the serpent and refuse the fruit, he took of the fruit as well. At that point they received the punishment that God had said would come.

The results were devastating. First they experienced shame for the first time in their lives. They tried to cover themselves. They also experienced fear and wanted to hide themselves from God. There was no longer peace and perfect communication between them. God asked a question that fit the situation perfectly, "Adam where are you?" Adam was no longer in fellowship with God, he had separated himself through his disobedience.

The Nature of Sin

The nature of sin is disobedience and rebellion against God. At the very core of sin is the idea that I can do things my own way and be my own god and thus do not have to listen to what God says. Sin started in the heart of Satan. He was one of God's beautiful creations, an angel of highest order, yet pride was found in his heart, and he rebelled against God. He wanted to be god (**Isaiah 14:12** and **Ezekiel 28:15**). This was the very thing that Satan lied to Eve regarding. "You will be like god, knowing good from evil." Ever since, man has been seeking knowledge apart from God, and it leads them further and further into the hands of Satan.

Sin is not only a choice that one makes, but since the Fall of man in the Garden, Man has been bound to sin (**Romans 3:23**). Man is in bondage to sin and the judgment of death. Because man is in bondage to sin and death, he cannot, apart from God's grace, come to God on his own or save himself. **Romans 3:10**.

The Nature of God

Because God is holy, which means totally separated from sin, man had to be separated from God. They could not approach a holy God as long as sin was present. **Isaiah 59:2** states that it was our sins that had separated us from God. Because God is also righteous and just, he must be faithful to his decree of punishment, "you will die." God's righteousness demands that there be punishment for the sins that have been committed against him. And because God is eternal, one sin is an eternal debt against God that deserves eternal punishment. But because God is love, he became man, took on sin and paid an eternal debt that he did not owe so that we could be saved from his judgment. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

In the Old Testament God set up a system by which sinful man could approach a Holy God. It was through the sacrifice of an innocent lamb. The blood of this innocent lamb would serve as atonement, that is temporary substituted for the sins of the people so that the wrath of God would not come on them. **Lev 17:11**. God, in his infinite wisdom and grace, provided a way for man to be saved from his sins. This Old Testament sacrifice would ultimately be fulfilled in God's perfect lamb, Jesus Christ. John says in his gospel, behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world.

The nature of Salvation

Salvation is God, by his grace, sending his son, Jesus Christ, to take on the sins of the world and the punishment that it deserves so that we might have life and fellowship with God. This salvation is brought to us by grace through faith. **Ephesians 2:8-9**. It is a complete work that God has done in Christ Jesus **Colossians 2:10-15**.

Terms of Salvation

- **Justification by faith – Romans 3:24 and Romans 5:1.** Justification means to be declared righteous. It is a legal term that was used in a court of law to declare a person not guilty or to be innocent. Biblically it means the act of God, where he declares a person to be righteous due to the fact that they have placed their faith in Christ. An example of this would be Abraham. **Romans 4:19-22**.
- **Faith: Romans 10:9** Faith means confessing Jesus as Lord, and believing or trusting in your heart that God raised him from the dead. It is trusting what he did on the cross was the only way to salvation and accepting that as being for you.
- **Redemption – Colossians 1:14.** Redemption has to do with being set free from bondage to slavery.
- **Reconciliation – Romans 5:10.** Reconciliation has to do with bringing back a peace that you once had but was lost because of separation. **Col 1:20**
- **Propitiation – Romans 3:25** – The word conveys the idea of appeasement of God's wrath. All the demands necessary that God had set up in his righteousness for the sinner has been fully satisfied in Jesus. That is why Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished."
- **Forgiveness – Col 2:13.** Literally to send away. It is the legal act of God where he removes the charges that were held against the sinner because satisfaction for those charges has been made in Christ.

Based on these truths of Scripture, Calvary Chapel La Mirada believes, as stated in the statement of faith, "All people are sinners by nature and by choice and therefore, are under condemnation, that God imparts life by the Holy Spirit, to those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works."

You are being saved.

The Bible also talks about a continued work of salvation in the believer's life as the Holy Spirit makes him more and more like Christ and freed from the effects of sin. In the past we were set free from the bondage of sin, in this aspect, we are being freed from the effects of sin. **Romans 3:18**. This work of present salvation is called Sanctification.

Sanctification is the working out in our lives the salvation that God has given us in Christ Jesus.

- **Philippians 2:12-13** gives us the two role participation in this salvation.
- The goal of this salvation is that Christ be formed in you. It is the replication of Christ's life in the life of the believer. **Romans 8:29**.
- This is done through the power of the Holy Spirit as we get closer and closer to him. **Romans 12:2** tells us that we need to renew our minds in the word of God. As we get closer to his character we get further away from the world's character.

In this life, God has given us power in Christ Jesus to move toward this goal.

1. **2 Corinthians 2:11** – Know the methods of the enemy.
2. **James 4:7-8** - Yield yourself to God and resist the devil.
3. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – There is a way of escape.

When we do fall, God has also provided a way of forgiveness even today. **1 John 1:9** He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You will be saved

The Bible also talks about a final salvation in which the believer will be freed from the very presence of sin and forever be with God and have a new transformed sinless body. The Bible calls this glorification. **Romans 8:29-30**. There will come a day when God removes his people from this sinful world and sin will be done away with. There will no longer be any separation from God, for he will always dwell with man. The goal of sanctification will be brought to pass when the Lord comes to call his people to himself.

- **Philippians 3:21**
- **1 John 3:2**

This is the hope that we have in Christ. **Titus 2:13**. A blessed hope indeed.