

## THE NATURE OF SALVATION

### John 1:12

**Introduction:** The word "salvation" is used often in the Bible and by Christians, especially pastors. Just what does the word involve? What does the word mean?

"Salvation" is a definite act.

"Salvation" is a process.

"Salvation" has yet to be completed.

### I. SALVATION IS DELIVERANCE FROM SIN (*John 1:12*)

("To save" from any kind of danger or peril)

1. The Old Testament view of God's favor was one's material and physical welfare, such as sickness, male children, their enemies, etc.
2. The New Testament view changed to spiritual and eternal aspects:
  - The central theme of being "saved" is spending eternity with Jesus Christ, not being materially blessed.
3. New Testament salvation is being saved from sin's hold while Old Testament salvation was being saved from evil and enemies.
4. New Testament salvation comes by God's grace, while Old Testament salvation came by works under the Law.
5. Salvation from sin can come only when a greater power than sin comes into and controls that life.
  - Thus Jesus Christ saves and the Holy Spirit indwells to insure continued control.

### II. SALVATION IS BECOMING LIKE JESUS CHRIST (*1 John 3:2*)

1. **Romans 8:28-29** - God's will is that the believer become like Jesus Christ.
  - One way of being like Jesus (the first step) is to be free of sin.
2. Jesus Christ is the believer's example. We are to copy Him.
  - The greatest criticism of Christians by non-believers is that Christians don't act like Jesus.
3. To be saved is to be on the road of becoming more like Jesus Christ each day.
4. **Mark 9:43-47** - Being saved is entering the kingdom of God.
5. Being made "whole" is to be made complete, whether physical, mental, or spiritual through Jesus Christ.

### **III. SALVATION WILL GIVE THE BELIEVER A NEW HOME (2 Timothy 4:18; John 14)**

1. The believer is already on his/her way to a new habitation.
2. God is creating a new heaven and earth for all believers.
3. Remember the story Jesus told of the rich man and the beggar, Lazarus?
4. The indwelling Holy Spirit causes the believers to look forward to his/her final home.
5. Even this world awaits the new world to come. (*Romans 8:18*)

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. "Salvation" is something we cannot earn nor deserve.
2. "Salvation" is freely given to everyone who places his/her sincere trust and belief in God's Son, Jesus Christ.
3. "Salvation" is permanent and is made so, not by the believer's efforts, but by the work of the Holy Spirit, who indwells each believer permanently.
4. "Salvation" is an expression of God's love to us and can never be taken away.