

WHAT EXACTLY DOES "SALVATION" MEAN?

Romans 1:15

Introduction: "My friend, you need to be saved." Similar words are used in witnessing by Christians and often the person replies back, "Why do I need to be saved?" Or "From what do I need to be saved?" "Just what do you mean by 'saved' anyhow? Often well known and familiar words among Christians are totally unfamiliar and unknown by those outside the Christian family. Most Christians never stop to think that using such words as "being saved or getting saved" are totally strange to some. Perhaps Christians need to think about "salvation" and how to explain it to a non-Christian.

I. "SALVATION" IS DELIVERANCE, PRESERVATION FROM SOMETHING AWFUL

1. Picture a person being lost in the woods, wandering around, unable to find his/her way out, totally unknowing where he/she is and as time goes by so goes the strength and finally there seems to be only one thing left to do and that is to lie down and die. The only hope that person has is for someone to notice his/her absence and begin to look for him/her.
2. Salvation is just that! Jesus Christ is looking for and saving those who are lost and setting them on the right road that will take them to eternal life. *"...for the son of man is come to save that which was lost..."*

II. "SALVATION" MEANS DELIVERANCE FROM WHAT GOD CALLS "SIN"

1. It is deliverance from mistakes, corrupt ideas, moral impurity and a crooked world to begin with.
 - It is deliverance from an infection which has no cure and from a master that enslaves.
 - It is deliverance from a crooked and perverse world which man cannot straighten out.
2. A person's only hope is for someone to discover the sin which infects him/her and bring a cure.
 - People just cannot do anything about their condition of sinfulness.
3. This is just what Jesus came to do. Jesus came to deliver people from the infection of sin, from the enslavement of sin, and from this crooked and perverse world.
4. Salvation also frees people from the sticky burden of guilt and shame and plants within people a deep sense of peace with God when it happens to them.
"Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins..."

III. "SALVATION" MEANS DELIVERANCE IN THE FUTURE AS WELL

1. It is deliverance from all evil, corruption, from aging and wasting away, from deterioration and decay and from death and Hell.
 - It means the complete redemption of man's spirit and body at the end of the world.
 - It is deliverance from the wrath of God, thus saving man from being separated from God eternally.

- It is that which will keep a person safe and preserve him/her in both time and eternity.
2. People are helpless. They cannot stop death and destruction but God can and that is what Jesus came into the world to do.
 - He came to complete redemption of man's body and soul in the future.
 - It a redemption that saves a person from aging and wasting away, from decaying, and from dying and being condemned to hell. It is the deliverance from the wrath of God and thus saved from being separated from God forever.
 - Salvation is a gift of life: ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3ff)***

IV. "SALVATION" IS BEING DELIVERED FROM ENEMIESW AND DANGERS

1. People are pictured in the Bible as walking around in a world where enemy after enemy lurks and danger after danger that attacks both body and soul, the mind and the spirit through all kinds of problems, difficulties, trials and temptations.
2. People "search for peace" but never find it and they are forced into combat.
 - A hostile environment, a savage world of nature, an unknown universe.
 - An uncertain future, unregulated desires, inevitable aging and dying.
 - A lust of have more and more, an evil pride and ego, greed and covetousness, unpreventable accidents, dreadful diseases, and more of such terrible things.
3. People are totally helpless but God is not and that is exactly what Salvation is all about. Salvation delivers people THROUGH, not FROM the dangers and difficulties.
 - God gives security and peace of the soul, no matter what happens.
 - God gives safety independent of circumstances and environment.
 - God gives inward strength and courage to bear the attacks of danger. ***"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)***

V. "SALVATION" MEANS TO MAKE WELL, TO RESTORE, TO MAKE WHOLE

1. People are suffering both physically and mentally.
 - People get sick, become diseased, have accidents, wear out from aging, suffer infirmities, struggle against deformities, etc.
2. Jesus came to deliver, to rescue and to restore people's bodies, souls and spirits. ***"..And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:15)***

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus delivers people from their lostness, their sin, from being separated from God throughout all eternity, from enemies, dangers and from afflictions that attack the body, soul and mind.
2. People are completely unable to help themselves in any way.
3. God offers "salvation" freely to whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord in belief and surrender.
4. "Salvation" is completely God's doing and ONLY God can make it happen.