

Bite Size Bible Study

Accepting Salvation #157

By Pastor Lee

What is salvation and how do we get it? There are more doctrines on that subject than there are denominations in the world.

Each says you must do this or that, and if you don't you won't be saved. Commonly one must do one or more of the following: Water baptism, Spirit baptism, infant baptism, experience the sacrament, say the sinner's prayer, and the list goes on ad nauseam.

The bottom line is that Jesus has already provided our salvation. All we need is to accept it.

The Hebrew word most translated as salvation is *yeshûw'âh*, (yesh-oo'-aw); H3444; meaning something saved, i.e. (abstractly) deliverance; {hence, aid, victory, prosperity, deliverance, health, help(-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare.}

*"The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my **salvation**. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

Exodus 15:2 NIV

*Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in his **salvation**.*

Psalms 35:9 NIV

*Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
And **all people will see God's salvation.**"*

Luke 3:5-6

*so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring **salvation** to those who are waiting for him.*

Hebrews 9:28 NIV

As you can see from the few verses above, Salvation is from God (Jesus) not from what we accomplish.

As we search the scriptures we never find a formula to follow to provide for our salvation. God doesn't tell us how to produce our salvation. He knows we can't because of our fallen nature. Instead he tells us how to participate in the salvation He has produced through Jesus the Messiah.

Do you want salvation?

**Accept it – it is already done for you
and everyone else.**

You probably are wondering about now – what about the really bad people? Can they accept this salvation? If so isn't it just sad that they can go through life doing what ever they want and accept Jesus' at the end of life and get all the perks that someone who accepted Him in their youth.

The truth is that they don't get all the perks when they accept Him that way. Some of the perks occur in this life. For insistence: the knowledge of the fact that at the end of this life is not the end of us. We can live life to a much fuller extent by not having to worry about our salvation. Not only that we have the time and energy to learn to act like God and be an example to others. These and many other perks are available when we live the life He has given us now.

What is really sad is that because of conditions in some peoples lives they cannot accept this salvation at this point in their lives. Parental abuse, poverty, low self esteem, peer pressure, etc. are factors in steering some away from being able to accept the gift of salvation during their lifetime. This is a fact that we have to accept in this fallen world.

This doesn't mean that that salvation is not there for them, it only means that it is waiting for them at a later time. Physical death is not the end, as many people believe. We don't just evaporate when we die – our spirit returns to God.

The author of Ecclesiastes tells us:

*Remember him—before the silver cord is severed,
and the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the wheel broken at the well,
and the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 NIV

John tells us in his parenthetical remark in verse 5 of Revelation 20 that all who die will live again. (*The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.*) The implication is that all, both those that have accepted salvation and those who couldn't or wouldn't, will have a chance to understand that Jesus has provided for their salvation.

It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can accept the salvation that Jesus has provided. The time when that can and will occur for each of us is –

TOTALLY UP TO GOD.

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