

# Salvation in Christ

Christian Belief 103-8

Christ has saved you from sin that kills, and given you a new life.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).**

- 'The world' means all people in the whole world. God loves us by giving 'His only begotten Son', who actually is the Second Person of Himself, to become a blood creature to be killed for all our sins so that we 'should not perish' or be thrown into hell forever (see also Revelation 20:15).
- 'Whoever' signifies God has freely offered the gospel to every person. Christ has tasted death 'for everyone' (see Hebrews 2:9) but you need to 'believe in Him', the Sin Bearer, to be saved from destruction to receive an 'everlasting life' to live in heaven when your time on earth ends.

## 1. *Saved by grace, through faith in Christ*

You are saved from perishing to hell by God's grace, through your faith in Christ.

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV).**

- Salvation is by the 'grace' (Gk: *Charis*, means special favor) of God. 'Grace' is put in contrast with the efforts for obtaining salvation. 'Works' like moral, emotional, and religious efforts cannot earn salvation. Christ has already done the 'works' of fulfilling all the commandments (see Matthew 5:17) and died on the cross for your failures in obeying them. Salvation is 'the gift of God'.

No slightest amount of good work and holy living can make you more saved.

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV).**

- Your new life in Christ is for doing the good works that God has intended for you to live with. Good works are done out of gratitude for the salvation freely given to you, not out of fear of losing your salvation. You do not become more saved by doing good works.

**For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT).**

- The sinless Christ was punished for your sins to make you 'right with God'. In Him you are righteous. Holiness is a chief expression of your salvation but you are not more saved by holy living.

Salvation by grace alone, without works, is an offence to religious legalism.

- Once a person has believed in Christ he is absolutely and irrevocably saved. This makes the gospel of grace an offence—a scandal (Gk. *Skandalon*) or a 'stumbling block' (see 1 Corinthians 1:23)—to people of a legalistic and punitive mind.

You need only to see and believe in the Sin Bearer once to be saved.

**For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life—that I should raise them at the last day (John 6:40 NLT).**

- Israel was in a desert infested with poisonous snakes. Moses made a serpent of brass and put it on a pole, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the serpent of brass just one time, he lived (see John 3:14-15; Number 21:9).
- Even if a person sees 'Christ, the beginner and finisher of our faith' (see Hebrews 12:2) a million times, he is not more saved than when he looked once.

Whoever once truly believes in what Christ has done on the cross is saved always.

**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1a NKJV).**

- God judged sin only once. Christ was judged for you. So you will never be judged. You are once saved, always saved. Being saved is an unchangeable position, in this life and in eternity. For salvation is an irrevocable gift from God (see Romans 11:29). So you cannot lose your salvation. Nothing in this world and in the spiritual realm can ever separate you from the love

of God that is proven in what Christ has done (see Romans 8:35, 38-39). Your legal stand in salvation does not change, not even in sins. Sinning Christians can still enter heaven but 'yet so as through fire' and 'suffering loss' (see 1 Corinthians 3:15).

## 2. *Believe and confess Christ as Lord*

Though salvation is given freely by grace, you need to receive it by faith.

**For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved (Romans 10:9-10 NLT).**

- Two things are required of a person to be 'saved'. Firstly, 'believing in your heart' that 'God has raised Jesus from the dead'. Secondly, 'confessing with your mouth' that 'Jesus is Lord'.
- A person can be convinced of the existence of God and comprehend Jesus has been raised from the dead but falls short of opening up his heart to believe. He can resolve to be a better person, feeling sorry for the bad things he has done. If he does not believe Christ has died for sins and resurrected, he is not saved.
- Even if he agrees with Christ's death for our sins but if he does not confess Him as the Lord, he is not saved. The guards at the tomb of Jesus knew that He had been resurrected. They knew His disciples had nothing to do with the tomb being empty and told the chief priests who actually trusted their report. Those religious leaders even called for a meeting and paid the soldiers to lie against what they knew to be a fact (see Matthew 28:12-15). They did not confess that 'Jesus is Lord', which means Master. Christ, the Master of the whole creation, became a sinless man, a God-Man, to shed innocent blood for us.

Affirming Christ is the Lord is a spiritual insight brought by the Holy Spirit.

**No one speaking by the Spirit of God can curse Jesus, and no one is able to say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3b NLT).**

- A spiritual insight brought by the Holy Spirit will come out through the mouth as an unashamed confession (see John 16:8-12; Luke 6:45; Romans 1:16).  
**For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11 NKJV).**
- People will either confess that Jesus is Lord now voluntarily or unwillingly on the Judgment Day by a fearful sight (see Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 20:11-15).
- Confession and belief go together. A superficial confession without really believing in Christ's resurrection is spiritually invalid.

## 3. *Born again and adopted as God's children*

By believing in Christ, your spirit is born again or regenerated.

**But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12-13 NLT).**

- By believing in Christ you are 'born of God' and have become His child.

**Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven (John 3:6 NLT).**

- Natural birth is procreation but spiritual birth is regeneration by the Holy Spirit. In this supernatural act of God, your spirit is 'born again' or regenerated (see John 3:3).  
**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17a NKJV).**
- As 'children of God', we are 'joint heirs with Christ'. All that Christ was to inherit is ours. 'His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness' (see 2 Peter 1:3).  
**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV).**
- Your regenerated spirit is a 'new creation'. This new life is God's Spirit in your spirit (see 1 Corinthians 3:16). God cannot die and this new life in you is an eternal life. You will never perish (see John 3:16).  
**You know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him (1 John 2:29b NKJV).**
- The new life from Christ has the ability of 'practicing righteousness'.

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:15-16 NKJV).

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption, bearing witness in your spirit that you are 'adopted' as a son or daughter of God. '*Abba*' is equivalent of our term 'daddy'.
- Regeneration is God's secret act behind the scene; adoption is His revealed act, in your realization or understanding. Regeneration is God's internal act in your spirit. 'Adoption' is God's external act by which you are chosen as a member of His family.