

Section 8: Salvation

I. Introduction

There are several steps involved in the process of one receiving salvation. All steps involve God's love and mercy. But there is also involvement for the individual seeking salvation. The steps of salvation are explained below.

II. Steps of Salvation

A. Obedience

1. This step is the most important one. Until one learns to obey, his progress is halted In his search for salvation.
2. The opposite of obedience is rebellion. God's opinion of obedience and rebellion Is recorded in I Samuel 15:22-23.
3. The spiritual destruction of anyone can always be traced to disobedience. The reason people will not be saved is failure to obey God's plan. Each dispensation has had a plan of salvation.
4. Bible scholars generally agree that there are seven dispensations. These dispensations are:
 - a. Innocence - creation of Adam to the Fall
 - b. Conscience – Fall to the Tower of Babel
 - c. Human Government - Tower of Babel to Call of Abraham
 - d. Promise - Call of Abraham to giving of the Law
 - e. Law - Giving of the Law to the Pentecostal experience
(Acts)
 - f. Grace Period - Holy Ghost, infilling to return of Jesus

5. Each of these dispensations have their particulars in regard to salvation. However, they all contain a common element. That element was obedience to the message of salvation. Example, during the time of Noah the message was simply: "get in the ark". There was not a call to baptism or performing good works, but a call to obey. That generation was destroyed because they failed to get on board. The present dispensation involves obedience, faith, repentance, baptism, infilling of Holy Ghost, holy living.

It is sad to say, but there will be people from this generation who will miss heaven due to disobedience. Their arrival in hell will not be because they lack good works. There will be many good people in hell. Hell will be filled with people who simply found it impossible to obey the Acts 2:38 plan of salvation. To those who question the importance of obedience, take a journey through history. Each dispensation experienced God 's wrath because the majority of earth's inhabitants failed to obey.

6. Regardless of one's background and tradition, he yields to all aspects of the gospel when one truly has an obedient spirit.

B. Faith

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:2).
2. Saving faith involves more than just a mental or vocal assertion of "I believe" (James 2:14-26).
3. This belief (faith) in God is not just a one-time experience: The Scriptures teach whosoever believeth shall be saved (John 3:16). But it is a continual belief as evidenced by adding "th" onto the word "believe". A belief that causes action on the part of the believer. True faith guides one through all steps of salvation.
4. For example, faith is essential when one repents and is baptised. Faith is required to believe that God hears and forgives. Without faith, calling on God is in vain. Faith in God involves present and future belief.

C. Repentance

1. John the Baptist expected his converts to repent before he baptized them (Matthew 3:1-8) .
2. Repentance is not, just "sorry you got caught", but it involves sincere remorse for one's wrong doing.
3. Not only is there remorse for past sins, but a sincere desire to never again enter into any of sin's activities. It is turning away from sin and walking in the opposite direction. There must be a separation from sin. Jesus came to save from sin, not in sin (Matthew 1:21, John 5:14, Ephesians 4:28) .
4. Repentance should include restitution whenever possible. The Old Testament lists several regulations involving restitution. Some scriptures are: Exodus 21:30-36, Leviticus 24:18, Exodus 22:1-4, Proverbs 6:30, Leviticus 6:2-5, Ezekial 33:15. The New Testament has the example of Zachaeus (Luke 19:8).

5. Jesus taught repentance to be an essential element of salvation in Luke 13:3.
6. Peter included repentance in his message of salvation in Acts 2:38.

D. Baptism in Jesus Name

1. Please refer back to Lesson Seven for a more detailed explanation of baptism.
2. Baptism is essential (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38).
3. To be of benefit and to follow scriptural format, baptism must be administered in Jesus Name. Scriptural references are Acts 2:37-41, Acts 8:12-16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Romans 6:3-5.

E. Receiving of the Holy Ghost

Recommended reading is "How to Receive the Holy Ghost by J.T. Pugh.

1. This experience was prophesied in Joel 2:28-29, and Matthew 3:11. It is God's good pleasure to give people the Holy Ghost (Luke 12:32, Luke 11:13).
2. The baptism of the Holy Ghost was experienced and recorded in the book of Acts.
3. The initial and universal indication that one has received the Holy Ghost is the speaking in other tongues. Please see the next Lesson, on the gifts of the Spirit for more details on speaking in tongues.

4. The Holy Ghost is life changing. One becomes born again, a new creature. Habits and desires change (John 3:3-5, 11 Corinthians 5:17) .
5. The Holy Ghost is not an optional program or a spare tire experience. It is absolutely essential. Related scriptures are John 3:3-5, Romans 8: 9-11.

With all of Cornelius' prayers and good works he would have been lost without the Holy Ghost. Read Acts 10:1-8 to verify the virtues of Cornelius. Continue reading in Acts 10:44-48, to find Cornelius receiving the Holy Ghost. To verify his unsaved condition prior to this experience see Acts 11:14-17. But even if it was not essential, can one good reason be given for anyone not desiring the Holy Ghost?

6. The infilling of the Holy Ghost is not a stamp of approval on one's entire life. But it is given to lead and guide one into all truth (John 16:13). And if the Spirit's leading is followed, the discovery of who Jesus really is will be revealed (I Corinthians 12:3).
7. Receiving the Holy Ghost is one thing, but keeping it is another matter. The believer will have no problem retaining the Holy Ghost when a life of prayer and fasting is maintained. A victorious life is in store for all who live Godly.

F. Holiness unto the Lord

1. The subject of holiness frightens many people. But it is a subject that cannot be avoided. Hebrews 14:12 bears out the essentiality of holiness. Of course, holiness involves

the inward and outward man. Lessons Fifteen and Sixteen on Holiness, describe true holiness.

III. Thirteen Words Dealing with Salvation

A. ELECTION .

“...signifies picked out, chosen.”⁷⁷

It refers to the chosen or the choosing process itself. According to Romans 11:5, the election is by the mercy and grace of God. It reads:

“...there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”⁷⁸

B. ATONEMENT

Romans 5:11 says, "We have now received the atonement".⁷⁹ This atonement comes about by Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament atonement is used, especially in Leviticus chapters 16 and 17. The blood of animals, when used in the proper sacrifice, was the agent that carried atonement for the sins of Israel (Leviticus 17:11). The atonement was the covering for sins. Romans 5:11 states that we receive atonement through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the means by which atonement comes. Realizing that atonement refers only to the "covering", or the means whereby the covering comes, it is understood that reconciliation would be the better translation in Romans 5:11. Reconciliation refers not only to the means, but to the results of the "covering". The word translated 'atonement' in Romans 5:11 is done so only in that one place in the New Testament. The same word is translated

reconciliation or reconciling several other times in the New Testament. (II Corinthians 5:18, 19, Romans 11:15)

C. PROPITIATION

“...signifies an expiation, a means whereby sin is covered and remitted.”⁸⁰

I John 4:10 refers to Christ as being "the propitiation for our sins". Although a different word, the Old Testament concept of atonement is perhaps best expressed in the New Testament by the word propitiation.

D. JUSTIFICATION

Romans 5:9 says, “...then, being now justified by His blood...”⁸¹ We have justification through the grace and the blood of Jesus Christ. None of us should have life, but because of His love we have been acquitted of our sins. This justification is brought about by Calvary and its redeeming power.

"(b) a sentence of acquittal, by which God acquits men of their guilt, on the conditions (1) of His grace in Christ, through His expiatory sacrifice, (2) the acceptance of Christ by faith, Romans 5:16.”⁸²

E. IMPUTATION

II Corinthians 5:19, imputing

“...to reckon, take into account, or metaphorically, to put down to a person's account.”⁸³

To make a person accountable for something or to hold him responsible for it is the showing of imputation. When speaking of sin

and trespasses, imputation is applied to man. Man is responsible and held accountable for his sins. However, the scriptures do not stop there. Through God's grace, Jesus' blood, and the Spirit infilling, imputation is negated. For example, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away...And all things are of God...To wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself; not IMPUTING their trespasses unto them..."⁸⁴ (II Corinthians 5:17-19).

F. REGENERATION - New Birth

Regeneration is the changing of the old man into the new man through the Spirit of God.

However,

"The new birth and regeneration do not represent successive stages in spiritual experience, they refer to the same event but view it in different aspects. The new birth stresses the communication of spiritual life in contrast to antecedent spiritual death; regeneration stresses the inception of a new state of things in contrast with the old."⁸⁵ (see Titus 3:5).

G. ADOPTION

"Adoption is a term involving the dignity of the relationship of believers as sons; it is not a putting into the family by spiritual birth, but a putting into the position of sons."⁸⁶

Adoption gives position of sons, regeneration gives you the nature of sons by the new birth. By adoption God gives one full rights. The use of a family name, and what that name represents is given through adoption. Christ does not view His church as bratty step-children, but as sons, for Romans 8:15 says, "Ye have received the Spirit of adoption..."⁸⁷ We have received a perfect position (sons), of course our walk may not be perfect.

H. RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is a changing, or a bringing together. When speaking of God and man, reconciliation is accomplished by God.

"Exercising His grace towards sinful man on the ground of the death of Christ, by reason of this men in their sinful condition and alienation from God are invited to be reconciled to Him, that is to say, to change their attitude, and accept the provision God has made, whereby their sins can be remitted and then themselves be justified in His sight in Christ."⁸⁸

Through Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God. Mankind had broken the relationship between God and man, thus leaving a wide gulf between them. Jesus Christ became the bridge to bring man back to God. Reconciliation in its completeness would envelope the mediator role of Jesus (II Corinthians 5:18-20).

I. REDEMPTION

Redemption is more than just a deliverance from but is also a deliverance into. Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage

while at the same time being delivered into freedom. In Ephesians 1:7 it is contingent upon the forgiveness of sins. Thus, redemption is usually predicated upon something else, as in Colossians 1:14. "...the forgiveness of our sins".⁸⁹

This indicates that:

"both the liberation from the guilt and doom of sin and the introduction into a life of liberty, 'newness of life' Romans 6:4⁹⁰

The same principle of redemption will be present when the Lord returns. Though It is different circumstances than when one is delivered from sin, it is the same principle. Our bodies will be delivered from mortality, while being delivered into immortality. Concerning this, Romans 8:23 says, "...waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."⁹¹

Some other words for redemption or redeem are 'EXAGORAZO' and 'LUTROO'. While both are translated 'to redeem',

"Exagorazo does not signify the actual redemption, but the price paid with a view to it, Lutroo signifies the actual deliverance, the setting at liberty."⁹²

'APOLUTROSIS' is the strengthened form of LUTROSIS and includes the complete process of deliverance.

J. SANCTIFICATION

I Corinthians 6:11 - Sanctified

"Sanctification is that relationship with God into which men enter by faith in Christ, Acts 26:18 is also used in the New Testament of the separation of the believers from evil things and ways."⁹³

This separation from the world is through the Spirit of God, as found in Romans 15:16, II Thessalonians 2:13, and I Peter 1:2. It is interesting to note that sanctification is not just something for the future, but we are presently sanctified. The apostle Paul expected the saints of Corinth to be presently sanctified as recorded in I Corinthians 1:2. "...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus..."⁹⁴ Further,

"It is the state into which God, in grace, calls sinful men, and in which they begin their course as Christians..."⁹⁵

K. SALVATION

Denotes deliverance, preservation. Among other things, salvation refers to

"the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted immediately by God to those who accept His conditions Acts 4:12, Romans 10:10"⁹⁶

Also it speaks

"of the present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin, eg., Philippians 2:12 "...this present experience on the part of believers is virtually equivalent to sanctification;"⁹⁷

Likewise included in its meaning is

"...the future deliverance of believers at the parousia of Christ for His saints...Romans 13:11, I Thessalonians 5:8."⁹⁷

Salvation is used

"inclusively; to sum up all the bestowed by God on men in Christ through the

Holy Spirit, eg., II Corinthians 6: 2, Hebrews 5:9, 1 Peter 1:9.”⁹⁹

Salvation includes the present, future. It is a continual process. One cannot say, "I am saved", unless he is referring to a present condition. He cannot say, "I am saved", in reference to the future. We are in the process of being saved, and if we stay in the process we shall be saved.

All of the above researched words are included in the process of salvation.

L. GLORIFIED

Glorified - Romans 8:17

“...primarily denotes 'to suppose' (a) to magnify, extol, praise.”¹⁰⁰

Romans 8:17, in speaking of Christ and the Church says, “. . . we may be glorified together”.¹⁰¹ There is coming a time when we shall be magnified with Christ. Just as Christ was glorified and His body changed, so shall be the saints of God. There is coming a day of extolling and glorification.

M. Manifestation

“...in Romans 8:19...an uncovering laying bare, revealing, revelation, is translated

‘manifestation.’”¹⁰²

Manifestation is closely related to glorification. It is as though manifestation is the occasion, and glorification is what happens

at the occasion. At the manifestation, it will be revealed that we are the sons of God (Romans 8:19). At the manifestation it will be revealed if we are really among the elect, if we are covered by the atoning blood, if Christ truly justified us, if we are truly adopted, and above all, if we are actually participants in the plan of salvation.

N. Conclusion

A time-line would perhaps best express the different meanings of these words. But even with a time-line it is difficult to distinguish a clear separation on each word, many of them overlap. It is not a begin and end of a specific point, but more of an overlapping and continual process.

Atonement Propitiation	Imputation Justification	Adoption Election Regeneration	Reconciliation Sanctification	Glorification Manifestation
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REDEMPTION
SALVATION

IV. Salvation Lost

A. A concordance will provide adequate scriptures to support the fact that an individual can fall from grace and lose salvation. Numerous scriptures and examples can be found by looking under such topics as: backsliding, blot out, hardness, Judas, Demas, reprobate.

B. However, as strong as the evidence is that one could back- slide, there is no excuse. There is not a devil big enough, a trial too hard, a mountain too high, or a valley too low, that can prevent a child of God from keeping his salvation. In reality, nothing or nobody but himself can separate him from his salvation (Romans 8:35-39).

V. Conclusion

A. One cannot escape if they: neglect the gift of salvation (Hebrew 2:3-4).

B. Without the gospel one is lost (II Corinthians 4:3). This gospel (Acts 2:38, Acts 19:5-6, Galatians 1:8) that Peter and Paul preached: the death (repentance), burial (baptism) and resurrection (receiving of Holy Ghost - rising to walk in newness of life as a new creature) is for whosoever will.