

The Book of Life

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines |
August 3, 2019

How do you get your name written in the
Lamb's book of life?



Are You Saved?

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines | July 6, 2019



Introduction

Are you saved?
If yes, saved from what?



We did some digital communications last 2 weeks and reached more than 1.2m people. From the comments, we collated the top five (5) answers to the question on what they were saved from.



We would like to share with you the top 5 answers; they are:



1. Sin
2. Everything
3. Judgment
4. Hell fire
5. Sickness



None of the top 5 answers hit the mark.



This can only mean many professing Christians
do not have a clear understanding of what
salvation is all about!



The 1st thing we must know about salvation is
it is not free. It comes at a price - and that is
the life of the Son of God.



Our salvation is brought about by the redemptive sacrifice of Christ. So it is imperative that we understand the reason for His death.



On a religious program, a question was fielded to the minister. The question was exactly about 'what are we saved from?' And his answer was surprising.



He went to Isaiah 13:13

“Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the **wrath** of the **Lord** of hosts And in the day of His **fierce anger.**”

He said “there is a wrath of God that is coming.” He said salvation is to be saved from God’s wrath.



Then he went to Romans 5:9,
“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how
much more shall we be **saved** from **God's**
wrath through him!”



The wrath of God is coming Revelation 15:1,
“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and
marvelous: seven angels having the seven last
plagues, for in them the **wrath of God** is
complete.”



He said salvation is to be saved from God's wrath!
But what is God's wrath?



The minister had conveniently forgotten the relevant scriptures.



He quoted Isaiah 13:13 but failed to understand the context of the scripture. He just had to read a few verses more to get the context in Isaiah 13:9

“ Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both **wrath and fierce anger**, To lay the land desolate; And He will **destroy its sinners** from it.”

God’s wrath is the destruction of the sinners – death.



Other verses for context

1. Ephesians 2:1-2
2. Colossians 2:13-14
3. James 5:20
4. John 8:21-24
5. Romans 6:23



Ephesians 2

1 As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



Colossians 2

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.



James 5

20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save him from death** and cover over a multitude of sins.”



John 8

21 Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and **you will die in your sin**. Where I go, you cannot come.”

23 But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will **indeed die in your sins**.”



Romans 6

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



So, what are we saved from?



The answer to “What are we saved from?” is so simple, yet many cannot understand what it means. Salvation means to be saved from the penalty of sin - which is death.



Saved from Second
Death

When we believe in the saving power of Christ, we ought to understand the scriptural context of salvation.



Salvation is Tuchikos in Greek (too-khee-kos') meaning fortuitous, i.e. fortunate. In Biblical usage, it means being saved.



The bible says Jesus came to save sinners. What do we mean by sinners? What do sinners need to be saved from? Why do sinners need saving?



On the day mankind was created, man was without sin and not destined to die.



Genesis 2

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for **when** you **eat** from it **you will certainly die.**”



Therefore, death is a consequence and penalty for sin. Sin comes into the world when man through Adam violates God's laws. And in God's justice system – the penalty of sin is death. The scripture says that all have sinned and no one is righteous, hence death and destruction reign over everyone.



Romans 5

12 Therefore, just as **sin entered the world** through **one man**, and **death through sin**, and in this way **death came to all people**, because **all sinned**—

13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given (enacted at Mt. Sinai), but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law

(Obviously the law existed in one form or another. Adam was given a specific instruction – a law by itself.)



Romans 5

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

(Death came into the world and affects everyone.)



Romans 5

17 For if, by the **trespass** of the one man, **death** reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.



Romans 5

19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

21 so that, just as **sin reigned in death**, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.



It is clear that Christ came to save us from the penalty of sin – death. It is for this reason that Christ died for the condemned sinners. He took upon himself our sins and died for you and me. He paid the ultimate price of sin at the cross.



The manner by which we are saved is called redemption. **Redemption** simply means someone else died on your behalf so that you may be set free.



Say, if you have committed a crime worthy of capital punishment, Christ took your place at the electric chair/gas chamber/lethal injection so you won't be the one to die. The penalty of sin – death – was not waived but paid for. Therefore, salvation is not free. It is extremely costly. It costs the life of Christ!



We all have committed sin unto death. Once we sin and place ourselves under the penalty of death, there is nothing we can do to free us from the death sentence. The death sentence needs to be satisfied. It is for this very reason that the Father sent His Son into the world: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ **died** for us” (Romans 5:8).



What death is the scripture referring to?

The Bible speaks of two kinds of death—the natural death that everyone experiences and the second death.



The first death can be found as described in
Hebrews 9:27-28

27 Just as people are destined **to die once**, and
after that to face judgment,

(This talks about the first physical death that all
people will experience. The judgment comes after
the first death.)



Hebrews 9

28 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.

(This verse says Christ will return and those who are judged to be worthy will be saved.)



There is another death which is spiritual and final described in the scriptures as the second death. This final death is described in the following verses:



Revelation 2:11

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The **one who is victorious** will not be hurt at all by the **second death**.



Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.



Revelation 20:14

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.



Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”



The second death is the final death, the total destruction of the wicked, which is a permanent cessation of life without possibility of resurrection, it is the ultimate penalty for sin. It is this death sentence that we are saved from. Hence, you are saved from the second and final death. That is the context of salvation.



Saved by Grace
through Faith

We are saved by the graces of God the Father. Who alone decides to be gracious unto us and to save us from condemnation, destruction and death.



Ephesians 2

1 As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



Ephesians 2

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

4 But because of his **great love** for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy,

5 **made us alive** with Christ even when we were **dead** in transgressions—it is by **grace** you have been saved.



Ephesians 2

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable **riches of his grace**, expressed in his **kindness to us** in Christ Jesus.



Ephesians 2

8 For it is by **grace you have been saved,**
through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it
is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ
Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.



We are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. This is a very simple and self-explanatory verse. Just read the verse as it is and pay attention to the punctuation. The sentence comes in two parts. 1st part is saved by grace. 2nd part is through faith in Christ Jesus.



The first part of the equation is grace. Grace belongs to God and is God's prerogative. Mankind has no power or capability in any shape or form that can influence, persuade or induce God at anytime to be gracious and be merciful to sinners.



The second part of the equation is Faith. This is our part of the equation. Faith is what we need to do in order to access the grace of God. We are saved through our faith in Christ with a life of obedience.



God in sending His One and Only Begotten Son to redeem the world was His own personal decision. God took it upon Himself to show grace, kindness, mercy and love towards us – the sinners. Grace is a unilateral act of love from God. He first loved us before we can even love Him in return.



As sinners, we are all dead men walking. It is by God's unilateral act of grace that we are all saved. Jesus Christ paid for our sins. He became sin for us so that the requirement of the law may be fulfilled. He died in our place and redeemed us from death to life! That is grace!



The 2nd-part of the equation is faith. We access grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We have to believe that God sent His Son to take our places in death. We have to acknowledge that He is our Savior. Then turn around and start a new life in Christ by putting our trust in Him. People who refuse Christ do not have access to God's grace of salvation. They continue to be condemned.



We access God's grace through our faith in Christ!
Grace makes salvation possible and faith makes salvation accessible. It can be likened to God giving out bottled water to the thirsty, but you have to go to him to get the free bottle of water. God has opened the door to salvation; that is grace. We have just to walk through it; that is faith.



Salvation is a
Process

Process of Salvation

1. Faith
2. Repentance
3. Baptism
4. Holy Spirit
5. Holy Lives



Salvation is not a one-time act; rather it is a process of life long walk with Christ. Salvation starts with faith – believing in God and His Son Jesus Christ.



Romans 10

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and **believe** in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be **saved**.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your **faith** and are **saved**.



Mark 16:16

“Whoever **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved, but whoever **does not believe** will be **condemned.**”



1 John 5:5

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God.”



Faith in Jesus Christ is the starting point, not the end-all, be-all act of salvation. Salvation is a process and it starts with believing in Jesus Christ.



After putting out faith in God and Christ,
what next?



The answer is to repent and be baptized.
This is what Peter said to the believers on the day of
Pentecost.



Acts 2

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “**Repent** and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.”



Acts 2

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

41 Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



Repent

In the Bible, the word 'repent' comes from the Greek word "Metanoeo", meaning to change one's mind, purpose and life on account of acknowledgment of sin. True repentance is a complete reversal of one's attitude and values, i.e. a sincere turning away from sin and living a life towards God.



True repentance requires two things:

1. Admission of wrong doing
2. Seek righteousness and be holy



1. Admission of wrong doing

2 Corinthians 7:10

“**Godly sorrow** brings **repentance** that leads to **salvation** and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

Godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation. It means that we acknowledge the fact that we violated, broke or went against God’s laws. We admit to be sinners in need of redemption.



2. Seek righteousness and be holy

1 Peter 3:11

“They must **turn from evil** and **do good**; they must seek peace and pursue it.”

Then you are on your way to develop godly righteous character. That is true and lasting repentance – a sincere and genuine change of character.



Baptism

Baptism comes from the Greek word “baptismos” meaning ‘washing.’ It means the washing away of sin. Most significantly, baptism is a symbol of death to sin and rising from the watery grave into a new life in Jesus Christ.



The “body of water” symbolizes the grave. The immersion signifies death of the sinful man by burial. The alighting from the water signifies resurrection to life.



Romans 6:4

“We were therefore buried with him through **baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.**”



Colossians 2:12

“having been buried with him in **baptism**, in which you were also **raised** with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”



Holy Spirit

After repentance and baptism, God sends His Holy Spirit to the believer.

Ephesians 1:13

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised **Holy Spirit,**”



Live Holy Lives

After you have received the Holy Spirit what's next?
Are there things we need to keep and do?



1 Peter 1

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.



1 Peter 1

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so **be holy** in all you do;

16 for it is written: “**Be holy, because I am holy.**”

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in **reverent fear**.



1 Peter 1

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.



1 Peter 1

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.



1 Peter 1

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.



1 Peter 1

24 For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.



1 Peter 2

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.



The Saved

What happens to the saved?

What rewards await them?

We will read a few scriptures to you directly from the Book of Revelation to form a picture of the saved:



#1

Revelation 2:7

(Church in Ephesus)

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is **victorious**, I will **give the right to eat from the tree of life**, which is in the **paradise of God**.



#2

Revelation 2:11

(Church in Smyrna)

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is **victorious** will not be hurt at all by the **second death**.



#3

Revelation 2:17

(Church in Pergamum)

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is **victorious**, I will give some of the **hidden manna**. I will also give that person a white stone with **a new name** written on it, known only to the one who receives it.



#4

Revelation 2:26

(Church in Thyatira)

To the one who is **victorious** and does my will to the end, I will **give authority over the nations**— 27 that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’— just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that one the **morning star**.



#5

Revelation 3:5

(Church in Sardis)

The one who is **victorious** will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will **acknowledge** that name before my Father and his angels.



#6

Revelation 3:12 (Church in Philadelphia)

The one who is **victorious** I will make a **pillar**
in the temple of my God. Never again will they
leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and
the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,
which is coming down out of heaven from my God;
and I will also write on them my new name.



#7

Revelation 3:21

(Church in Laodicea)

To the one who is **victorious**, I will give the right to **sit with me on my throne**, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.



Most people do not realize these tremendous rewards of the saved! Salvation is beyond being saved from the second death. There is something fantastic and even mind-boggling reserved for the saved. That is to become children of God!



Talking about this mind-boggling truth about salvation Paul wrote in Galatians 4:

4. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son born of a woman, born under the law,
5 to redeem those under the law, that we might
receive adoption to **sonship**.



Galatians 4

6 Because **you are his sons**, God sent the **Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

7 So you are no longer a slave, but **God’s child**; and since **you are his child**, God has made you also an **heir**.



Summation

What is salvation?

Salvation means to be saved from the penalty of sin
– the second and final death. So that you may
become a child and an heir of God and co-heirs with
Christ!



Brothers and sisters, family and friends, now we know that there is a great salvation that awaits God's people. Salvation is not free. By the grace of God, Christ paid the ultimate price of death to redeem us from destruction so that we may become brothers and sisters of Christ. Salvation is accessible through our faith in Christ Jesus, our Elder Brother.



Here is the final and complete
picture of the saved.



Revelation 21

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 I saw the Holy City, the **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



Revelation 21

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and **God himself will be with them** and be their God.

4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’”



Revelation 21

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words **are trustworthy and true.**”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

7 Those who are **victorious** will **inherit** all this, and **I will be their God** and **they will be my children.**



Revelation 21

8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the **second death**.”



Knowing this immense truth on salvation, what should we do with our lives?

This is Paul's encouragement in Philippians 2



Philippians 2

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to **work out your salvation** with **fear** and **trembling**,

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.



Philippians 2

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing,

15 so that you may become **blameless and pure**, “children of God **without fault** in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will **shine** among them **like stars** in the sky

16 as you **hold firmly** to the **word of life**.



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How do you get your name written in the
Lamb's book of life?

