

# SALVATION

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***"NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS  
NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN,  
WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED.  
(ACTS 4:12)***

## SALVATION

“Appropriately in theology salvation is the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting happiness” so says Mr. Webster. Why is it that we need to be redeemed from the bondage of sin? For those of us who believe in an eternal here after we are aware of the fact that there are only two possible places where the soul of mankind can expect to spend eternity. One place where the soul is to spend eternity is hell; the other is heaven. It does take too long for a person who is not influenced by Satan to decide that he/she does not want to spend an eternity where there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mat 8:12).

If you think as I do the choice is very simple, I choose **HEAVEN**. If this is your choice surely you are wondering if this is possible; do I have a choice? Yes, it is possible for your soul to go to heaven and spend eternity with God, Jesus Christ, angels and all the saints. Allow me to explain how it is possible! We must first come to realize that with man it is not possible to save yourself without the grace of God.

As strange as it may sound God’s grace began even before He created the world or mankind. The scriptures confirm this through the written words of Paul: (2 Tim 1:9) *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”* Does not Paul say that it is God who saves us? We do not save ourselves. Does he not say that we do not save ourselves by works? Friends we just can’t do enough good works to merit eternal salvation! When does Paul say that the grace of God made the decision to extend salvation to man? Paul says that God made this decision *“before the world began”*. We are even informed that this decision was according to God’s *“own purpose”* Years before the mosaic law was given God made this decision to save all mankind through Jesus Christ. The law was given to be a schoolmaster to bring both Jew and Gentile unto Jesus Christ (Gal 3:24) *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”* Without the grace of God we would have no hope of spending eternity with God! Truly salvation is of God; (Psa 37:39) *“But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.”*

If you have decided that you would prefer to spend eternity in heaven but you are not sure how to acquire eternal salvation allow me to show you from God's Word how it was made possible and what God expects from you. As already mentioned; salvation for the sinner [and we have all sinned Rom. 3:23] was made possible by the "grace" of God. But God did not just say in His mind "I'm going to save man by my grace"; He had a plan. What was this plan? It was God's plan to supply a savior! This He did through His Son Jesus Christ (Eph 5:23) *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and **he is the saviour** of the body."* Yes, it was through His own Son that God has provided a savior for you and me! If you desire salvation you must acknowledge that there is only one means of salvation; and that is through Jesus Christ; (Acts 4:12) *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Neither myself nor any other preacher can save you, if you want salvation you must seek it through Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you are wondering how can I know how to obtain this salvation? The answer is simple; all you have to do is to look to the gospel of Jesus Christ: (Eph 1:13) *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"*. Notice the words I have made bold. You can find God's plan of salvation in the "gospel! Paul informs us that Jesus Christ brought "life and immortality" [eternal salvation] to light "through the gospel";(2 Tim 1:10) *"But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light **through the gospel**:"* It was for this very reason that Jesus told his apostles to go and teach "all nations" [Mat. 28:19]. It was through their teaching that mankind comes to the knowledge of the truth; (1 Tim 2:4) *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* And it is when we obey that truth that we receive salvation.

Yes God does desire to save all men, however, just coming to the knowledge of the truth is not all that is required. I give the case of Saul as an illustration. Saul was on the road to Damascus to persecute anyone who professed the name of Jesus. As he was traveling along about noontime [Acts 22:6] a great light shone from heaven and Jesus asked him why he was persecuting Him [Acts 22:7]. Jesus considered that when Saul persecuted Christians; he was indeed persecuting Him. So that there would be no doubt in the mind of Saul who it was that was speaking to him Jesus identified Himself [Acts 22:8]. We cannot question the fact that this

did happen because the men who were with Saul also saw this great light from heaven [Acts22:9]. Saul believed at this point. Was he saved at this point? I would say that even Saul had doubts as he asked Jesus what he should do [Acts 22:10]. Here is Jesus' reply (Acts 22:10) "*Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.*" If all that Saul had to do to be saved was to believe why did Jesus give these instruction? The answer is simple; there was something else that Saul needed to do to receive salvation. Let's see if we can find out what else was required for Saul to receive salvation. The answer can be found in the words of a man by the name of Ananias; (Acts 22:16) "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" Does not this illustration from God's Word prove that just believing will not save us?

There is a lot more that can be learned from the gospel [I.e. good news] and if you would desire to study further we would be honored to assist you in your efforts to learn more about what the Lord requires of you in order that you might have eternal life.

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