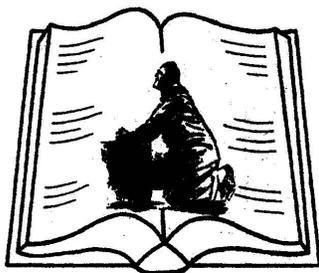


## Salvation According to the Scriptures

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## According to the Scriptures



B. W. Cheney

Salvation is something that God wants every person on the face of this earth to have. Salvation is something that every person who is of a sound mind has a longing for, and it is something that the devil definitely does not want you or me to possess. Many preachers representing the church world today proclaim from the pulpit many ways to get to Heaven, but they only lead their followers into darkness, and in the end to a devil's hell (Luke 6:39). There is only one true way to Heaven, and that is by possessing genuine, Bible salvation.

Friend, at this time we would like to explain what salvation means and why it is so important for you to obtain the experience. The word salvation (according to *Strong's Bible Concordance*) simply means: "to deliver or rescue." *Webster's Dictionary* explains salvation this way: spiritual deliverance from sin and death. We understand, then, that when we have Bible salvation, we have been rescued from eternal punishment in an everlasting hell.

Dear friend, your soul is the most precious thing you have, and whether you believe it or not, after your body has passed from this present life and has been placed in the grave, your never-dying soul will be alive as much then as it is right now and will spend eternity in either one of the two places—Heaven or hell.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The Word of God tells us sin carries a penalty, and that penalty is eternal separation from

Almighty God. Romans 6:23 tells us, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." So, you see, sinner friend, every person who dies without their sins forgiven and covered by the blood of Jesus Christ goes into eternity unprepared to meet an angry God.

Bible salvation is not obtained by good works. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Neither is it obtained by joining a church, by water baptism, by being confirmed, or by any other way man has conceived in his natural mind.

Although salvation is a free gift from God, it will cost you every sin you have, for God will not save you until you are ready to renounce all (past and present) sin in your life.

The penalty for sin is death, and when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shed His precious blood on the Cross of Calvary, He paid the death penalty for the whole world, and that, sinner friend, included you and me. God will not and cannot save a person who will not acknowledge his true spiritual condition before Him. Jesus, speaking in Matthew 5:8, said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." So, if anyone refuses to own his true condition, he does not have a pure heart and, therefore, will be lost forever.

To become a child of God and be in possession of Bible salvation, you must confess all your sins to God. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If you will do this, you will experience the new birth as recorded in John 3:3 and 7: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... . Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

When the new, spiritual birth takes place in an individual's life, it happens in a moment of time. This is not something one grows into, but rather one is born into it. The beloved Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth (and this was the Church of God, according to 2 Corinthians 1:1) in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." First John 1:7 tells us, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

It is only when you come to God with a hatred for sin, with godly sorrow for sinning against a holy God and your fellowman, and with a determination to quit sinning that God will hear and answer your prayer. There is only one prayer of a sinner that God hears and answers, and that is the prayer of repentance. Romans 10:9-10 and 13

gives us godly instructions in this manner: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation . . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Thank God, whosoever included me, and sinner friend, it also includes you.

Many honest souls carry this thought in their minds: "When I quit drinking, cursing, smoking, and all my other ungodly ways, then I will turn my life over to God." Beloved, if these are your intentions, you are going about it the wrong way, according to the Bible.

Stop and think a moment, friend, on this thought. If it were possible for man to live a godly life without repenting, confessing all his sins to God, and receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, then he could charge God with the most horrible crime ever committed by allowing His Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer such a cruel death upon the Cross of Calvary, especially since Jesus had never committed one sin. Glory be to God, the Bible tells us in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:19 also says, "For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus Christ] shall many be made righteous," providing that each one meets Bible conditions.

Regardless of what your past life has been, Jesus Christ is the answer to all your problems and heartaches. First Peter 5:7 encourages us by saying, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Jesus, speaking in John 6:37, said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Someone may be saying at this time, "When it comes to the things of God, I just stay neutral." Friend, that is only another way the devil has of deceiving people, because one cannot be neutral when it comes to the things of God. Jesus plainly stated in Matthew 12:30, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." So, you see, by the Scriptures, one is either a child of God or a child of the devil, a servant of righteousness or a servant of sin. You cannot be a child of God and a child of the devil at the same time, no more than you could be the natural child of Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones at the same time.

Again, we want to warn everyone who reads this message, if your life does not line up with these Bible Scriptures concerning salvation, then you are deceived and heading for eternity without God. Thinking, hoping, or guessing that you are right with God will not help you on the Judgment Day. It makes no difference what kind of theory you might have, it still will not help you. You must have a definite born again experience that only comes by repenting of all sin and receiving Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

The Bible also states that when one gets saved, it is the Lord who adds that person to His church and not man. Acts 2:47 explains it this way: "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." It might be interesting to know just what church He added them to. We can find out by looking in Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Corinthians 15:9, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:13, and 1 Timothy 3:5.

When one becomes justified by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, he becomes a child of God and therefore becomes a member of the Church of God, not the apostatized Church of God with an earthly headquarters, all types of boards, and man rule; but rather it is the divine church with Jesus Christ as her only head, as recorded in Ephesians 5:23.

May this message be a glory to God and help many honest-hearted souls find salvation according to the Scriptures. Then, they, too, will be able to say as David of old said in Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Verse 6 says, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

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