

# **1-D** **Salvation is a Continuing Process**

## **Forward**

This series of booklets is a compilation of teaching from the curriculum for ***The School of the Local Church*** Bible Study originally offered at Grace Christian Center in Killeen, Texas under the direction of Pastor Terry Whitley. Students often asked for a written text format of the teachings which would allow private personal study apart from class lectures. These Booklets are an intended answer that need.

All quotes from scripture are shown in italics and are from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted. Any bold or underlined text is my addition to serve to emphasize certain words or phrases. Any words or phrases in parentheses are also added by me to expand or clarify a word or concept. These are in no way meant to add to or modify the meaning of scripture, but to enhance or clarify the concepts presented in the text. All scripture quotes are enclosed in boxes to distinguish them from surrounding text.

The foundation of Christian faith and any and all instruction about God, on the Kingdom of God, the Family of God, matters of salvation and judgment, of prophecy and eternity can be found only in the Bible. Only in the Bible can mankind find reliable answers to life's most important questions. In this entire series of Booklets, the Bible will be the foundation of all teaching. This is a Bible Study.

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A fundamental tenant of the Bread of Life Bible Studies is that Scripture – The Bible – is the ultimate authority for all understanding in spiritual or theological matters. We believe that Bible is the perfect inspired inerrant Word of God, and can be trusted completely. In the Gospels, Jesus was often challenged about spiritual or theological matters, especially by the teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees. He always answered back by quoting scripture to emphasize the truth of God's Word. On the other hand, not all interpretation of the Bible is by any means perfect or inerrant. For example:

When reading or studying the Bible, it is so important that we not read into it our pre-conceived notions about what we think it says.

some that believe in reincarnation say that the Bible teaches this concept

There exists a wide variety of ideas and teachings about the nature and requirements for salvation among Christians: Many Christians believe that salvation is a one-time event that occurs at the time of the New Birth or being 'Born Again.' To many, this occurs when one says a 'sinner's prayer' at the time of repentance from sin and 'asking Jesus into their heart'. Others believe that salvation occurs only when a believer is baptized in water. Some teach that baptism

must be by immersion, but others accept sprinkling or other forms of water baptism. Some baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but others believe salvation can only occur by baptism in the name of Jesus. Still others believe that salvation occurs at the end of an obedient life of faith, exemplified by good works. Some believe that one must be baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues in order to be saved. Some teach that someone truly saved can never lose their salvation. Others teach that salvation can be lost. This is by no means a comprehensive list of the dizzying array of ideas on this topic. My Goodness!! No wonder people get confused!

So what is the answer? Does anyone really know? Who or what is the final authority? God alone is the final authority. God's Word – the Bible – is the only reliable source for truth in this matter or for truth in any matter.

If you were to search out all Bible verses in the New Testament about salvation, it is a remarkable fact that such verses can be neatly placed into **three groups**: (1) those that speak of salvation as a **past tense event**, (2) those that speak of salvation as a **present on-going event or process**, and (3) those that speak of salvation as a **future event**. That is, they are (1) past tense, (2) present tense, and (3) future tense. On the surface, this fact may seem quite contradictory. However, as we study each group more closely, some amazing insight is revealed.

It is also important to remember that the Bible teaches that human beings are **triune** – made of three parts. These are **spirit**, **soul**, and **body**. This makes perfect sense, since we know that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Since God is triune – manifesting as **Father**, **Son**, and **Holy Spirit**, then mankind also must be triune. Notice this scripture:

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit**, **soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

This verse is actually a prayer made by Paul for the believers at Thessalonica, asking that God would sanctify them completely, spirit, soul, and body. Note also the order of mention of these three parts in the sanctifying process: first spirit, then soul, then body.

### **You HAVE BEEN Saved: Salvation of the Spirit Man**

**The SPIRIT part of an individual is saved in an INSTANT** when he or she accepts God's gift of eternal life, His Son Jesus Christ. At that moment, the individual is **Born of the Spirit** or Born Again into the Kingdom or Family of God. He/she is born as a baby Christian, but with the potential to grow into a mature son/daughter of God. How does anyone enter into an earthly family? We enter by birth, marriage, or adoption. It is the same with the family of God, except that we enter the Family of God in **all three ways**: 1. We are **BORN OF THE SPIRIT**, 2. **BETROTHED IN MARRIAGE TO THE LAMB**, and we are to be 3. **ADOPTED BY THE FATHER!!**

In **Old Testament Typology**, the New Birth happens when one applies the blood of the Lamb to his / her doorpost while in Egypt, a type of the Kingdom of Darkness. The SAME DAY he/she **LEAVES EGYPT** with the redeemer (Moses is a type of Christ). On the third day, he / she comes out from the red sea, a type of baptism into a new life, and begins the trip through the wilderness into the Promised Land. At the moment of salvation, the **Natural Man** becomes a **Carnal Man** in the Wilderness. God delivers the individual out of Egypt, but now begins the process of getting Egypt out of the individual, to eventually produce the **Spiritual Man** who dwells in the Promised Land. **Salvation of the spirit man is entirely by faith, and results in the free gift of RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

For example, note the **PAST TENSE** of these scriptures:

1. **JOH 1:12** But **AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the SONS of God**, even to them that believe on his name: 13 **Which WERE BORN, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

2. **EPH 2:5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED.** 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. 8 For it **is by grace you HAVE BEEN SAVED, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—** 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
3. **2TI 1:9** (God) who **HAS SAVED US** and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
4. **TIT 3:4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **HE SAVED US through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,**
5. **1PE 1:23** For you **HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN,** not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, **through the living and enduring word of God.**

### **You ARE BEING Saved: Salvation of the Soul of Man**

**The SOUL part of an individual is saved as a PROCESS throughout the life of the individual.** This salvation is also by grace, but manifests as **the individual WORKS OUT his or her salvation by acting on the promise of Gods Word and through the Helping Power of the Holy Spirit.** This process is known as **SANCTIFICATION,** and represents God taking EGYPT out of the individual. The individual begins with the **PROMISE of the Land,** and ends with the **POSESSION of the Land.** The individual in the wilderness is the Carnal Man, a child of God still living in the Flesh. **SANCTIFICATION** is the process of **PUTTING TO DEATH** the deeds of the Flesh by the Spirit of God, which represents us taking up the cross **DAILY** and following Christ, and results in **HOLINESS.** To do so, we must fight the good fight of faith, and take hold of the eternal life given to us when we first believed. This is **TAKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD BY FORCE!!** In the process **the SPIRIT MAN takes dominance over the SOUL and BODY** (Rom 12:1-2 and 1Co 9:27).

Crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land is a type of entering into the fullness of the Holy Spirit, after putting to death the flesh by the cross. In the process, the "flow" of sin from the flesh of Adam upstream is stopped completely by the ark (Christ). Once across the Jordan, and as long as we remain obedient, we are victorious over our enemies (demons) and are able to **take the Promised Land, i.e. POSSESS OUR SOULS.** The occupants of the land (demons) are to be destroyed **completely.**

### **Note the PRESENT OR CONTINUING TENSE of these scriptures:**

6. **MAT 11:12** And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.** 29 **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**
7. **ACT 2:46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who WERE BEING SAVED.**
8. **ACT 15:11** No! We believe **it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved,** just as they are.”
9. **ROM 6:22** But **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap LEADS TO HOLINESS, and the result is eternal life.** 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

10. **1CO 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to **those who are perishing**, but **TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED** it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."
11. **2CO 2:14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. 15 For **we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are BEING SAVED** and those who are perishing.
12. **2CO 7:1** Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, PERFECTING HOLINESS out of reverence for God.**
13. **PHI 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 according to his good purpose.
14. **PHI 3:12** **Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected**; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, **I do not count myself to have apprehended**; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**
15. **HEB 12:1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
16. **IPE 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for **YOU ARE RECEIVING THE GOAL OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.**
17. **JAM 1:21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU.**

**You SHALL BE Saved: Salvation of the Body of Man**

**Salvation of the Body is known as REDEMPTION**, which will occur at the second coming of Christ, at the last trumpet of God, when the dead in Christ shall rise. The mortal body will be changed in an instant into the immortal and incorruptible body of Christ. This will occur on a future **Feast of Trumpets**, and will correspond to the 120<sup>th</sup> jubilee (6000 years) from Adam.

**Note the FUTURE TENSE of these scriptures:**

18. **LEV 25:23** **'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine**; for you are strangers & sojourners with Me. 24 **'And in all the land of your possession you shall grant REDEMPTION OF THE LAND.**
19. **MAT 10:22** "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But **HE WHO ENDURES TO THE END WILL BE SAVED.** 24:13 but **HE WHO STANDS FIRM TO THE END WILL BE SAVED.**
20. **LUK 21:27** "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 "Now **when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your REDEMPTION draws near.**"
21. **ROM 5:9** **Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more SHALL WE BE SAVED from God's wrath through him!** 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were

reconciled to him through the death of his Son, **how much more, having been reconciled, SHALL WE BE SAVED through his life!**

22. **ROM 7:24** O wretched man that I am! **WHO WILL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?**

23. **ROM 8:23** Not only that, but **we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for THE ADOPTION, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY.**

24. **ROM 13:11** And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for **now OUR SALVATION IS NEARER than when we first believed.**

25. **1CO 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (our BODY shall be SAVED).** 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

26. **EPH 1:11** In him we were also chosen, **having been predestined** according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And **you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance UNTIL THE REDEMPTION of those who are God's possession—**to the praise of his glory.

27. **EPH 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom **you were sealed for THE DAY of REDEMPTION.**

28. **1TI 4:16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for **in doing this you WILL SAVE both yourself and those who hear you.**

29. **PHI 1:27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that **YOU WILL BE SAVED—and that by God.**

30. **1PE 1:5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for **salvation ready TO BE REVEALED** in the last time.

31. **1CO 1:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and **RIGHTEOUSNESS (Salvation of the Spirit) & SANCTIFICATION (Salvation of the Soul) & REDEMPTION (Salvation of the Body) —**