

# The Salvation of Man

## II Peter 3:9

### Introduction:

Many speak of being “saved” today. We may ask the teacher, “What are we saved from?” The Bible speaks much of the salvation of man (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 2:12; I Thess. 5:9; II Tim. 2:10; Titus 2:11; Heb. 5:9; I Pet. 1:5-9). There are scriptures that tell us how to be saved. But again, what are we saved from? The word of God tells us that all of humanity will be judged according to their works (Jn. 12:48; Rev. 20:13). Those found guilty of sin will be cast into a lake of fire with the devil and his angels for an eternity of pain and suffering (cf. Rev. 20:10, 15). To be “saved” from this awful eternal agony our lives must comply with the word of God (Eph. 4:1ff).

### I. Consider God:

- A. God created a world whereby man is given a choice whether or not to serve Him:
  - 1. Why would God create a situation whereby man would have the opportunity to fail Him? (cf. Gen. 2:15-16)
  - 2. The creation is termed “very good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Note that the devil existed at the beginning of creation (cf. Gen. 3:1-5 / Rev. 12:9).
  - 3. God’s nature is just, righteous, and kind (cf. Jer. 9:24)
- B. God desires those who follow Him to be the same way He is (cf. Matt. 5:48; I Pet. 1:15-16; I Jn. 4:17).
  - 1. God is looking for the same good, right, just people to be His true disciples today (Jn. 8:31; 13:35; 15:8; I Jn. 3:10; 5:3).
  - 2. God gave laws to follow / man has a free will to determine whether to follow or not (Gen. 2).

### II. God Gives Instructions to Mankind that they might be Saved:

- A. God’s instructions are termed the gospel (good news). The good news is that we can be saved from the consequences of our sins.
- B. Those willing to follow God’s instructions will be saved (cf. Jn. 6:44-45).
- C. Jesus tells us that we must be born of “water and Spirit” (Jn. 3:4-5):
  - 1. Note: Being born of “water and Spirit” grants one an entrance into the “kingdom of God.” When determining the meaning of being “born of water and Spirit,” one must take into consideration that this equates to “entering into the kingdom of God.”
  - 2. The kingdom of God is the church of Christ (cf. I Thess. 2:12).
  - 3. One is “called” into the kingdom of God by the gospel message (II Thess. 2:13).
  - 4. The gospel message is that Jesus died so that man may receive the remission of sins. God, thereby, requests that man repent of sinful living and be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38).
    - a. Those on Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
    - b. Samaritans (Acts 8:12-13)
    - c. Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:36-38).

- d. The household of Cornelius (Acts 10:48)
- e. Disciples of John (Acts 19:1-5).
- f. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 2:16).

**III. God's Promise of salvation is conditional:**

- A. God **promises** the obedient salvation (cf. Gen. 12:3; Acts 2:39; 13:23, 32, 38; Gal. 3:14).
- B. God's promises have always been conditional (cf. Eph. 2:8):
  - 1. God promised land of Canaan to Abraham's seed but not without conditions (Gen. 12:7 compared to Josh. 21:43ff).
  - 2. God told Joshua that He had given Jericho to him; however, to receive God's gracious offer Israel had to comply with God's ordinances (cf. Josh. 6:1ff).
  - 3. Likewise, God tells us that we are saved by his gracious gift according to our faith (Eph. 2:8). When we look to examples of all those who were saved by God's grace we find that they heard the gospel, believed, confessed Christ, repented of sins, were baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, and were told to live faithfully.
  - 4. To deny that Jesus demanded these conditions is to deny Jesus (cf. Jn. 8:24).

**Conclusion:**

Have you received God's gracious gift of salvation? Why not accept God's promise of salvation today by complying with His standard? No one is asking you to do anything less or more than what the Bible reveals people to have done to become a Christian.