

Temporal Salvation

- I. This study highlights the distinction between eternal salvation which delivers from the *penalty* of sin and establishes *life and relationship* with God; and temporal salvation which delivers from the *power* of sin and establishes *active fellowship* with God by hearing, belief and obedience of the gospel.
- A. “Word of God” refers not only to the written/preached Scripture. It may also refer to:
 - 1. the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. **1JO 5:7; REV 19:13.**
 - 2. Christ’s effectual voice which has power to create (**HEB 11:3**) and to quicken/make alive. **JOH 5:25, 28-29; 11:43-44.**
 - B. Christ’s VOICE creates and *makes alive* (effectually regenerates and resurrects) independently.
 - C. Christ’s GOSPEL declares and *manifests life* in His new creatures which believe it.
- II. temporal: Lasting or existing only for a time; passing, temporary. Of or pertaining to time as the sphere of human life; terrestrial as opposed to heavenly; of man's present life as distinguished from a future existence; concerning or involving merely the material interests of this world; worldly, earthly. (Opp. to eternal or spiritual). See **2CO 4:18**.
- III. The question is often asked, “Are you saved?”
- A. A legitimate answer to the question is “From what?” Salvation must be qualified.
 - B. The word “saved” is synonymous with “delivered.”
JOE 2:32 c/w ACT 2:21.
- IV. A proper understanding of salvation is based upon a fundamental rule of Bible study: there are no contradictions in the Bible. **2PE 1:20; PRO 8:8.**
- A. There are verses in Scripture which speak of salvation as *conditional*.
 - B. There are verses in Scripture which speak of salvation as *unconditional*.
 - C. God is not double-minded; there is reconciliation of these verses.
- V. Scripture affirms that the *eternal* salvation (election unto justification, regeneration, deliverance from death in sin and from sin's penalty, and final resurrection) of sinners is entirely by the will of God through the covenant-work of Christ and it is *unconditional* in nature.
- A. Election (God's choice, **MAR 13:20**) of sinners unto the justifying power of Christ's blood is not based upon man's work or will. **1PE 1:2 c/w ROM 8:28-30; ROM 9:11-16.**
 - B. Regeneration or being born again as a child of God also is not based upon man's work or will. **JOH 1:12-13; 3:8; 6:63; 2TI 1:9; TIT 3:5.**
 - C. The acquisition of Christ's righteousness is not based upon man's work or will.
ROM 4:6; 5:19; 2CO 5:21.
- VI. Because of verses like **ACT 16:31**, many contend that the acquisition of eternal life is conditioned upon the sinner’s belief.
- A. It is said that belief is not a work, and therefore does not fall under the exclusion of human works which many verses declare.
 - 1. work: Something that is or was done; what a person does or did.
 - 2. **ACT 16:30-31** makes it clear that our belief is something that WE DO and is therefore a work. c/w **MAT 23:23; HEB 4:1-3, 9-11.**
 - B. If “saved” always means *eternal salvation* and belief is a condition which men must fulfil to acquire it, then what about:

1. confessing? **ROM 10:9-10.**
 - a. Some contend that believing and confessing are the same thing.
 - b. See **JOH 12:42.**
 2. baptism? **MAR 16:16.**
 3. calling on the name of the Lord? **ACT 2:21.**
 4. marine travel? **ACT 27:31.**
 5. hope? **ROM 8:24.**
 6. good memory? **1CO 15:2.**
 7. pregnant? **1TI 2:15.**
 8. a doctrinally stedfast preacher? **1TI 4:16.**
 9. works? **JAM 2:14, 17.**
 10. never folding or backsliding? **MAT 24:13.**
- C. There are diverse salvations / deliverances. **PSA 44:4; 18:17, 43, 48; 107:6; 116:8.**

VII. Given that eternal salvation is *unconditional*, and given that there is obviously salvation that is *conditioned upon faith and obedience*, it stands to reason that there is a salvation OTHER THAN eternal salvation that is for believers.

- A. The possession of eternal life must *precede* believing.
JOH 5:24; 1JO 5:1.
1. It is a just (justified) man who shall live by faith. **HEB 10:38.**
 2. The confession of belief that Jesus is Lord and Christ is PROOF of God's Spirit within. **MAT 16:16-17; 1CO 12:3.**
 3. (**1JO 4:15**) Whosoever SHALL confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God DWELLETH in him, and he in God.
- B. Paul labored, not to make men elect, but so that the elect might obtain another salvation.
2TI 2:10.
- C. Belief and obedience saves a child of God *from*:
1. ignorance of the truth. **JOH 7:17.**
 2. bondage. **JOH 8:30-32.**
 3. working his way into God's righteousness. **ROM 10:1-3.**
 4. chastening. **LUK 12:47-48; PHIL 2:14-15.**
 5. deception. **EPH 4:11-14.**
 6. an untoward generation. **ACT 2:40.**
- D. Belief and obedience saves a child of God *to*:
1. assurance of eternal life. **1TH 1:4-6; 1JO 5:13; JOH 6:47.**
 2. fellowship with like believers and with God. **ACT 2:41-42 c/w 1JO 1:3.**
 3. fullness of joy. **1JO 1:4.**
 4. the comforting ministry of the Spirit in the church. **ACT 2:38-39.**
 5. the abundant Christian life. **JOH 10:10.**
 6. the victorious Christian life. **1JO 5:4.**

VIII. Recognizing the difference between conditional and unconditional salvation is “rightly dividing the word of truth” (**2TI 2:15**).

- A. There is a salvation which God has wrought freely for all of the elect that establishes RELATIONSHIP with God *in eternity*. This is *eternal* salvation.
1. This salvation is of God's work and will.
 2. This salvation is unconditional.
 3. This salvation cannot be lost. **JOH 10:27-29.**
 4. The gospel DECLARES this *completed* salvation. **2TI 1:9-10; HEB 1:3.**

- B. There is a supplemental salvation which comes by believing and obeying the gospel that establishes FELLOWSHIP with God *in time*. This is *temporal* salvation.
1. The elect, regenerate man's will and work is very active in obtaining this salvation.
 2. This salvation is obviously conditional.
 3. This salvation can be lost through unbelief and sin. **HEB 4:11; 10:26-31.**
 4. The gospel is the MEANS of this *current* salvation. **1CO 15:1-2, 58.**