

## **We Can Know That We Are Saved**

John writes, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). John declares to those who believe on the name of the Son of God that they can know that they have eternal life. The word "know," means to have complete knowledge. It is possible to have complete knowledge of ones salvation. God has revealed to us a plan referred to as "the scheme of redemption," through which He has given us the means to understand and have a complete knowledge of our salvation. I believe that knowledge of this sort must begin by understanding where salvation comes from.

### **Salvation Is Of The Lord**

Salvation is of the Lord. It is mentioned hundreds of times throughout the Old Testament that salvation is of the Lord in one form or another. With such great emphasis placed on this subject by Old Testament writers, we should know that God wants us to understand that salvation is not of men but it is of Him. In Jonah chapter two, after being in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, Jonah began to pray to the Lord and in his prayer he states this great truth, "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9). It was in the hands of God to deliver Jonah from the belly of the great fish. Salvation was the Lord's to give or not to give. Jonah had been disobedient, but because he understood his sin and prayed to the Lord for forgiveness, the Lord delivered him from the darkness of the belly of the great fish. Men of all ages have known that salvation is of the Lord. Listen to the words of David, "Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people" (Psalm 3:8).

Our salvation is likewise in the hands of the Lord. David wrote, "But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalms 37:39). Luke wrote, "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).

## **God's Salvation Is Guaranteed**

By guaranteed, we mean that what God has given cannot be taken back. When we truly understand that God cannot lie, we will begin to understand that what God has promised, He will deliver. Paul wrote, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:3). The Hebrew writer wrote these things concerning God, "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" (Hebrews 6:18-19).

One of the greatest blessings of reading and understanding the Old Testament is that we can come to understand that all things which God has promised, He has always been able to fulfill. His words are true and have always been true and shall remain the same.

If God were to lie, then we would have something to worry about as it relates to our salvation. Then God could not be trusted to deliver that which He promised. But that is not the case. God cannot lie, therefore we have nothing to worry about with regard to God's part as it relates to the matter of our salvation. Knowing this should give one great joy and a peace of mind that all is well with ones salvation on God's part.

### **Salvation Is a Free Gift from God**

Paul wrote, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men," (Titus 2:11). Notice, it is God's grace that brings forth His salvation and His salvation has appeared or has been made available to all men. God's grace and His salvation have been freely extended to all of mankind. Paul wrote, "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more

they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:15-17).

God's love for mankind is so great that He give His only begotten Son (John 3:16) for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ was freely given by the grace of God to all of mankind. God wants us to have salvation and therefore He has done everything possible to make sure that we have salvation. Peter said, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

But as it is true with all gifts, God's gift can be refused. Men and women can say no to the gift of God. God's gift is not without conditions. Many have argued that if there are conditions, then the gift is not free. This is not true! Gifts have always been given with conditions placed upon them. Just recently I was given a new rod and reel, but in order for me to receive this free gift, I had to mail in my claim by a certain date and if it were not received by the date, then I would forfeit my right to the gift. Upon hearing the conditions that God has given us for His free gift of salvation, we can choose to say yes I will comply with the requirements, or no, I am not interested.

### **We Are Justified Through Jesus Christ**

In Romans 5:1-11, Paul sets forth the fruits of justification which are granted by the death of Christ. He also sets forth several blessings that we have as a result of our justification. In this we have: (1) Peace (2) Access to Grace (3) Hope (4) To have glory in tribulation. Justification assures the enjoyment of peace with God. This justification and peace is accomplished through our Lord Jesus Christ, that is, the gift of His life for sinful mankind. Paul adds to this peace the concept of grace in verse two. The word "access" means, "a leading or bringing into the presence of (pros, to, ago, to lead), denotes access, with which is associated the thought of freedom to enter through the assistance or favour of another" (Vine's p.21). By this we can understand that we are given assistance to enter into the grace of God by Jesus Christ. However, it should be noted that Christ has given conditions with which one must comply in

order to obtain God's grace. We have access by faith (verse 2). We also are justified by faith (verse 1), hence we have access by faith because we have been justified by faith. We are also justified by the blood (verse 9). This justification can only take place as one comes into contact with the blood of Christ. This happens in baptism (Romans 6:3-5). Therefore we have access to the grace of God through our obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes being baptized.

It is within this grace that we stand. To stand refers to the Christian's firm position. It is because of this strong stand that we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. The glory of God is referring to eternal life that every child of God can be assured of, if he endures to the end.

But there is more. "We glory in tribulation." Without hope there could be no glory in our tribulation, because tribulation would be of no value or without any meaning. Tribulations are a test of the Christian's endurance. It is this that causes the Christian to have more patience (steadfastness) (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58), and patience brings on experience, meaning "the effect of proving, approval, approvedness" (Vine's p.62), and experience brings on hope (cf. James 1: 2-4). We are told in Romans 5:5, that "hope maketh not ashamed." We are not ashamed because of the love of God. Seeing all that God has done for sinful man, how could the child of God be ashamed? One can be assured that that which God has promised of eternal life will be theirs, because God first loved mankind in as much as He proved His love first by sending His only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world (John 3:16). This we can be assured of by means of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to the Christian as an earnest of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-15). Ephesians 1:13 shows us that it is through the word of truth that one may have the indwelling of the Spirit.

In Romans 5:6 we learn that while we were without strength, that is, without ability to stand before God justified, Christ died for us making it possible through His strength for one to stand justified before God. It was all done in "due time," that is, when God decided the time was right. In verses seven and eight the concept is given that some men would give their life to save a good man, but who would give his life to save an evil man? Yet Christ did just that; He gave

His life in order that all men could have access into the grace of God. It is because of the death (blood) of Christ that sinful man can escape the wrath of God. We are reconciled to God by the death of His Son Jesus Christ. In this reconciliation we were unworthy (because we were enemies of God or sinners), yet God reconciled us in spite of this truth.

The life that is in Christ is given because of the resurrection of Christ. We die to sin when we are buried with Christ by baptism, then we are raised to walk in a newness of life (Romans 6:3,4). Because of the reconciliation that was accomplished by Christ, we can glory in God having peace with God.

God has required each person who would be saved to do the very same things. One must **Hear** the Word of God, Romans 10:17, **Believe** the gospel of Jesus Christ, John 8:24, **Repent** of his/her sins, Luke 13:3, **Confess** faith in Jesus Christ, Romans 10:9-10 and then **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38. In doing this, we will put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). After doing these things, we must **live faithfully** for Christ (Revelation 2:10).

Once we come into contact with the blood of Christ, which cleans us from all our sins, we must continue walking the Christian walk. As we do, the blood of our Lord will continue to cleanse us of our sins. Notice the words of John, "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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:7-9).

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to [www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm) or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

*God's Precious Promises...*

# We Can Know We Are Saved

by  
Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

© 2009



*International Bible Studies  
Tract Series*