

Question: "Would you provide a summary of salvation from the New Testament?"

As one reads the New Testament, it is apparent that many factors are involved in the salvation of man's eternal soul. Salvation, or being "saved," has to do with a rescue from great spiritual danger. Man is in danger because of his sins, for the wage he earns for sin is spiritual death and separation from God. Therefore God stepped in to rescue man from that fate, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord (Ro 3:23; 6:23).

The following is a brief summary of the use of the words "Savior," "saved" and "salvation" in the New Testament. The first several passages refer to the divine role in salvation. Look-up these verses, evaluate your life and enjoy the reading:

Saved by God — 1Tim 1:1 2:3 4:10

Saved by Christ — Luke 19:10 Jn 4:42

Saved by the Gospel — Rom 1:16 1Cor 15:1-2

Saved by Grace — Eph 2:8-9 Acts 15:11

Save by Mercy — Titus 3:4-5

Saved by Christ's Blood — Matt 26:28 Eph 1:7 Col 1:14

Saved by the Name of Christ — Acts 4:12

All the above are factors related to the divine role ("God's part") in man's salvation. The following are factors involving our personal role ("man's part") in salvation. The scriptures teach that each one of us, of accountable age, has a part in our soul's salvation.

Saved by Calling upon the Lord's Name — Rom 10:13 Acts 22:16

Saved by Faith — John 3:16 3:36 Acts 15:9

Saved by Repentance — Luke 24:46-47 Acts 2:38

Saved by Confession — Rom 10:9-10

Saved by Baptism — Mark 16:15-16 1Pet 3:21

Saved by Obedience to the Father and Son — Matt 7:21 Heb 5:8-9

Saved by Works — Ph 2:21 Jas 2:17-18

Saved by Hope — Rom 8:24

Saved by Effort — Acts 2:40 1Tim 4:16

Saved by Enduring Faith — Matt 24:13 Rev 2:10

There is a tendency among some to stress one factor in salvation and ignore others. The soul of man is not saved by any one factor alone. If we are to understand and please God, we must accept all that His word teaches on a given subject. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4).

Read these verses very carefully, consider the context in which they are written, and allow the seed of the kingdom (the word of God) to fall upon a noble and good heart (Lk 8:11-15). Ira Stanhill wrote the words to the following hymn, "Happiness is the Lord."

Happiness is to know the Savior,
Living a life within His favor,
Having a change in my behavior —
Happiness is the Lord

Happiness is a new creation,
Jesus and me in close relation,
Having a part in His salvation —
Happiness is the Lord

Indeed, there are several factors involved in salvation. In the beginning, God created all things, and He did so independently of man; but in salvation, God works with man to make him a new creature. Faith in Jesus Christ (by means of the gospel), repentance of sin, confession of faith and immersion in water are associated with man becoming a new creature (2 Co 5:17 Ro 6:3-4).

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