

- *What is Salvation?*

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The salvation that Jesus paid for with His life and the power of the resurrection that brought Him out of the grave, can't be considered just a ticket out of hell, or a ticket into heaven. So, as we think about salvation, let us not limit it to going to heaven or hell, but something greater. Though I believe these are very important questions let us not be bound to our understanding of salvation as just a matter of destiny. Salvation must be bigger than that, and more important than a spiritual insurance policy. Salvation is about a relationship that brings with it a new destiny, forgiveness, and redemption which comes from God through Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

The question may be asked: Why do I need a relationship with God? The answer is found in who we are. If you considered yourself an accident in history, then God will mean nothing to you, but if you consider life a bit more complex, and you think about why you are here. Then life will begin to open up to you. If you have wondered why our world is beautiful and complex and thought how all things work together, there can be only one answer - a Creator. Though the way to a relationship with God is not found in nature, it will show how much He wants to have fellowship with you. He has provided for all our material needs in this world. Let us give some thought about our relationship to the Creator. Psalms 19:1-6. The greatest offense to God is making Him like unto His creation or representing Him as a type of creation. That is why idolatry is a great sin in His eyes. Exodus 20:4-7; Romans 1:18-32

The Bible is the only authority, which explains the Creator's relationship to His creation. The created does not seek Him on his own as much as the ant does not seek fellowship with men. Therefore it is not us that seek the relationship, but it is God who has and is seeking us. One of the truths of scripture, which we must admit is that we are created and the testament of history is that God has interacted with His creation. The created must recognize that the Creator has all power over His creation, we need Him! Acts

17:24-31

Next we must consider that we are a spiritual beings and any relationship with God must begin on that level. God is a person! Therefore any fellowship with Him must begin on a personal level. Therefore God put in each of us a spiritual side, it is manifested in our conscience and hearts. The wonder and awe that we feel, the love and hate that burns in our heart, these all speak of our spiritual life. They prove that we are more than what appears on the outside and we are deeper than just food gatherers and reproductive beings. We are spiritual and thinkers, we grow and learn, we desire for change, we suffer and rejoice. We have a heart and conscience these play a major role in every aspect of our being. The conscience is our moral compass. Conscience touches our spiritual life - no one had to teach a child shame or love, it is natural as much as it is unnatural not to have it. The conscience is what God put in us as a natural compass; it only speaks of the Creator's touch in us. It was given to mankind to direct our relationships between each other. The created have ruined the conscience that God gave us. Conscience does not point us to a relationship to God, but will reveal our failure as moral beings and this is sin. Romans 2:1-8

God's written law is the replacement for our failed conscience it was given in order to control the actions of mankind. God in His wisdom gave to us a perfect law ( Exodus 20)

. God's law revealed to us the perfection of God and the justice of God. God's law was not just a restraint on behavior but also a rule for doing good ( Exodus 23:4-5)

. The problems for us began when we learned to break God's law and did not fear the consequences. The law's role in humankind is to show that we are weak because of our sinfulness

Romans 7:10

. The law reveals our failures towards the Lawgiver and our immorality. The law both points to the need for God and the need for change

Romans 7:14-17

. The breaking of God's law is both sin and unrighteousness - it is the failure of not doing right as much as it is doing wrong. Breaking the law is sin against God as a person and moral failure against our neighbor. Therefore we are sinners and the need for God has become greater than we can imagine. For God has commanded that all sins against Him as Creator and Lawgiver, along with all sins we have committed against each other must be punished. The law is not weak in it self, but our failure in keeping it shows our weakness as humans

Romans 8:3

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Knowing all that we have done to God, the worship of idols over the true Creator, the defilement of our conscience, and the breaking of God's law any relationship with God must first come with the confession of guilt on our part and a fear for the judgment we have earned. Our sins demands of us humbleness and brokenness before God. It reveals to us the need for forgiveness and change, so we can fellowship with God. For we must admit that our actions have offended God and mere human sorrow will not provide the change in us that would satisfy God. Because of who God is and His perfection and holiness He will not accept sin into His presence, in the end, we must be changed in order to have a relationship with God. Luke 13:3

The change that is necessary we cannot produce it, for we have utterly failed. We need a power that is greater than ourselves. There is only one person that can provide the needed change that is God himself. That is why Jesus Christ came to this world; He being God manifest in the flesh paid the price for our forgiveness and rose from the grave but for the purpose of bring us to the Father not just for us to be forgiven or to go to heaven (this is our selfishness do we really think salvation is really all about me). God has sought a relationship with you by doing all that He can to bring you back into fellowship with Him. No substitute will do in place of a living relationship with Him. God is not found in knowing facts about who He is, or in rituals, but in faith that He is all that we need. Jesus Christ made the way for you as Saviour, He provides all that is needed to bring you to the Father - God only asks you to have faith in Jesus Christ as the true provider of a new life. When you have new life you will know it. John 17:3