

How GREAT a SALVATION

#5

There is the proverbial saying “Well I have some good news and some bad news. Which one do you want first?” In dealing with Almighty God, there is exceedingly good news. However, for those who have not received His provision of Jesus Christ, there is bad news. To understand all that God has done for us, we need to first understand our condition before we came to know Him by placing our trust in Jesus Christ. So, as usual, we will start with the bad news, our condition before Christ came into our lives. Then, from there, we will get to the best news ever heard by humankind.

The Bad News

Read Colossians 1:21

How is our relationship to God described before we receive Christ? _____

Read Ephesians 2:12

What words are used to describe our position with God? _____

Our predicament was hopeless before we received Christ, as we will see in these strong descriptions of us.

Enemies of God – **Romans 5:10**

Spiritual Life? DEAD – **Ephesians 2:1**

Our best deeds compared to God – **Isaiah 64:6**

However, the good news is so great that the bad news fades in comparison. God did not leave us in this bad condition. He initiates with us to bring about a wonderful relationship with Himself. Humankind faces great peril if they ignore His great salvation.

The Good News

The Gospel, or the Good News, is that God desires for us to come into a wonderful love relationship with Him. When we become His child, by His grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9 and John 1:12), God declares many new things true about us. This is the best news ever heard! Let’s look at how God sees us after we receive Christ.

1. We are REDEEMED (rescued; ransomed; recovered at a cost)

Read Ephesians 1:7

What do you think it means to have “redemption through His blood”? _____

We have forgiveness for our sins in accordance with what? _____

Read Galatians 4:4-7

What does this passage call those who have been redeemed? _____

In the phrase, "So you are no longer a slave", what do you think we were slaves to?
Romans 6:6,7 _____

Redemption means freedom from slavery to sin. After we receive Christ, we are set free from the power of sin in our lives. It is like we were on the slave trading block of sin, and Jesus came and purchased us with His blood, then set us totally free.

2. We are JUSTIFIED (declared free of blame; freed from guilt and penalty)

Read Romans 5:1

Give your definition of the word *peace*. _____

Read Romans 8:1

Does God now condemn you in any way? Will He ever condemn you again? _____

Jesus' resurrection is God's stamp of approval that Jesus' death provided for our justification before a holy God...**Romans 4:25**

3. We are RECONCILED (a close relationship has been re-established; restored to harmony)

Read Colossians 1:21, 22

What does it mean to be "without blemish and free from accusation"? _____

Read Romans 5:10,11

Through whom are we reconciled to God? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

God has completely reestablished a close relationship with us through Christ. Christ took our sin and punishment upon Himself so you could be completely forgiven by

God. God has “not counted our sins against us”, and restored and settled the problem of sin.

4. We are AMBASSADORS (representatives; promoters...an immense privilege!)

What does it mean for you to be an ambassador for Jesus? _____

How could you implore (or urge) others to be reconciled to God? _____

Summary of Main Points

- Before we received Christ, we were alienated and hostile towards God. We were described as being strangers and enemies of God. We were spiritually dead, separated from God, and even our best works were like filthy rags to Him.
- God loves us so much that He initiates with us to bring us into a wonderful love relationship with Him.
- We have been redeemed, reconciled, and justified through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Our salvation brings us back into a relationship with our Creator. He is our treasure and with Him are pleasures forevermore. Heaven is real and it will be full of inexpressible and glorious joy with God.

Think – Has it ever crossed your mind that you were actually at one time an enemy of God? Meditate on what that would mean for your life and eternal destiny. Where would you be if Jesus Christ had not entered your life? Take a moment and thank God that He has redeemed, reconciled and justified you in Christ.

Memorize Romans 8:1