

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

September 7, 2021

SAVED ...from what?

Words have meaning. The biblical word “*saved*” means “to deliver or protect.” A person who is drowning needs to be saved from the water. A person trapped in a burning building needs to be saved from the flames. A person who is held captive needs to be saved from their captors. When someone speaks of being “*saved*,” I always ask, “Saved from what?”

The words “*save*,” “*saved*,” and “*salvation*” are used many times by the New Testament writers, yet there are only three verses which, while using these words, actually speak of what we are saved from.

The Apostle Paul told us that we “*shall be saved from wrath through him* (Christ).” This seems to indicate that “*salvation*” is “to be saved from wrath,” but an honest look at this passage reveals this “saving from wrath” is a promise of something in the future for the redeemed. This promise is given to those who are presently “*justified by his blood*” and already “*reconciled to God*.” Paul said, “*Much more then, **being now justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God** by the death of his Son, **much more, being reconciled,***

we shall be saved by his life.” Romans 5:9-10. If our “salvation” is “saved from wrath,” then being “justified by his blood” and being “reconciled to God” is not part of salvation because the promise of being “saved from wrath” is only given to those who have already been “justified by his blood” and “reconciled to God.” “Saved from wrath” is a future deliverance promised to those who have already received an even greater deliverance.

A second passage which speaks of being “*saved from*” was spoken by the father of John, the Baptist. Zacharias had been struck dumb by the angel Gabriel many months before the birth of John. After John had been born, Zacharias’s speech was restored, and he began to rejoice and prophesy of the redemption which was at hand, saying, *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be **saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that **we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies** might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life....”*** Luke 1:68-75. This prophesy clearly tells us that to be “*saved*” means to be “*delivered out of the hand of our enemies!*”

The clearest verse in the Bible that tells us what we are saved from was spoken to Joseph soon after Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. An angel appeared in a dream and said, "*Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*" Matthew 1:20-21. These simply words are filled with power and revelation for those who can receive it. Our greatest enemy is the sin which entered our heart and nature through the transgression of Adam. Jesus described "*Sin*" as a slave master which rules over us from within and causes us to commit acts of sin. John 8:34. This great enemy is what Jesus came to save us from. He came to "*save his people from their sin!*"

Salvation is a great deliverance. It is the work of the blood of Christ which delivers us from the power and presence of sin in our heart and life. While it is true that many people are called "*saved,*" which are bound by pornography, covetousness, profaneness, and other such things, it is evident they have not been saved from their sin. I am not questioning that some are sincere or even may have had some kind of encounter with God. But if they are indeed "*saved,*" the question is valid which asks, "**saved from what?**"