



The Doctrine of Salvation

We are saved FROM something.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT

- “Whatever else men have believed, they have all believed that there is something wrong with mankind.” (G. K. Chesterton)
- Sin brings problems both inside of us and outside of us. Sin accounts for so much of the evil that exists, in both the personal and communal spheres of our lives.

We are saved BY something.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2:4-9 NLT

- We were helpless and hopeless, BUT, because God loves us, because God is merciful, he does for us what completely unable to do for ourselves – he saves us by grace.
- Salvation is about our being rescued from our sin, brokenness, our shame, our guilt, from God's wrath, and from hell.

We are saved FOR something.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 NLT

- We have been saved for a clear and compelling purpose – and this purpose has everything to do with right now, how we are living our lives here on earth before we die.
- Biblically, it seems that God is less interested in getting us out of here so we can go up there, and more interested in using us to make up there come down here.