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Once Saved, Are You Set for Life?

Romans 5:17: (NASB) *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.*



A goose that lays golden eggs. King Midas and the ability to turn things to gold through “the Midas Touch.” A winning Powerball Lottery ticket. Confessing Jesus as your savior and inheriting an irrevocable one-way ticket to heaven. What do all of these things have in common? First of all, they all sound really good at the outset as they all provide a way to find some kind of wealth without work. It sounds like fun, though if you know the stories of the goose and King Midas, things didn’t work out so well. Secondly, they are all not based in reality, even Powerball, which has odds of winning placed at over one in 175,000,000 which translates into “not gonna happen, so don’t hold your breath.” Wait a minute; did we just imply that a one-way ticket to heaven is not based in reality? Yes, and no! Let us look!

To save means “to deliver.” What are we saved from? The answer is elusive depending on who you ask, but the simplest approach we can think of is to go to the Bible verses showing us the dilemma that creates the need for saving: *The sentence given to Adam and ultimately all of us.*

Adam was a perfect man. He was given the ability to think, to choose and have blessing and dominion, having been created in God’s image. Satan is the father of rebellion. He revolted on his own and then sought to get the human race to follow him in that rebellion. Satan wanted control, power and wealth. He wanted it all and that meant drawing the human race to him.

He lied and couched that lie in a bed of truth: Genesis 3:4-5: What was the “couch” of truth? That their eyes would be opened and they would be like God. What was the lie? *That they would not die!* Eve was deceived and took the bait. Adam was not there during the deception. He came in afterwards and had the ability to look at the situation and he made a choice without the coercion of Satan. **Adam chose disobedience.**

Genesis 3:6: Eve may have been deceived, but Adam made a choice. This represents the first conscious choice of humanity that was contrary to the will and way of God. Satan created a rebellion and Adam made the first conscious choice to act in a way contrary to the will and way of God. This has everything to do with the concept “once saved, you are saved for life.”

Saved means “to deliver.” What are we delivered from? Most Christians say, “I am saved from my sins and my sins are forgiven.” That is valuable but *not complete*. **Adam’s choice led to a life of sin and an end of death.**

Genesis 3:17-19: The dying process included a life now to be built within the confines of imperfection, which meant toil and failure on a regular basis. Mankind would now return to the elements - not just your body, but what makes you “you.” Death is simply going back to the pre-life state, the absence of life. But mankind needs to be “saved” from much more than death. For man to exist and to live godly, they need to be saved or delivered from: The earthly rule of Satan, the choice of sin and the result of the sentence of death.

Christians say that saving only comes through the name of Jesus. If this is the opportunity to be saved, wouldn’t it be sensible to say you have to acknowledge the name of Jesus *now*? We see it differently.

For salvation to work, Adam needs to be bought back. To “buy back” Adam would therefore accomplish “buying back” all of Adam’s descendants. Everyone downstream from Adam inherits what Adam started; therefore, according to justice, everyone would inherit whatever restitution was offered to Adam.

Let us offer a logical and sequential process to save (deliver) humanity from the clutches of Satan’s rule, the misery of sin and the penalty of death:

1. Because God is Just, he would first require that there would be a just payment for the transgression. Adam’s life was forfeit and as a result the lives of all his posterity would inherit that state of forfeiture. To “buy back” Adam would therefore accomplish “buying back” his posterity.



Genesis 1:28: Billions and billions of posterity! How do you make this work? How do you “save” all of humanity? **You begin by giving assurance (though veiled) that the entrance of sin is not the exit of God’s eternal will:** **Genesis 3:21:** How is this a veiled promise? When Adam and his wife realized they were naked, they covered themselves with leaves. *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them, which meant there had to be a sacrifice made with the shedding of blood. God gave a little message that there is both hope and the covering of shame through the shedding of blood.*

We then find those who are worthy of trust and form a lineage through them from which salvation will come. “Saving” is a process! If we understand God had a plan to save humanity right from the start, we need to be able trace the process God implemented.

Examples of the process of building the lineage: Noah: Genesis 6:7-8: Faith and trustworthiness were found in Noah. When Noah reached dry land, he offered a sacrifice of an animal which resulted in the shedding of blood.

Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3: Abraham also had great faith. He was willing to sacrifice his son, but the angel stopped him. A sacrifice was provided (a ram in the thicket), again with the shedding of blood. **Jacob/Israel: Genesis 49:1-2 Genesis 49:28:** God was now working with a nation and not just individuals. God’s plan for salvation would now expand by creating an environment to identify what sin is and from what we needed to be delivered. The Law was needed. **Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15:** Moses was considered the great deliverer. Moses delivered through the strength and direction of God. The picture of Moses delivering the people shows us what being saved really is. There were two aspects of being saved at that point: the firstborn and then the rest of the nation. Through the firstborn being saved, the rest of the nation was able to experience that deliverance. **Hebrews 10:1:** The Law identified sin.

You finally seal that veiled assurance by delivering the long-awaited deliverer - the one who “saves.” Jesus: Galatians 3:16: (NASB) *Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, and to seeds, as referring to many, but rather to one, and to your seed, that is, Christ. That takes the promise to Abraham (in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed) and shows us it is all about Jesus.*

Hebrews 10:4-5: The Law was there to show us models of blood sacrifice and having to give something up to get grace back from God. Jesus became the way, the tool of all of salvation.

The following text is a good place to define the work of the deliverer of all humanity:

Romans 5:12-14: Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given - therefore the penalty was clearly upon ALL humanity. That contradicts what the previous sound byte said. We all needed to be saved!

Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵*But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, (“the many” MUST mean all humanity according to the above context) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This MUST mean the same “many.”)*

So, the deliverer is said to be delivering ALL of the human race, *not* just a few faithful souls. The grace of God is for “the many.”

Having made the ransom for ALL abundantly clear, the Apostle now slightly changes focus:

¹⁶*The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. ¹⁷For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (again, who did death reign over? Everyone!) much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! Shows reigning and authority specifics. This shows the small group reigning over that large group. This is “being saved” in a DIFFERENT way than the world - more coming on this!)*

Romans 5:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity is again included in the deliverance) ¹⁹For as through the one man’s (Adam’s) disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. (Again - this is about ALL humanity being*



saved) ²⁰The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; (not that people became more sinful but that sin was more easily defined) but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale and ALL are spoken of here as on the receiving end of eternal life under a reign of grace. If this “two types of being saved” is true, doesn’t it present all sorts of logistical questions? We do not believe the Bible teaches everyone is saved right now. Even the Apostle Paul said he needed to be careful, *lest I myself become a castaway*. He said, “I have to be faithful and sacrificial in everything.” Once you are saved, no, you are not set for life. Once you have been given the grace of God through Jesus is when the work begins. If you are a called out Christian, the work begins right now.

2. Based on the ransom price that buys back Adam and therefore his posterity, you have to build a delivery and educational system for all of those billions to be truly informed and led through the process of redemption. This system is most logically made up of people who are not only trained but are truly trustworthy for such work. Such people of character are found in every walk of life.

After the ransom price, another lineage needs to be built; a lineage of people who come under the authority of Jesus, who are able to do the work of bringing the entire world back.

Jesus obviously and carefully prepared those whom he called for the rigors of their training: Luke 9:22-24: For the Christian, being saved is a presently active endeavor entirely built upon the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus. It requires our focus, attention and sacrifice. **Can just anyone line up as a true footsteps follower of Jesus? No!** John 6:41-44: That really limits things at this moment. Jesus is saying, “The only ones who can follow me are only those who are drawn by God.” God throughout His entire plan from the beginning made choice after choice because He read the hearts of those needed to do the job, from Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob, to Moses and more. *Participation in this present act of being saved is by invitation*. God chooses individuals who will be able to handle and do the job for the sake of “the everybody else.”

For those who are drawn of God, who are drawn into the process of being saved now: Romans 5:1-5,10-11: It is all about the growth and the effort on our part, for the grace we receive never lacks. For those who are called out, the Scriptures talk about being called to *glory, honor and immortality*. The path to this glory is a narrow one of trials, testing and sacrifice.

This effort is to seal our reconciliation, which takes place here and now: ¹⁰*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.* ¹¹*And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

We have been saved/reconciled and we pass this ministry on to the world: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19: How is this reconciliation, this opportunity to be saved passed on to the world?

Those who “belong to Christ” and are a “people for His name” as well as a “royal priesthood:” 1 Peter 2:9: So, the called out and saved are to be a priesthood for the rest of mankind, to show them the way back to God. But do they all want that reconciliation? No, but that does not mean they are not miserable.

The rest of the world is looking for the answers to their misery: Romans 8:19-21: In their misery, they are looking for deliverance and are really needing God’s help without even knowing it. Once “revealed” the followers of Jesus will then be able to help the world to be saved. The world’s deliverance is not a present activity but is a future activity. The present activity is the shaping, forming and developing of those few, true Christians who truly follow in the footsteps of Jesus. A future delivery is for the rest of the world.

3. The ransom is paid, the trained and trustworthy are in place and now the restoration can begin. This restoration takes the broken race of humanity and helps them learn to embrace the rule of God on a restored earth by having to answer for their own evil thoughts words and deeds and showing them how to choose eternal life through obedience.



Logically, once all of God's called ones are in place, now you start working on the "everybody else."

First of all, when does this saving become apparent to those of the world being saved?

John 5:28-29: The world will know they have been given the grace of God by the sacrifice of Jesus when they wake up from the dead. There is nothing like being raised from the dead to get someone's attention!

There are several Scriptures that show us being saved comes in two stages.

This proves the process of being saved follows two completely different processes:

1 Timothy 4:10: (KJV) *For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.* (Those who receive it now will reign.)

Here we have two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom.

1 John 2:2: (NIV) *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.* (The people are broken down into two different categories.)

No one is left out because the grace of Jesus touches every man. This is what justice required.

If being saved is at a different time for the world, does it still work the same way?

Once saved, are you set for life? No, because that is when the work begins. Being delivered simply means having the grace of the ransom of Jesus applied to you. Those who follow after Jesus have it applied to them now because they have given up their life-rights to an earthly life. The rest of the world will have the ransom of Jesus applied later once they are raised from the dead.

Second, salvation for anyone at any time must come through the name of Jesus:

Acts 4:10,12: How humbling it will be for the nation of Israel to be resurrected and realize that Jesus was the Messiah. They will quickly rejoice and honor and praise God. It will also be humbling for the world who looked for their salvation in their political figures, etc. to realize none of what they could do could save us.

Let us look at the following account as a template of the *future* process by which men will be saved.

The template - realizing their lack: Acts 17:22-23: (NASB) *²²So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.* (Paul subtly says, let me show you who this UNKNOWN GOD is.)

A prophetic fulfillment - the lack is fulfilled: Zechariah 8:20-23

The template - misplaced honor: Acts 17:24-28

A prophetic fulfillment - proper honor: Psalms 86:7-10

The template - saved! Acts 17:29-31

A prophetic fulfillment: Isaiah 42:3-4

God is merciful and will faithfully bring forth justice in the earth. It is all about earthly salvation through the faithfulness of the true Christians who are blessed to go to heaven. There is a heavenly salvation and an earthly salvation, and EVERYONE has an opportunity to be saved and delivered. Once you are delivered, your work then begins to walk the path of life. For the Christian, now it is the path of sacrifice, and for the rest of mankind, they will walk the path of righteousness, following God's will, later after their resurrection.

The plan of God includes everyone. Once saved, go to work!

**So, once saved, are you set for life?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**