

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SALVATION

BORN AGAIN



GRACE

Wm. F. Bekgaard

A PRESERVED EDITION

The Significance of Salvation (Born Again)

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A fore-note: Every one of the blessings cited are not the result of any earned, deserved, merit, but are by the Grace

of God alone — and that, brought about by the blood of Jesus. No works or special status has produced any of these features of salvation. However, Salvation of the soul does not end there. After salvation an obedience to the commandments of Christ is expected of His children. Salvation is only the beginning — We begin with Salvation and are to advance in a new life.

A. The salvation process begins with Christ and His invitation to Life Eternal.

I. The requirement of personal righteousness, and the invitation to come to Christ

²⁰ For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:20 KJV)

²⁸ Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.
(Matt. 11:28-30 KJV)

II. A transition is needed from death unto Eternal Life.

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matt. 7:13-14 KJV)

III. The way and the gate to eternal life is by faith. — Faith and believing on the Son of God.

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
(Jn. 3:15 KJV)

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (Jn. 3:36 KJV)

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (Jn. 1:12-13 KJV)

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (Jn. 5:24 KJV)

B. Whenever a person repents of his sins and receives Christ as his savior he becomes a new man and many things about his nature are transformed.

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17 KJV)

²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:24 KJV)

For the newly saved Born of God it is to realize that something significant has happened. Something, actually a lot, is different about him or her. They have just become children of God, redeemed from sin and now given a new life.

But what have they, the children of God, or we, become? What gifts have been set in us? What graces, conditions are now ours? Are there new certain qualifications positioned within us for other graces?

C. Salvation has brought to us many virtues. Virtues which are now grafted into those who are saved, born of God.

Once saved, tremendous blessings are bestowed upon them. What have they become? Salvation has imparted to us and made us to become Justified, Sanctified, Reconciled, Redeemed, and Forgiven. Added to this are the promises of an eternal resurrection, a glorification of our bodies, and security. All this by the Blood of Christ.

Features of the Saved.

I. Righteousness — Sanctification

³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and **righteousness**, and **sanctification**, and **redemption**: (1 Cor. 1:30 KJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation

through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: (2 Thess. 2:13 KJV)

²⁴ Being **justified** freely by his grace through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation *through faith in his blood*, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (Rom. 3:24-25 KJV)

II. Reconciliation

¹⁸ And all things *are* of God, who **hath reconciled us** to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry **of reconciliation**;

¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**. (2 Cor. 5:18-19 KJV)

III. Redemption —The Price

Redemption means to "buy back" and almost always has to do with slavery. The price of our redemption was costly. Free to us, but costly to our Lord. What was redeemed? What was the price paid to? Redemption broke the bondage of our previous life to sin. A true freedom of choice is now made for the redeemed.

³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and **redemption**: (1 Cor. 1:30 KJV)

¹⁴ In whom we have **redemption through his blood**, *even* the forgiveness of sins: (Col. 1:14 KJV)

⁷ In whom we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Eph. 1:7 KJV)

IV. Security

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. (Jn. 10:28-29 KJV)

V. Sealed With A Pledge

A primary usage of sealing is that it is a mark of ownership. To be sealed is an acknowledgment of being the possession of another. In the case of the saved we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. We are God's possession.

The earnest is a pledge or a down payment of a promise yet to be fulfilled. And the pledge given to us is our future inheritance and redemption at the resurrection.

Notice the progression of the following verses. 1) Sealed — 2) Earnest — 3) Redemption

¹³ In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

¹⁴ Which is **the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption** of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Eph. 1:13-14 KJV)

VI. Promises — of Adoption — God Is Our Shepherd

²³ And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.** (Rom. 8:23 KJV)

¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd**, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.** (Jn. 10:14-15 KJV)

²⁷ **My sheep** hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. (Jn. 10:27-29 KJV)

D. Salvation qualifies the child of God for further blessings and positions within the Kingdom of God.

Having Salvation qualifies us for baptism. — For Church Membership — For Brideship. — For Rewards. — To Render Acceptable Prayers, Worship, and Glorification of God.

E. There is More

I. The Promise of Rewards

⁴¹ He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man **shall receive a righteous man's reward**.

⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall **in no wise lose his reward**. (Matt. 10:41-42 KJV)

¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and **my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be**. (Rev. 22:12 KJV)

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. (Jn. 14:1-3 KJV)

II. Eternal Life — Its Abundance and its Private Graces Given

Salvation is Eternal Life flowing with outpourings of Graces. — Of Peace. — Of Joy. — Of Gladness — Being A Child of God

III. Gifts Made possible by Salvation

⁷ But unto every one of us is **given grace** according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men**. (Eph. 4:6-8 KJV)

¹³ And now abideth **faith, hope, charity**, these three; but the greatest of these *is* **charity**. (1 Cor. 13:13-14:1 KJV)

IV. The saved have The Abiding Presence of the Holy Spirit.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Rom. 8:9-11 KJV)

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Heb. 13:5-6 KJV)

¹⁴ For, as many as by God's Spirit are being led, the same, are God's sons,

¹⁵ For ye have not received a spirit of servitude, leading back into fear, but ye have received a spirit of sonship, whereby we are exclaiming--Abba! Oh Father! Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (**ROT** Romans 8:14, 15)

[Rot —Rotherham the Emphasized Bible]

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Lk. 11:11-13 KJV)

F. Salvation and Persecution.

Those Christians who publically and faithfully identify themselves with Christ can face a very definite possibility of persecutions of one kind or another.

Salvation is a very private affair. Unless it is publicly made known none but the one saved has any knowledge of his or her salvation.

Baptism is the public open identification with Christ. But this carries with it a certain amount of risk of harassment or mistreatment. Whenever we take a stand with God and His teachings there are those who will scoff, ridicule or mock. However, these are mild as to what can happen as we have learned of the persecutions during the dark ages.

Here are the words of Christ —

¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (Jn. 15:18-20 KJV)

We should be prepared sort this treatment of abuse and not allow fear to dissuade us from doing all which Christ commands us.

¹⁰ Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matt. 5:10-12 KJV)

F. The Blood of Christ

The blood of Christ has not only purchased His church, but also washes away the sins of the repentant. (Rev 1:5). — By His blood there is eternal redemption (I Peter 1:18,19). — His blood sanctifies men (Heb. 13:12). — His Blood justifies men (Rom. 5:9), and — His blood reconciles men unto God (Rom. 5:10). Indeed, in order for all this to be done the blood sacrifice of Christ had to be accomplished.

This blood salvation existed in anticipatory before the foundation of the world was laid. God's Salvation was provided before the need ever existed.

. . . the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
(Rev. 13:8 KJV)

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev. 22:17 KJV)

2 Corinthians 1:21 -22 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [is] God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” Those who received the anointing and the sealing, also received the earnest of the Spirit. If you say that all saved are sealed by the Spirit at first faith, then you must also believe that all saved are likewise anointed and given the earnest of a fuller inheritance.

All of this teaches that the significance of Salvation itself is a far cry from just escaping the torments of hell. The depth of the blessings by Christ upon the saved we cannot even begin to comprehend. God's love for His children is boundless and His Grace boundless. All this comes from God's Love and Goodness. Is not repenting and accepting God's offer of Salvation the wise thing to do?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SALVATION

Salvation is more than deliverance from judgment. In this Scripture-rich study, Wm. F. Bekgaard examines the many blessings bestowed through the grace of God and the blood of Jesus Christ.

The study considers righteousness, sanctification, reconciliation, redemption, forgiveness, security, adoption, spiritual gifts, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, and eternal hope.

It also reminds believers that salvation is the beginning of a new life of obedience, public identification with Christ, faithful service, and steadfastness amid persecution.

This preserved edition presents the original study without alteration.

Wm. F. Bekgaard

ARTICLE EDITION