



What Does it Mean to Be Saved?

By Richard Allen Golko

About the Christian Culture Center

Mission Statement

The Christian Culture Center is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to help increase the impact of Christ in our culture. Through grants, programmes, and services, we help empower Christians to accomplish God's will on earth.

The Christian Culture Center has a vision to help establish life-changing Christianity in all the cultures of our world. Currently operating in North America and the United Kingdom, contacts are being made in Australia and South America to begin work there.

Tell Your Story

We invite you to visit The [Christian Culture Center web site](#) and Tell Your Story. We have launched what we hope will be the largest international drive ever to reach the largest number of people with the Salvation Story – the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

You can share your own testimony with others using tools on the web site. It's completely free and easy to use. We provide simple guidance on the web site to show you how you can tell your story to the world.

What Does it Mean to be Saved?

Salvation is the great subject of the Bible from Genesis 3:16 all the way through Revelation 22:21. But why does mankind need 'to be saved' and how can someone 'be saved?' This document answers these important questions straight from the Bible.

***PLEASE SHARE THIS DOCUMENT WITH EVERYONE YOU KNOW!
HELP US REACH EVERYONE WE CAN!***

Visit [The Christian Culture Center web site](#) often
for translations of this document into other languages.

If you want to help translate this document please let us know be [sending an email here!](#)
Our goal is to reach the whole world and we need your help!

Contents

What Does it Mean to Be Saved?	5
The Word "Saved"	5
Before Man Needed Salvation	6
The Fall of Man	7
How to Get Saved	10
About the Christian Culture Center	3
Tell Your Story	3

What Does it Mean to Be Saved?

Most of us in the western world have heard it at some time or another -- have you been saved? Some people say "yes," others run for cover and most people just think there's something wrong with the person that asked. Have you been asked that question? Did you know what was meant? Do you think the person who asked you knew?

What does it mean to be "saved"? What is "salvation" all about? Is there really anything to it or is it just a catchphrase Christians use?

The Word "Saved"

Since the concept of salvation comes from the Bible, the Bible is the only reliable source of information for this subject. The Bible is very clear about what salvation is, how to obtain it, and what it means to be saved. I believe God authored the Bible through men whom He entrusted and that it is absolute truth.

So let's go directly to the Bible and see what it has to say. To do this it is good to understand the words the Bible uses in the way they were used when they were written. The main Greek word used for "saved" is the word "sozo" which literally means "to be made whole." To be "saved" means "to be made whole" which implies there was some lack previously, or some "unwholeness."

The way we understand the word "saved" today is to when you are in some type of danger and you are removed from that danger, or that danger is removed from you. When you are "taken out of harm's way" you can say you have been saved. The Bible also uses the word "saved" in this sense.

Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son; and you shall call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins.

The first reference to the word "save" in Matthew tells us several things. It tells us who is going to do the saving, who is going to be saved, and what they are going to be saved from.

First it says that someone named Jesus, who has just been born in Bethlehem, is going to do something that will save "his" people from "sin." Other parts of the Bible explain who Jesus' people are, and what "sin" is.

One of the main words in the Bible used for "sin" literally means to "miss the mark." If you picture yourself trying to hit the bulls-eye of a target and you miss it, you could think of that as "missing the mark" or as "sinning." The word "sin" is not very popular because of religious connotations, but all it means is that you do not measure up to the right standard of righteousness God has put forth as what is required to live in fellowship with Him. You "miss the mark" of righteousness because you are a member of the human race. We'll look at this in more detail later.

Let's look at a few more verses that use the word "save" or "saved."

Matthew 18:11

For the Son of man came to save that which was lost.

One of the many titles the Bible uses for Jesus is "the son of man" since Jesus was born of a human mother. This Jesus came for a specific purpose, to save that which was lost.

Before Man Needed Salvation

A good study of the Bible reveals that sometime long ago when God made mankind, that mankind was not in a state that needed to be saved.

The following verses describe this time.

Genesis 2:7-13

7 And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

8 And Jehovah God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made Jehovah God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became four heads.

11 The name of the first is Pishon: that is it which compasses the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

12 and the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasses the whole land of Cush.

14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goes in front of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 And Jehovah God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die.

To summarize, God made man a living being (the word soul is also translated "being" many places in the Bible). He put man in a beautiful garden full of vegetation and with two trees of special significance. One was the tree of life and the other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God specifically told man to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for if he (man) did, he (man) would surely (certainly, without a doubt) die. Man was free to eat from any other tree

and God had given man no other command than the one not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God then made a woman for the man, directly from man's body, and placed her in the garden with him (you can read Genesis 2:18-24 for the details).

At this point in time, mankind was not in need of salvation. Both the man and woman were complete and walked in total fellowship with God. They could communicate with God and they were obedient to Him. All was well. They had not eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but they also had not eaten from the tree of life.

The Fall of Man

Mankind's state of perfection quickly changed when man deliberately disobeyed God's direct command. Through man's own choice, being fully aware of the consequences, man chose to remove himself from God's presence and this resulted in what we call "the fall of man."

Let's see what happened that caused mankind to be in a state where he needs to be saved.

Genesis 3:1-10

1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yeah, hath God said, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat:

3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die:

5 for God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as God, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And Jehovah God called unto the man, and said unto him, Where are you?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

The woman was deceived into eating fruit from the very tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had commanded not to eat from. The man who received the command was not deceived, he knew exactly what he was doing and ate of the fruit himself. That is direct disobedience.

"Their eyes were opened and they knew..." All of a sudden they felt naked and they felt they had to cover themselves. They felt guilt for the first time in their lives. They knew they had done something they shouldn't have; they knew evil for the first time. Before this they had only known what good was. The tree was truly the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for now they knew what evil was. And they went into hiding from the presence of God.

Reading on, you discover the grave (pun intended) consequences of man's actions. God said man would "surely die" as a result of the disobedience and that is exactly what happened. Man died at the ripe old age of around 900 years old. Originally, man was meant to live forever but this act of disobedience cut it short.

God had said "for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." It appears that did not happen, for the man lived on many years after that. But God does not lie.

Something else happened the day man ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man died in the spiritual sense. The spirit of God, which was "God's image" in man, was removed.

You cannot smell, taste, touch, feel or see spirit. It is compared to the 'wind' in the Bible because you cannot see wind, but you can see its effect. Man was originally formed from the dust of the ground (the body), then God breathed the breath of life into man (man became a living soul or living being), and God created His image in man, which was spirit. But that spirit was given on the condition that man walk in obedience to God. When man disobeyed God, the invisible spirit was removed and man was "lost." Death ensued. Man needed to be saved from death.

It is interesting to note that when Adam had children, the Bible speaks of them being in Adam's image, not in God's image (Genesis 5:1-5). Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost – mankind and the entire creation. Man was given the dominion of the earth and technically he transferred that right to God's arch enemy, the serpent, also called the devil in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that the entire creation is under the "fall" and needs to be redeemed.

Romans 6:12

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey the lusts thereof:

When discussing the return of Jesus to the earth and the resurrection of the dead, the Bible says this must happen:

I Corinthians 15:53,54

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in

victory.

(See also Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 4:11 and 5:4.)

The "soul" in the Biblical sense is simply "breath life" or mortal life. Breathing is evidence a being is alive, whether human or otherwise. When the being dies, breathing stops. There is no life there whatsoever. Death is defined as the absence of life.

Genesis 3; "...you shall not surely die." Although it appears man lived on, he died in the very day he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He died spiritually then years later he died physically. This result is not what God wanted. God wanted man to obey Him, eat from the tree of life and live forever. But instead, man was driven from the garden, banned from eating from the tree of life so he would not be preserved forever in a fallen state, and was in dire need of salvation.

Consider the conclusion of what has been presented so far. A person is born "in sin" because of the original sin, the fall of man. In that unsaved state, he or she has been separated from God and does not have eternal life. The following verses state this directly. This passage is lengthy but please read it completely because it will help you understand this very clearly.

Romans 5:6-21

6 For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die.

8 But God commends his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him.

10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life;

11 and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

12 Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned:

13 for until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the trespass, so also 'is' the free gift. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God, and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound unto the many.

16 And not as through one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment came of one unto condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses unto justification.

17 For if, by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one; much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Jesus Christ.

18 So then as through one trespass the judgment came unto all men to condemnation; even so through one act of righteousness the free gift came unto all men to justification of life.

19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one shall the many be made righteous.

20 And the law came in besides, that the trespass might abound; but where sin abounded, grace
did abound more exceedingly:

21 that, as sin reigned in death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You may not understand all of what Romans 5 above teaches, but if you grasped the concept of one man, Adam, causing the death of the entire human race, and the work of Jesus reversing that for those who accept his sacrifice, then you see the picture pretty clearly!

What did Jesus do to accomplish the salvation of all who believe? He obeyed God's commands (Adam did not). He did what God asked him to do and the opposing spiritual forces did not like that and killed him. They killed a faultless Jesus who did not deserve to die. God counted the sacrifice of Jesus' sinless life as the payment-in-full for Adam's sin.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So is everyone now saved? How does one "get saved?"

God requires one thing from any person who wants to be saved. He wants you to believe that Jesus is Lord. To do that you must believe that he raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus can't be Lord if he isn't alive. God raised Jesus from the dead and made him Lord, ruler, over all.

How to Get Saved

Getting saved is easier than you might think. Let's let the Bible show us how to get saved.

Romans 10:9, 10

9 if you shall confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shall believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved:

10 for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

If you believe Jesus is Lord, confess it. Say Jesus is Lord. Believe God raised him from the dead and you shall be saved. That is all it takes. Why is it so easy? Because of what Jesus accomplished for you, on your behalf. You couldn't live a perfect life on your own because of what Adam did (you inherited sin by birth), so God made an allowance. He had his own son, who was born of a woman but whose life came from God.

Jesus was born sinless because the life within him was not from Adam, it was from God his Father. Jesus was the only one who was qualified to do what he did, and by his own free will he chose to do God's will and he succeeded. To prove God's acceptance of his sacrifice, God raised Jesus from the dead and made him Lord over all.

Conclusion

Soon Jesus will return to claim that which is his. When he returns he will raise the dead, those who believe in him first. Those who believe in him and who are alive when he returns will be gathered together with the ones he raised from the dead and we will be with him from that point on, eternally.

Are you ready?

Have you been saved?

Now you should know what that means.

You should also know how to get saved and to share God's invitation through Christ with others.

Thank you for reading this and I urge you to pass it on.

Richard Allen Golko

[The Christian Culture Center](#)