

SALVATION

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The fact that there are many salvations taught in the Scriptures is taught throughout the Old and New Testaments. The three words "shall **be saved**" are used about 26 times in the Scriptures; ten in the Old and 16 in the New Testament. (See Psalms 80:3-7; Proverbs 28:18; Isaiah 45:22; Jeremiah 17:14; Matthew 10:22; Mark 16:16; John 10:9; Acts 2:21; I Timothy 2: 13-15 and many more.) Please take the time to read these verses and consider that if eternal salvation is under consideration in these verses, the people of God would be in total confusion about eternal salvation. Many of the people of God **are** in total confusion about eternal salvation because they only think of "eternity" when they see the word 'save' , "saved" or "salvation" in the word of God. Some of the people of God take some of these Scriptures where the words "shall be saved" are used, and base eternal salvation upon the works of men contained in those verses.

Every verse of Scripture that bases a salvation or condition of "being saved" upon the works of man in any way, deals with "time" or 'gospel" or "soul" salvation for the people of God as they live here in this world. The salvation that is the primary consideration in this article however is "eternal salvation."

"THE ETERNAL PURPOSE"

In Ephesians 3: 7-11, the apostle Paul declares why God made him a "minister": "that I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ". Then in verses 10-11, he said: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by THE CHURCH the manifold wisdom of God, according to the ETERNAL PURPOSE which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord". The "eternal purpose" of God which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord was done in eternity before the creation spoken of in Genesis 1:1. This "ETERNAL PURPOSE" of God included the entire work of the eternal salvation of all the ELECT OF GOD from the beginning of the world to the end thereof.

Paul said in II Timothy 1: 9-10: "Who (God) hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO **HIS OWN PURPOSE** AND GRACE WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS **BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN**. But is now made manifest, by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death and hath brought LIFE AND IMMORTALITY to light

THROUGH THE GOSPEL'. In these two verses of Scripture are some truths that few of the people of God in our day really believe: That GOD ALONE saves all who are saved; and He saves them "according to his own purpose and grace which was given us (those who are saved) in Christ Jesus before the world began." That which God purposed to do in that eternal purpose is "now made manifest" by the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These two verses of Scripture also teach that He "abolished death and brought life and immortality **TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL**. There is a vast difference between bringing "life and immortality through the gospel" and bringing "life and immortality **TO LIGHT** through the gospel." Please notice the DIFFERENCE in the two statements just made. The great majority of the people of God in our day think that Christ brought life and immortality through the gospel, but this is not the teaching of the word of God; this is man's doctrine.

There are those who believe that God calls and saves His elect in regeneration through the preaching of the inspired word of God. Primitive Baptists have never believed this. In the above Scripture from II Timothy 1.10, one of the things Christ did was. "and hath brought life and immortality TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL". The "light" spoken of here is SPIRITUAL LIGHT! The ONLY PEOPLE who have SPIRITUAL EYES with which to see the SPIRITUAL things which are brought to "light through the gospel", are those born of the Spirit of God. The brightest NATURAL LIGHT in the world can be put on natural objects, but those who have no natural life can not see those objects. This same simple truth also applies to Spiritual things. The brightest gospel light may be shined in the face of those who are SPIRITUALLY DEAD, but they cannot see Spiritual THINGS! "Life and immortality" are brought to light through the gospel so that those who are born of the Spirit of God can see what comes from God to His elect people THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD! The "light" of the gospel is foolishness to the natural man. (I Corinthians 2:14).

JESUS SAVES

In the above Scriptures from II Timothy 1:10 we again make reference to the statement: "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ". God waited nearly four thousand years after the creation before the "Saviour Jesus Christ" appeared, but He was saving the elect of God from the beginning of the world. There has never been but one SAVIOUR! But some have always wanted to inject the works of men into the eternal salvation of those who shall be in the eternal heaven.

In Isaiah 43:11, we find these words: "I, EVEN I, am the Lord; and **beside me there is NO SAVIOUR**". These words are repeated in Isaiah 45:21 and Hosea 13:4.

We confirm again that all who have ever been saved with eternal salvation have been saved by the ONE AND ONLY SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST and that has always been done without the help of man in any way, including the preaching of the inspired word of God. The glory of that work in its perfect completeness belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ. He said in Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another". When men attach the works of men to the eternal salvation of heaven-born souls, they are taking glory from Christ which the truth of God's word does not do. The truth of the word of God concerning eternal salvation gives all the glory and praise to ONE SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: NOW AND FOR ALL ETERNITY!

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

In Isaiah 9:6, God inspired Isaiah to declare these words to Spiritual Israel in his day: "Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" This speaks again of the One Saviour, Jesus Christ. God has given His Son, the Saviour of Sinners, to His elect people in all ages and generations through the work of the Holy Spirit! For the first 2500 years, there was not one word of the Scriptures in the world. For the first four thousand years the world was in existence, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (as it is now revealed to the apostles and prophets by the Spirit) was not in the world. (See Mark 1:1-4; Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:1-5, Colossians 1:25-27.)

Even today, approximately two thirds of the people in the world have never heard the first word of the Bible. Yet some men say that if God does not send the gospel to a people this is evidence that God does not have a people where He does not send the gospel! This is contrary to the teachings of the Scriptures. Revelation 5:9 says: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood **OUT OF EVERY KINDRED, AND TONGUE AND PEOPLE AND NATION**". Then in Revelation 7:9, the Scripture records these words: "After this I beheld, and, lo a GREAT MULTITUDE, WHICH NO MAN COULD NUMBER. **OF ALL NATIONS, AND KINDREDS, AND PEOPLE, AND TONGUES, STOOD BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB**, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice saying, SALVATION TO OUR GOD WHICH SITTETH UPON THE THRONE, AND UNTO THE LAMB". These words are in perfect harmony with the words God spoke to Abraham in Genesis 12:3b "and in thee (in Abraham's seed which is Christ, Galatians

3:16, 29). SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED". God has a people in every family, kindred, tongue, people and nation redeemed by the blood of Christ, and called by the Spirit of God in regeneration without the preaching of the gospel, or any other work of man.

"THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR"

In Titus 3:5-7, the word of God says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done (this includes preaching the gospel which is a work of righteousness, Acts 13:2) but according to HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH HE SHED ON US ABUNDANTLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR: THAT BEING JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE, WE SHOULD BE MADE HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE." The word "shed" in the expression "which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" means the same thing as it does when it speaks of the "shed" blood of Christ; it means to "pour". The word of God declares that every work of God in the eternal salvation of His elect family who shall be in the eternal home that is reserved in heaven, is "shed on us abundantly THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR".

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth (pleaseth), and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: So is everyone that is born of the Spirit". (John 3:7,8). These words like all other truths of God have been truth through all the ages of the world. The act of God in regeneration is here compared to the blowing of the wind. The wind blows where it listeth or pleaseth. according to God's own purpose and will! Even so it is also with the movement of the Spirit of God!

In Genesis 1:2-3, we find these words: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be Light, and there was light". This light was not the light of the sun, the moon or the stars which were not created until the fourth day. (See Genesis 1:14-17.) The light in Genesis 1:2-3 was not the light of the gospel or the inspired word of God. To me, it was the **light of God** that the **Spirit of God** brought when it moved upon the face of the waters, which was upon the face of the earth.

In II Corinthians 4:6, Paul said by inspiration: "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness. hath shined in our hearts, to give the 'light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of JESUS CHRIST". God SHINES in the hearts of His elect

in the same way He commanded the light to SHINE in Genesis 1:2-3!! He did it in Genesis 1:2-3 without the help of man in any way and He is still doing that in 1990. He does it through JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST. When He has shined in the hearts of His elect by the Spirit, through Christ, He gives His elect Spiritual power and capacity: Spiritual eyes with which to see the things that come to "light" through the gospel. The Good news of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as it is in TRUTH is the greatest blessing this side of the eternal glory world. "Unto you therefore which believe, he is PRECIOUS"! (I Peter 2:7a). God help those who see and know this truth, to bear witness of it to the glory of God OUR SAVIOUR!