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ARE YOU SAVED?

It is surprising how many people wince at this simple question. They don't mind talking about church or religion or Christianity, but the word "saved" makes them uneasy. If you should ask one hundred people the question "Are you saved?", a large proportion of them would actually resent it. They just don't like the use of the word "saved" – probably because of its implications. But why should anyone object to the use of this word?

The Lord Jesus used it:

- "... these things I say, that ye might be **SAVED**." (John 5:34);
- "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be **SAVED**." (John 3:17);
- "... for I came not to judge the world, but to **SAVE** the world." (John 12:47).

The apostle Peter used it:

- "And with many other words did he

testify and exhort, saying, **SAVE** yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40);

- "Neither is there **SALVATION** in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be **SAVED**." (Acts 4:12);
- "And if the righteous scarcely be **SAVED**, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:18).

The apostle Paul used it:

- "Who [God] will have all men to be **SAVED**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4);
- "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are **SAVED** it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18);
- "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be **SAVED**..." (Acts 16:31);
- "For by grace are ye **SAVED** through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Notice what the apostle says about those who have accepted God's plan of salvation: "**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,**" (2 Timothy 1:9).

Notice, too, what will happen to this Christ-rejecting world at the close of this dispensation of Grace: "... **they received not the love of the truth, that they might be SAVED. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned [judged] who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

It is a sad fact that multitudes have rejected God's Son and spurned His love and grace so long that He will finally remove all restraining influences and give them over to the worship of Antichrist, the coming 'man of sin'. Then will come what

the Bible calls the “*great tribulation*” (Matthew 24:21), the greatest time of international distress the world has ever known. And even this will be only the beginning of God’s judgment upon sin.

You need to be saved!

It is over two thousand years since the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, and with Him the good news of the long-promised Kingdom. But both the King and the Kingdom were rejected and Psalm 2 vividly describes the results.

God laughs at man’s futile attempts to establish peace in this world without His Anointed, the Prince of Peace. Do they not know that sin has entered the world, and death by sin and that death has passed upon all men because all have sinned (Romans 5:12)? Do they somehow hope to eradicate the evil in human nature and bring righteousness and peace to this wartorn world? Some seem to labour under that delusion. Others have no illusions about it, but foolishly close their eyes to their own personal future and try to forget that individually “*every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*” (Romans 14:12).

How wonderful it is to know that God has provided a way of salvation for all of us through the death of His Son – that “*Christ died for our sins*” (1 Corinthians 15:3) and that all who believe in Him are SAVED and SAFE from the wrath to come!

Will you take God at His Word and believe that He wants to give you salvation because Christ has already paid for your sins on Calvary’s Cross? Will you turn away from your religion, your works, your character, and trust, simply but sincerely, in Christ?

Remember, there is no need to join anything or pay anything or do anything. Just believe in Christ to be SAVED from hades (the present hell) and from the wrath to come. Will you do it NOW?

(Source: ‘God’s Plan of Salvation Made Plain’ by Cornelius R. Stam)