

SALVATION IN THREE TENSES

INTRODUCTION

- I. A lot of confusion exists today regarding **when** one enjoys “salvation” from God, and what that salvation entails.
 - A. Simply put, “salvation” means **forgiveness of sins**, and a right relationship with God.
 1. Forgiveness (or salvation) is not obtained until **faith** leads to **repentance**, and is followed by **baptism** (immersion in water). Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
 - a. No example of conversion in the book of Acts EVER places salvation before baptism.
 - b. There is NO conflict in scripture on this subject, even though the claim is often made by some people to justify their claims of salvation in some other way.
 2. Once salvation is obtained, some argue that once a person is “saved,” it is ETERNAL, and since nothing “eternal” can be lost in TIME, then salvation once obtained can be lost.
 - B. In this lesson we shall explore “**three tenses**” which will show that one does NOT have possession while living in the TIME zone of life on earth.
- II. Now let’s examine the three tenses of salvation, the **past**, **present** and **future**.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider salvation in the PAST TENSE.

- A. THIS tense of salvation is forgiveness of PAST SINS—prior to conversion.
 1. This is the removal of the GUILT of sins committed BEFORE salvation is obtained, and not for any sins committed AFTER baptism. Rom. 3:23-28
 - a. This text takes us from **SIN** to **JUSTIFICATION**.
 - b. Paul says several things in **between** the 2 words SIN and JUSTIFICATION, that show that salvation is from PAST sins, and not for anything committed after salvation.
 - 1) 1st, it is by “grace.” v. 24; cf Eph. 2:8
 - 2) 2nd, it is “in Christ.” v. 24; Gal. 3:26-27
 - 3) 3rd, it is by Christ’s “blood.” v. 25; cf Matt. 26:28
 - 4) 4th, it is “for the remission of sins.” v. 25; cf Acts 2:38
 - 5) 5th, it is for “sins that are past.” v. 25
 2. The New Testament describes salvation as the **taking away** of sins committed TO that point. Acts 9:6; 22:16
- B. NOWHERE in the New Testament does it SAY or IMPLY that the first tense of salvation is also the second tense, or even the third tense.

II. 2nd, let’s consider salvation in PRESENT TENSE.

- A. Just as the second of anything always follows the first, the second tense of salvation is also in the present tense.
- B. Several passages speak of salvation in the PRESENT TENSE, that describes a PRESENT state of what saved believers have AFTER the sins of the past have been taken away.

1. Several verses in the Bible clearly speak of our being saved NOW, in the present tense. Rom. 8:24; 1 Cor. 1:18; 15:2; 2 Cor. 2:15; Eph. 2:8
2. As we walk in the light as faithful children, we have continual access TO the cleansing blood, which continually cleanses us from sin, as we repent and pray to God for pardon. 1 John 1:3,6-10
3. We should not willingly sin, but when we DO sin, no matter what the circumstance, we CAN be forgiven if we are willing to acknowledge that sin in repentance and prayer. Acts 8:22; 1 John 2:1-2

III. 3rd, let's consider salvation in the FUTURE TENSE.

A. Just as the third of anything always follow the second, the third tense of salvation is in the FUTURE tense.

B. The third tense of salvation is the obtaining of eternal life, which is in our FUTURE.

1. Because we were forgiven of our PAST sins when we obeyed the gospel, and enjoy PRESENT salvation as Christians, we also look forward to receiving FUTURE salvation after this life is over.
2. We have the **promise** of eternal salvation, yet to be realized. Tit. 1:2 Heb. 9:15; 1 John 2:25
3. We have the **hope** of a future fulfilled of that promise. Mark 10:17, 30; 1 Tim. 6:12, 19
4. We have anticipation of the **inheritance** to be bestowed at the judgment
 - a. This salvation is **reserved** IN HEAVEN for the faithful. 1 Pet. 1:4
 - b. This salvation is to be **revealed** in the last time. 1 Pet. 1:5
 - c. It is the salvation of the **soul**. 1 Pet. 1:9

CONCLUSION

I. NO ONE has **any tense** (past, present or future) merely because a friend, or pastor or televangelist SAYS so.

A. Salvation in any time depends on our obedience to Christ, and remaining true to Him. Heb. 5:8-9; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

B. The righteous will be invited to "enter" into the eternal joys of heaven. Matt. 25:23

II. Are you lost? Have you been saved?

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