

# GETTING SAVED

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From scripture: By grace you are saved, through faith and that not from yourself, it is the gift of God.

How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation.

When I was younger, I was often confused by scripture. I realize now that this confusion came because I did not read carefully. I did not pay close enough attention to 'words'. As an example I submit the words 'saved' and 'salvation'. Getting saved meant (when I was young) getting to go to heaven when I died. When I would read about losing or neglecting salvation I automatically translated 'going to hell'. Our salvation is a great salvation. It includes our final destiny in heaven but neither starts nor ends there.

Surely we all hope to escape the sting of death and eternal punishment. Jesus conquered death and hell through His sacrifice on the cross, and then invited us to join Him in victory through a 'New birth'. This is the first aspect of salvation and it is an unbelievable security for us. We have been born of God. That which has been born of God can not die. We have become flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. The family of God which once consisted of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now includes me – and you. Fabulous!

We are now new creatures in Christ. Is the work of salvation now finished – in us? No! We still need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Our Spirit is reborn but our mind is still pretty much flesh. We are still dragged down by habits, bad teachings, and a lot of self-centeredness. We badly need what Bob Mumford calls an 'Eros – Agape shift'. This is a transition from the many loves that serve me to A love that serves God. Books have been written about this which some theologians call 'sanctification'. God did not draw us into His family just to remain as we were. He drew us in so that He might clothe us with Himself, that we might be LIKE HIM, that we might become 'true sons'.

There is yet a third aspect of salvation which is important. To be saved means to be rescued from something and to something. First we were rescued from hell and to heaven. Secondly we are being rescued from an old nature to a divine nature. Thirdly, there is an enemy to God and all who

love God. There is a prince of the power of the air who hates us with a hatred so pure it could only be demonic. He seeks to steal, hinder, deceive, and devour every good thing God is giving to people. Satan and his followers can do little to attack God directly {they tried that and got tossed out of heaven}. So they attack those god love, you – me.

How does he attack? Again, books have been written but essential the attack, whatever form, is an attack on our **faith**. Can you believe? Will you believe? Hath God said that EVERYTHING works together for good to those who love Him? Where is the good in this tragedy? How about that accident? It goes on and on and on. He uses worldly events to cast doubt on Fathers goodness. How often he inspires a sequence of sinful behaviours and, when these sins bear their predictable fruit, he tries to shake our faith with asking why God did not prevent that outcome. Why does he do this? Because we fall for it! He brings forth erroneous philosophies and vain imaginings. He dwells in false religions, some of which are even called Christian.

We need to be saved from these things. By the work of the Holy Spirit and His true Church, we need to be rescued from the lies and snares of Satan. Our need is great. God's salvation is greater still.

It is your job to work steadily, patiently, and diligently to **ENTER IN**.

Written under the auspices of New Life Inc., a non-profit Christian organization. If you are interested in other writings contact: R.L. Pendleton, 322 Quincy St, Rapid City, SD 57701-2813 There are no charges for writings and there will be no request for donations.