



## Statement of Faith - Salvation

**Salvation** - We believe God is Sovereign in all things, which includes the salvation of men. In eternity, God the Father, knowing that all men if left to themselves would reject Him, and coming under His judgment would die in their sin, by an act of His own will graciously determined to save a people for Himself. Being a free gift of God, salvation from sin is offered to all men, which God Himself provided by His grace (alone), through the granting of faith (alone), because of the redemptive work of His Son, Christ Jesus (alone), to His glory (alone). In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Regeneration is the divine act of God whereby the sinner is granted the capacities needed to repent and exercise saving faith. Justification is an act of God whereby He declares the sinner righteous based on the merits of Christ and imputes that perfect righteousness of Christ to the sinner. Sanctification is the work of God in which the believer cooperates with God in the practical outworking of his/her new birth. Glorification is the work of God, which is the consummation of one's salvation whereby the believer is given a glorified, spiritual body that is immortal and no longer subject to sin. The believer lives in this state of glory thereafter, forever, world without end. (John 3:3-6, 14-21, 6:37, 44, 65, Rom 3:19-30, 8:28-30, Eph 1:4,11, 2:1-10, 3:10-11, Phil 1:29, 2:12-13, 1 Thes 4:3-8, 2 Tim 1:9-10, 2:25)

**Being a free gift of God, salvation from sin is offered to all men, which God Himself provided by His grace (alone), through the granting of faith (alone), because of the redemptive work of His Son, Christ Jesus (alone), to His glory (alone).** – It is clear from scripture this redemption of God has now come to mankind *by the free grace of God*. God was under no obligation to save mankind, but freely bestows His salvation as a gift. Salvation does not come by the merits of man, but as a free gift from God.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB

**Romans 3:23-24** - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB

It is clear from scripture that this salvation is *freely offered by God to all mankind* so that men are without excuse for rejecting God. This offer is a universal call of salvation to all mankind and is impartially calling men and women of every tribe and nation and language and people. This fact is made absolutely clear from many passages of scripture in the Old Testament.

**Isaiah 45:22** - 22 "**Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth**"; For I am God, and there is no other. NASB

**Psalms 65:5** - 5 By awesome deeds Thou dost answer us in righteousness, O **God of our salvation, Thou who art the trust of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea**; NASB

And also the New Testament.....

**John 6:40** - 40 "For this is the will of My Father, **that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life**; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." NASB

**1 John 5:1- 1** **Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God**; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. NASB

**Acts 8:36-38** - 36 And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! **What prevents me from being baptized?"** 37[And Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**" And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] NASB

It can also be implied when the reader(whoever they may be) is invited to be a partaker in salvation.....

**Romans 10:8-10** - 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 **that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved**; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. NASB

**John 20:31** - 31 but **these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.** NASB

This salvation clearly comes to man by God's GRACE ALONE. This is made evident by the fact that no one can earn the favor of God having already offended Him by sin. For...

**Romans 3:23** - 23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** NASB

Grace is a favor which comes from God which is unmerited by the one who receives it. In salvation, the favor of God is extended because of God's gracious desire to save, not because He is owing to anyone. All have fallen away from God into and are therefore in a desperate state needing salvation or they will perish. God acts therefore, **freely by HIS OWN PURPOSE and GRACE to save!** If it were not for God's grace alone in motivating His gift of salvation first, mankind would have no chance to be saved.

**2 Tim 1:8-10** - 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, **9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,** 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASB

This grace comes to men and women as God grants them faith to believe and repent of their sins. It is **ALONE through this vehicle of FAITH that mankind can be saved**....there is no other means of receiving the benefits afforded in salvation but by saving faith which is the gift of God. God must first give the gift of faith to the sinner which he then may employ to lay hold of forgiveness.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB

This faith is a capacity to believe and repent which is given by God in the process of regeneration. This we will address shortly.

**Titus 3:5** - 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**

It is clear from scripture that the object of saving faith is CHRIST, who ALONE paid the penalty for sin and offers His perfect righteousness through faith. Because there is no other sin bearer in the world, CHRIST ALONE is the only means by which your debt of sin can be paid, unless you pay it yourself, by death, eternal separation from God.

Therefore there is no other way to be saved from the consequences of sin except through the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary.

**Acts 4:12** - 12 "And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." NASB

You see the problem is that mankind has sinned against God incurring the penalty that God's justice demands which is death(Rom 6:23). In order for you to pay the penalty for

your sin, you would have to die spiritually,(be separated from God forever), that is the just penalty for sin.

Therefore there is a need for expiation, propitiation, redemption, and reconciliation. Something must be done with your sin, and without the shedding of blood there is NO FORGIVENESS of sin(Heb 9:22, Ps 9:12, Lev 17:11). Without the shedding of the blood of Christ, there can be no:

- Expiation(removal of guilt)
- Propitiation(appeasement of God's wrath)
- Redemption(the payment that justice demands of our sins)
- Reconciliation(restoration of the relationship with God).

But because Jesus PAID THE PRICE, sins have been expiated, propitiated and redeemed and this has brought about reconciliation with God.

**Romans 5:9** - 9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.** NASB

Here now is the reason why Jesus is the only way to the Father, as He states in...

**John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father, but through Me.** NASB

All of this work that God does in salvation is for the purpose of God to manifest His Glory, and so we say it is to **GOD'S GLORY ALONE**. In other words, man is not glorified FOR salvation, God is. This is why salvation is said to be...

**Ephesians 2:9** - 9 **not as a result of works, that no one should boast.** NASB

Salvation is 100% the work of God so that no one may boast in His presence for it is by His doing that you are in Christ Jesus.....

**1 Corinthians 1:29-31** - 29 **that no man should boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus,** who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 that, just as it is written, "**Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.**" NASB

**In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.** – When we speak of salvation we must remember that it has many elements. It is not just forgiveness of sins, or justification, or sanctification, but all these things are used in describing what God has done in Christ. Therefore *in order to categorize the elements of salvation* we will use four basic and biblical terms.

- Regeneration
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Glorification

**Regeneration is the divine act of God whereby the sinner is granted the capacities needed to repent and exercise saving faith.** – Regeneration is a term which is also synonymous with the term "born again." It is clear from scripture that regeneration is an act of God.

**1 Peter 1:3** - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, NASB

**1 Peter 1:23**- 23 for **you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.** NASB

**James 1:18 - 18** **In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth**, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures NASB

It is also clear from scripture that salvation happens by the process of regeneration.

**Titus 3:5 - 5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**.

Furthermore, the scripture makes it clear that regeneration is a necessary element for one to even “see” the kingdom of God.

**John 3:3-3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" NASB

Regeneration is a term which describes “ a new beginning.” The words”RE” to do again, and “Genesis” combine to describe what happens in salvation, a “RE-GENESIS.” It is clear from scripture that mankind is made into a new creation or raised from their former dead state at regeneration.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 - 17** Therefore if any man is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.NASB

**Colossians 2:13 - 13** And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our transgressions, NASB

Since FAITH and REPENTANCE are both necessary elements in salvation, and these are both gifts of God granted to the Christian, and because of mankind’s natural state(before salvation) not having understanding or ability to even hear or see the things of God, it can be made evident by reason that regeneration is the granting of these capacities of FAITH and REPENTANCE for the person to be saved.

**2 Timothy 2:25-26 - 25** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, **if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth**, NASB

**Ephesians 2:8-9 - 8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; **9** not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB