



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#139)

Learning the basics about being saved:
Studying the Bible to find out (2).

1

A highly recommended FREE resource:
(Available ONLY electronically – computer, smartphone, etc.)

Available at e-sword.net

FREE

- ✓ Bible translations
- ✓ Bible dictionaries
- ✓ Commentaries
- ✓ Study tools
- ✓ And more

OTHER free or low cost Bible resources are available, in print or electronically. But this specific resource is very comprehensive in what it offers.

2

A BASIC METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE.

⇒ We're looking at a basic and valuable starting point for studying the Bible, using the "save/salvation" concept to illustrate it.

We need to pay attention to:

- ① The words and their meanings.
- ② How those words connect.
- ③ The context of the passage.
- ④ What other passages say.



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More about this method:

① THESE BASIC PRINCIPLES ARE **FLEXIBLE**, NOT A RIGID, FORCED TECHNIQUE. You can – and sometimes *must* – overlap the steps.

EXAMPLE:

... **salvation** from our enemies ...
Luke 1:71

I can't look at THE CONTEXT (STEP ③) until I finish STEPS ① and ②!

It's OK to overlap steps! No "Bible Study Police" will come pounding on your door!

You actually **need** THE CONTEXT to know that THE WORD DEFINITION involves a **PHYSICAL** salvation!!

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② AN INDIVIDUAL PASSAGE DOESN'T ALWAYS PROVIDE THE **FULL ANSWER**. It may point to some issue that needs further study.

EXAMPLE:

"... Jesus is the **savior** of the world ..."
(John 4:42)

Does this mean that ALL people will be **SAVED**?

OTHER Scripture passages tell us that the answer is "NO!" – and they explain why this is so.

Jesus is the **ONLY** one who can save people eternally. All other supposed "saviors" are **FAKES!**

For God's people, Scripture is like a land of endless treasure. Such verses point to additional places to look for more treasure!

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⇒ Last time, we looked at: **Paying attention to:**

① The words and their meanings.



- Their **BASIC DEFINITIONS** (core concept) and **range of meanings**.
- The **WORD FORM** (such as past/present/future verbs, and singular/plural nouns).
- The **WORD CHOICE** (synonyms vs. words that are similar, but have significant differences).

LEARNING FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF "SALVATION."

As we consider the nature of *physical* salvation/deliverance, we might grow in our understanding of *spiritual* salvation/deliverance.

EXAMPLE: "Your faith has **saved/healed** you!"
(Saved from sickness, two ways to translate it.)

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THE VALUE OF UNDERSTANDING WORD FORM.
(Other examples were given last time.)

- The **PAST TENSE** of our salvation – what Jesus has accomplished was planned before *time* began!

[God] 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.
 2 Timothy 1:9 (CSB)
- FUTURE TENSE** – it's coming soon; time to get ready!

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
 Romans 13:11 (NIV)

... the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
 Mark 13:13b (NIV)

⇒ Last time, we also introduced: **Paying attention to:**

② How those words connect (or go together).

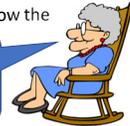
THIS WILL BE OUR FOCUS TODAY.

WORDS WITHOUT CONNECTIONS HAVE LITTLE MEANING.
EXAMPLE: Associating the word "Jesus" with the word "save" is a lot more significant than just the word "save"!

DO WE NEED TO LEARN "GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX"?

- Those who can do this will benefit from it.
- But even if we simply ① read Scripture, ② pay attention to the words and their context, and ③ observe how the words function with other words (how they "work together"), *we will benefit greatly!*

CALL ME "GRANDMA," NOT "GRAMMAR"!



CONNECTING THE WORDS: WHO IS THE "SAVIOR"?

In reference to *eternal* salvation (the focus of the Good News), this salvation is accomplished by a *savior*. *Who is he?*

- Very often, Scripture connects "JESUS" to the word "Savior."

"our Savior, Christ Jesus"
 (2 Timothy 1:10)

Terms connected to the word "savior" include: "Christ the Lord," "Jesus," "Christ," "Lord Jesus Christ," "Lord," etc.
- Less often, Scripture connects "GOD" to the word "Savior."

"God our Savior"
 (Titus 1:3)
- Is this a contradiction? Should we panic? NO! Several times Scripture *also* connects "JESUS" to *both* "God" and "Savior."

"our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"
 (Titus 2:13)

Special connector words:

THESE WORDS MAY BE USED DIFFERENT WAYS.
 As with most words, there tends to be a core concept. Starting here can point us in the right direction. But we must let the context show us the specific way the word is being used.

CORE CONCEPT
 SPECIAL APPLICATIONS
 OTHER USES (LESS FREQUENT)

EXAMPLE: CONTEXT AND THE WORD "FROM."

- It may imply going "away from" something (= in most passages).

⇒ Being "saved from God's wrath" means we are removed from a future experience of God's wrath.
- It may refer to the "source" of something.

⇒ "Salvation is from the Jews" refers to the source of salvation – i.e., they (and not other nations) had God's Word. Also, Jesus was born a Jew.

TWO TYPES OF CONNECTORS TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO:

① **CONJUNCTIONS** – These words *combine* separate statements.

- Each of the statements is meaningful by itself.

TWO STATEMENTS: "I have a cat." + "I have a dog."

COMBINED: "I have a cat AND a dog."
- EXAMPLES: **AND, OR, BECAUSE, EITHER-OR**

② **PREPOSITIONS** – These words *add* information to a statement.

- By *itself*, the additional information has little meaning.

STATEMENT: "My dog chased a squirrel."

PREPOSITION (little meaning by itself): "up a tree"

COMBINED: "My dog chased a squirrel up a tree."
- EXAMPLES: **UP, IN, TOWARD, AFTER**

Paying attention to:

② How those words connect.

What can we learn from the conjunction "AND"?

That's such a small word. It can't be *that* important, can it?

Let's find out!

"AND"
 Joins two ideas as equals.
 Both go together in some way.
 One may be the result of the other.

This is important! We shouldn't focus on one of the ideas and ignore the other!

"AND" teaches us: ① Jesus is *more than* just a "savior."

Some people want Jesus to "save" them from eternal punishment, but they don't want him to have a say in the rest of their lives.

These verses show us that Jesus has full right over our lives... *and we can't have the "savior" part without the rest!*

- He is also **PRINCE** – leader, ruler, etc.

God exalted [Jesus] to his own right hand as **Prince and Savior**...

Acts 5:31a (NIV)

- He is also **LORD** – master, implying that we are his servants/slaves.

... the eternal kingdom of our **Lord and Savior** Jesus Christ ...

2 Peter 1:11b (CSB)

- He is also **GOD** – the one who made us, the one we must obey.

... our great **God and Savior**, Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13b (CSB)

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"AND" teaches us: ② There are TWO types of eternal destiny.

Some people deny the "perish" concept.

"And" proves that both destinies exist.

- Being saved vs. being **destroyed**. Both options will be present at the Day of Judgment – even though we, as individuals, will experience only *one* of them.

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to **save and destroy**.

James 4:12a (NIV)

This other "AND" defines God as BOTH Lawgiver *and* Judge.

- Being saved vs. **perishing**. When we proclaim the Good News, it pleases God (v. 15); but it has two different effects on people.

For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among *those who are being saved and* among *those who are perishing*.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (CSB) ; verse 16 tells us these effects.

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"AND" teaches us: ③ There are TWO ways of referring to salvation.

- Focus on the **WHOLE** "salvation process" – using the word "saved."
- Focus on an integral **PART** of that process – mentioning something that is *always* a part of genuine salvation.

[God] desires* all people **to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**.

1 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)

* (Though it's God's *desire* for people to be saved, Scripture warns us that *not all* will be saved.)

"Coming to the knowledge of the truth" is one step in the "process of salvation." Yet we could also say it is involved in *all* the parts of salvation. A person cannot be saved without coming to a knowledge of the truth... but *increasing* in this knowledge is a lifelong part of "following Jesus"!

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"AND" teaches us: ④ If salvation is present, certain other things will also be present.

⇒ **IN SOME CASES, SALVATION WILL BE THE RESULT OF THESE OTHER THINGS.**

- Jesus seeks... the result is salvation.

"For the Son of Man came to **seek and to save** the lost."

Luke 19:10 (ESV)

- Trust in the Good News message... if genuine, the result is salvation. (Regretfully, it didn't happen here. They *didn't* believe (trust)... so they weren't saved. *From the parable of the sower.*)

The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not **believe and be saved**.

Luke 8:12 (CSB)

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⇒ **IN OTHER CASES, SALVATION WILL BE THE CAUSE OF THESE OTHER THINGS.**

- Being saved... results in sins being "covered" (forgiven).

... the one who turns a sinner back from his wandering path will **save that person's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins**.

James 5:20b (NET)

- Being saved... results in being given a holy "calling" (life).

[God] has **saved us and called us with a holy calling**, ...

2 Timothy 1:9a (CSB)

(Some translations say: "called us to a holy life." This verse does not refer to the initial "calling" that brought us to salvation. Instead, it tells us that, with salvation, we receive a *God-honoring* purpose for living!)

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"AND" teaches us: ⑤ A godly response to trials can result in good for others. (This may even include their salvation.)

★ **Such a response is an expression of love for both God and people! ★**

- Their encouragement/comfort and salvation.

Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your **comfort and salvation!**

2 Corinthians 1:6a (NLT)

- Their salvation and the eternal glory that is reserved for those who are saved.

So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring **salvation and eternal glory** in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

2 Timothy 2:10 (NLT)

(We can't always *guarantee* that it will result in the *salvation* of others; but there are *many other* benefits to having a godly response.)

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SUMMARY: What "AND" teaches us:

Joining two ideas as equals.

We must pay attention to *both!*

- ① Jesus is *more than* just a "savior." He is the master/ruler over us. We cannot claim him as savior and ignore the rest!
 - Do I really trust Jesus to rule over me? Am I afraid he will make life miserable?
 - Do I feel safer if I am in control of my own destiny?
- ② There are *two* types of eternal destiny. Whether we like it or not, some will be saved, and others will perish.
 - Would I rather just not think about it?
 - Am I *unwilling* to accept the possibility that some of my friends (or even family members) will someday perish?

[CONTINUED]

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- ③ There are *two* ways of referring to salvation. We can mention the whole process, or integral parts of the process.
 - Talking about "being saved" is one thing... but does it bother me when Scripture equates salvation with repentance, or with obedience?

- ④ If salvation is present, certain other things will *also* be present. They may be the cause of salvation, or its result.
 - Do I *want* to know what other things will be present?
 - What if those things are *not* present in my life? Do I *really* need to change?

- ⑤ A good response to trials can result in good for other people. Among other things, this may include their salvation.
 - I HATE SUFFERING. Can I just close my eyes to these verses?
 - Do I *really* love people that much?

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Next time: A look at what some other conjunctions can teach us about salvation.



Your MISSION this week:

"TRY IT!"

- ✓ "AND" has taught us a lot about salvation and related issues. Are any of them *new* concepts to you? Maybe you could think about these issues this week. What else can you learn about them in Scripture?
- ✓ Look up some other passages that include the word "AND" and see if some of them teach you about other aspects of life, truth and godliness.

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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