



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#143)

Learning the basics about being saved:
Studying the Bible to find out (6).

GOD


- ✓ Is HOLY and RIGHTEOUS.
- ✓ He tells us how to live HOLY and RIGHTEOUS lives.

YET he uses sinners to accomplish his will!

ALL OF US

- ✓ Are SINNERS.
- ✓ Even the saved are not without sin (though sinlessness is their goal).

YET when God uses us to accomplish his will, it is in spite of our sin, not because of it.



KEY ISSUE: NEVER use GOD's actions to excuse OUR sin!!!

★ Even when (in our opinion) our sin seems to accomplish good! **God STILL calls it SIN!**

- When it's a mixture of good and evil... the sin is still sin.

RAHAB lied.	⇨	God praised her FAITH (not her lie).
JOB said some rash things about God.	⇨	God praised his PATIENCE (not what he said)
- When it's just plain evil... the sin is still sin, even if God uses it.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS sold Joseph as a slave.	⇨	God used it to preserve their lives.
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As for you, **you** meant evil against me, but **God** meant it for good in order to ... keep many people alive.
Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

When we misuse Scripture:

IF God uses it to accomplish good, it's in spite of the misuse, not because of it!

EXAMPLE:

I CLOSED MY EYES AND PICKED A VERSE...

THIS PROVES GOD WANTS ME TO BE A MISSIONARY!

As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
Acts 13:2 (CSB)



⇨ **PERHAPS**... You might even be a success!

⇨ **HOWEVER** ...

⇨ OTHERS who selected the same verse may end up being miserable failures. THAT VERSE RUINED MY LIFE ...

⇨ Others may receive terribly wrong guidance...

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.
Matthew 27:5 (NLT)

I GUESS GOD WANTS ME TO DONATE ALL MY MONEY TO THE CHURCH, AND THEN...

⇨ At other times, it will be a matter of pure speculation, guesswork and imagination.

... his son Amaziah, his son Azariah, his son Jotham, ...
1 Ch 3:12 (CSB)

?????
MAYBE GOD WANTS ME TO HAVE LOTS OF CHILDREN?

⇨ Finally, some will keep picking verses until they find one they like.

Scripture shows us HOW to use Scripture!

IT INVOLVES:

- ✓ The use of one's mind, to find out what Scripture says.
- ✓ A willingness to change one's values and actions, based on what Scripture says.

IT WILL RESULT IN A BIBLE-CONTROLLED LIFE:

- ✓ Scripture will define our perception of truth and reality.
- ✓ We will pay attention to the moral obligations revealed in Scripture.
- ✓ Biblical principles will guide us in matters that are not controlled by moral commands.

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.

START AT THE CENTER
AND WORK OUT!

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⇒ ③ The context of the passage.
④ What other passages say.

These are similar. We could describe them as "near context" and "far context."

We have briefly looked at both of these, while examining the first two principles. (It's difficult to completely separate them.)

NOT paying attention to these is a common problem.

EXAMPLES:

- ✓ Any time emotions overrule the mind – sentimental and trite sayings, false encouragement, etc.
- ✓ Shallow and one-sided teachings.
- ✓ Saying things that people *want* to hear.
- ✓ Attempts to "adapt" the Bible to the world's teachings.

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TODAY

WHAT DOES ③ THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT THE SAVE/SALVATION CONCEPT?

Lots of things!

Every verse has a context. In some cases, understanding the context may be absolutely necessary, if we want to understand the verse.

⇒ WE WILL LOOK AT SIX EXAMPLES OF THINGS WE MAY LEARN.

Generally speaking, the context helps us to gain a better understanding of salvation – not only the *facts* about it, but also the *conduct* that will result from it.

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We may learn about

THE TYPE OF SALVATION.
[NONE of these examples are about *eternal* salvation!]

... we finally gave up all hope of being **saved**.
Acts 27:20b (NIV)

Did they expect to go to hell? NO! The context shows us that they were expecting the ship to sink and they would drown.

"Receive your sight," Jesus told him. "Your faith has **saved** you."
Luke 18:42 (CSB)

A reference to *physical* healing. (Many translations use "healed you" or "made you well.")

For I know that this shall turn to my **salvation** through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ...
Philippians 1:19 (KJV)

Paul was talking about being delivered from prison. (Other translations tend to use "deliverance" or "set free.")

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We may learn about

CONCEPTS THAT GO WITH SALVATION.

[Jesus] became the source of eternal **salvation** for everyone who **obeys him**.
Hebrews 5:9b (GW)

Obedience is connected with salvation.

You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who **endures to the end** will be **saved**.
Matthew 10:22 (CSB)

Endurance or standing firm, when people oppose us because we are following Jesus.

They perish because they refused to **love the truth** and so be **saved**.
2 Thessalonians 2:10b (NIV)

Loving the truth is connected to salvation. In this case, they *refused* to love the truth ... and they remained **unsaved**.

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We may learn about

CONCEPTS THAT GO AGAINST SALVATION.
[There may be different types of incompatibility.]

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be **saved** from **God's wrath** through him!
Romans 5:9 (NIV)

Being saved and experiencing God's wrath are concepts that go against each other. *You can't experience both!*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does **not have works**? Can such faith **save** him? ... faith, if it does **not have works**, is dead by itself.
James 2:14, 17b (CSB)

Being saved is *incompatible* with the **absence** of works/deeds.

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We may learn about **THE GREATNESS OF OUR SALVATION ... AND HOW SERIOUS IT IS TO IGNORE IT.**

... how shall we escape [punishment] if we ignore so great a **salvation**?
Hebrews 2:3a (NIV)

The whole book of Hebrews is about the greatness of the New Covenant—how Jesus accomplished our salvation, and how it affects the lives of those who come under the covenant.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE PASSAGES THAT MANY CHOOSE TO NOT STUDY, because the idea of "punishment" doesn't tickle their "itching ears."

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.
2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT)

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We may learn about **THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY (OR BELONG TO) SALVATION ... AND THINGS THAT DON'T.**
[This will require a look at several verses in the context.]

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with **salvation**.
Hebrews 6:9 (NIV)

The context shows us that certain characteristics are NOT evidence or proof of salvation... and other characteristics ARE.

- **Verses 1-6:** Experiencing the "basics" of salvation is NOT a guarantee of salvation. Even *faith* can be temporary. [The things mentioned here are present in the lives of saved people... but they are not proof of salvation.]
- **Verses 10-12+:** Some of the characteristics that ARE related to salvation. This includes love and action ("work")—done as an *ongoing* expression faith; and done with *patience* (especially when it results in persecution—see 10:35-39).

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We may learn about **HOW TO UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT VERSES ABOUT THE NATURE OF SALVATION.**

And this [water of Noah's flood] prefigured baptism, which now **saves** you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ...
1 Peter 3:21 (NET)

Does the *baptism* cause the saving? Peter clarifies it in what follows. This EXTERNAL action (baptism) is a reflection of INTERNAL changes—a heart/mind change [= an aspect of repentance]. *This change is made possible by what Jesus did.*

Verses like this may also require the last step of this Bible study method: **④ What other passages say.**


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THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN, BY JUST PAYING ATTENTION TO THE CONTEXT OF THE "SALVATION WORDS."

> Learning how to be saved.
... the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 3:15b (NIV)

> Learning how to live as a saved person.
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

THINGS I LEARNED



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Your MISSION:

Learning about salvation includes:

- Learning about **FACTS**—to influence your **THINKING**.
... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is...
Romans 12:2b (NASB)
- Learning about **OBLIGATIONS**—to influence your **CONDUCT**.
For the grace of God ... teaches us ... to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives ...
Titus 2:11a, 12a (NIV)

⇒ Embrace this learning!

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Embrace this learning!

↪ It's a part of being saved!

- There are many **COMMANDS** that involve the use of one's **MIND**.
You were taught ... to be made new in the attitude of your minds ...
Ephesians 4:22a, 23 (NIV)
- Many statements in Scripture show us that the righteous person *values* this focus.
But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, And on His Law he meditates* day and night.
Psalms 1:2 (NASB)

* (In the Bible, "meditate" refers to thinking about its meaning and how it applies to life. It has nothing to do with the world's mind-emptying "meditation.")

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Embrace this learning!

👉 It can be done in a way that fits your gifts and abilities!

- Different people have different ways of learning.
- Even those who *cannot read* can learn and be blessed!
 - ✓ In the New Testament era, others could help by reading the Bible to them.

God blesses the **one who reads** the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses **all who listen to its message and obey what it says**, for the time is near.
Revelation 1:3 (NLT)

- ✓ Today, we can listen to audio recordings of God's Word.

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Embrace this learning!

👉 It demonstrates what is in your heart – your priorities!

- In Paul's day, even busy slaves took time to grow in their salvation.
- Today, with all our time-saving technology, we have no legitimate excuse for NOT taking the time to grow in our salvation.

→ **Our actions prove what our real values are. Many claim to follow Jesus ... but their actions are proof of who they serve.**

No one can serve two masters.
Matthew 6:24a (NIV)

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Credits (1)

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