

SO GREAT SALVATION



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So great and all encompassing is the salvation won for us by Christ that we spend our whole lives discovering the wonder of all He accomplished, not just for us as individuals but for the totality of mankind combined. The work of the Cross, and the great love of God behind it, never ceases to amaze us. Jesus was the great Substitute, identifying with us totally in our fallen condition in order to set us free and bring us back into relationship with the Father again.

➔ **He took our sins and the sins of the whole world upon Himself**

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” 2 Cor. 5:21.

➔ **He took the judgment we deserved**

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering” Romans 8:1-3.

➔ **He became our “old self” and we died in Him**

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin” Romans 6:6.

Three aspects of our life made up the “old self”:

- * **All that we inherited from Adam**, down through the generations until we were born into the world. We were born with the heavy handicap of the nature of sin (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- * **All the sins we committed ourselves** (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- * **The effects of all the sins that others have committed against us** - abuse, unfairness, gossip etc - causing a “root of bitterness”, unforgiveness and self-pity to fill our lives (Heb.12:15).

He became the curse for us

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)” Galatians 3:13 (NKJ).

The fact that Jesus was nailed to a tree was very significant. It represented the curse that came upon humanity when Adam & Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit of Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis chapter 3). It was that Tree that brought us spiritual death and under a curse and Jesus was taking our death and the curse for us. Later, this would be represented in the Covenant of Law that was given to Israel.

The Law was the epitome of this Tree - the judgment between good and evil, of what was right and wrong, and revealing that sinful Man could not keep even the lowest expression of the righteousness of God (Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28). Deuteronomy 28:15-68 describes the curse, covering all the natural and physical aspects of life affecting people’s livelihood, health, causing disasters, defeat, diseases etc. Jesus took the curse for us! (Matt.8:16- 17).

He was separated from His Father

“About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)” Matthew 27:46.

By bearing our sin and our judgment, Jesus also experienced the horror of being estranged from His Father, feeling the shocking awfulness of being deserted and forsaken by Him. He took upon Himself the reality of the outworking of our sin.

He paid the price of the ransom

Because of sin we were all under the “ownership” of Satan. By the shedding of His blood, Jesus paid the ransom to buy us back.

“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” Matthew 20:28 (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:5-6) .

He became the veil which separated us from God

In the Old Testament, to be with His people, God made His Presence available in the third compartment of the Temple. But, because of sin, a thick veil (curtain) kept the people from entering in. As Jesus hung on the Cross He became the veil - taking the totality of mankind’s sin which separated us from the Presence of God in all

His glory. At the exact moment Jesus died on the Cross the veil in the temple was split in two, from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50-51). His death opened the way for free access into the presence of a holy, righteous God in all His glory.

*“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body”
Hebrews 10:19-20.*

IT IS FINISHED!

In Bible days, when a person was heavily in debt and brought before a judge, the judge would write the list of his debts and the man would be imprisoned until the day his debts were all paid. On that day the judge would write across the list “Paid in full” and give the instruction for the list to be taken out and nailed to a tree for all passersby to see the man was now debt free. Nailed to the Tree, Jesus used these same words in His final cry on the Cross - “Tetelestai” - “It is finished!” - “Paid in full!”

**ALL DEBTS
PAID!**

THE NEGLECTED FACTOR

With all that we are beginning to understand of what the Lord did for us on the Cross, we cannot imagine there could be anything more to experience. The “debt” was, indeed, now paid in full. However, there was more action yet to come. Because of the finished work of the Cross the way was now open for the final great victory - the *Resurrection!*

Every true believer in Christ, believes in the Resurrection. However, many see it as just a wonderful fact of history. Some have the thinking that, because the work of the Cross for our salvation was completed, God, in His love for His Son, raised Him from the dead. Many do not realise the great import His resurrection has for us. In many cases the Resurrection has become the neglected factor of the Gospel.

THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY

Paul, the apostle, wrote to the Corinthian church concerning a very disturbing teaching they were receiving. It was being asserted that there was no resurrection.

“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied” 1 Corinthians 15:13-19.

Read the whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 15. In it, Paul emphasises the absolute necessity of our faith in the resurrection both for our life now and for our eternal future.

THE GLORIOUS TRUTH

After the Cross, the Lord Jesus was in the grave for three days and three nights. We can only imagine what was happening to the Lord during that time. We are only given glimpses of it in the Word (1 Peter 3:19). He was taking upon Himself the ultimate judgment of our sin. The Enemy must have believed he had won and all the evil powers of darkness thought they had the Son of God in their power. But a tremendous reality was about to take place.

*“But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him”
Acts 2:24; (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7).*

In the total victory of His Resurrection, Jesus threw off all the powers of the Enemy, bringing with Him the keys of death and of hell (Hades) which had been in the possession of Satan since the time of the Fall. Read Matthew 27:50-53. Many “holy people” rose out of their graves at the resurrection of Jesus...a demonstration that He now held the keys and a pre-picture of the glorious resurrection of believers at His Second Coming.

*“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death”
Revelation 1:18. Acts 2:24.*

THE GOSPEL IN ITS FULNESS

**THE CROSS DEALT
WITH THE OLD!
THE RESURRECTION
DEALS WITH THE NEW!**

The Resurrection has a major impact on our lives as believers....

➔ **We are justified by His resurrection**

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” Romans 4:25.

Jesus Resurrection was also for us - for our justification. To be justified is different from being forgiven. To be forgiven is a wonderful reality. We are guilty but Jesus took our guilt on the Cross so we could be forgiven. However, to be justified means to be declared not guilty! How did God do this? *We died* in Christ on the Cross. *We were buried* with Him and then, wonder of wonders, *we were raised* together with Him -- a whole new person!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

➔ **We are raised with Him to a new relationship**

He breathes His Spirit into us (John 20:21) and we are born by the Spirit into the wonderful new relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus and are continually growing to be more like Him (2 Cor.3:18).

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God” John 1:12-13 (John 3:3-9).

➔ **We are raised with Him in His total victory**

We were in Christ when He was raised from the dead. He has won the war against the powers of darkness and we were in Him when He was raised far above them all.

Ephesians 1:18-23 speaks of the wonder of what happened in the Resurrection of Jesus.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (NKJV).

We are raised with Him to a new position

When Jesus was raised we were in Him, giving us a whole new position and perspective in life:

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” Ephesians 2:6.

It is from this position - the Throne of God - we now handle the situations of life (Hebrews 4:16).

We are raised with Him to live a whole new life

The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus means a whole new life for us as believers...a life filled with love, joy, peace and purpose in the call of God and precious fellowship with those who love Him too.

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his” Romans 6:4-5 (read to v.11)

We are raised with Him with a new heritage

We are now the children of Abraham, the father of all who believe (Romans 4:11), and heirs of the wonderful promise of the Heavenly City God gave him and his “seed” (Hebrews 11:8-16).

“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” Galatians 3:29.

We are raised with Him with a new citizenship

We now have a new citizenship and belong to the Kingdom of God.

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ” Philippians 3:20 (Ephesians 2:19).

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” Colossians 1:13.

We are raised with Him as part of the Body of Christ

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” 1 Corinthians 12:27.

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” Romans 12:4-5.

As the Body of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, in unity, and each one fulfilling his/her part, the glory of the Lord will be revealed on earth (Ephesians 4:7-13). Jesus prayed...

“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” John 17:20-23.

We are sent by Him as witnesses of the Resurrection

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1:8.

The apostles were sent forth by Jesus with a clear message. It was the *resurrected* Lord who commissioned them to be His witnesses and, empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), everywhere they went they testified that Jesus was alive! (Acts 3:15; 4:10; 13:32-35).

“The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross...We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him” Acts 5:30-32.

The preaching of the Gospel has no power without the Resurrection. You can have a death without a resurrection but you can't have a resurrection without a death. Both are essential aspects of the Gospel. The Resurrection of Jesus is an absolute essential factor of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit was outpoured on the believers with the specific purpose of empowering them to be witnesses of the Resurrection. The same applies today! It is so important that every believer in Christ experiences personally the wonders of the full work of the Cross and discovers the glories of the Resurrection.

**Our old life is gone because of
the work of the Cross and we are
born again by the Holy Spirit to
to live a new life in the power of
the Resurrection**