

Article 4 Salvation

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Let me just get to the main idea right from the start. ***We are saved from sin completely through Jesus Christ alone.***

That should have been the easiest “amen.”

We have today, 10 words, three points.

Number one, we are saved from sin.

The very word, “salvation” implies our need to be saved from something. We are saved from sin. The very word salvation implies our need to be saved from something.

And in **Matthew chapter one, verse 21**, the angel appears to Joseph and tells him, *Mary will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.*

Why? For he will save his people from their sins.

If we want to see people come to salvation, we must be honest about the corruption and consequences of sin.

I get it. I feel the pushback already. I'm a pastor, I don't want to do that. I don't want to be a hellfire and brimstone preacher. I don't want to talk about sin. I just want to talk about the love, mercy, and grace of God.

Yeah, me too. The problem is, most people don't give a rip about the love, mercy, and grace of God until they understand why they need it so badly.

And I don't have to tell you that we're ministering in what many are calling, a “pre-Christian” context. That is, we're in a context where people weren't raised with Christian views at all.

Many have never even heard the gospel at all. They don't know this stuff. They don't have a Christian memory. And they're doing just fine, thank you very much.

They don't need to be convicted. They just want to be affirmed. And they may come to church, and they may sing amazing grace, but many of them aren't really amazed by grace at all.

In fact, they expect it. They assume it.

“Of course, God's going to save me. Have you met me?”

“Of course God's going to save me. He's good, isn't he?” Implying that He's no longer good if He doesn't.

They may not say it like that.

Here's how they might say it. “How could a loving God ever send anyone to hell?”

You know what a better question is? “How can a holy God ever allow anyone into heaven?”

John Newton, who penned the words to *Amazing Grace*, was only amazed by God's grace because he knew that God was perfectly holy, and he was a sinner. And that if he was ever going to be saved, it was going to have to be an act of infinite grace on God's part.

Or as he put it, *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.*

If we don't talk about sin, we remove conviction leading to repentance and salvation. We will effectively shut the door to heaven and be left to simply comfort, affirm, and entertain people on their way to hell.

But when we're clear about the corruption and consequences of sin, people will begin to understand their great need for salvation again, and grace from God will again be amazing.

We must be clear about the need to be saved from sin.

Well, that's the bad news. That's number one.

Number two, we are saved from sin completely. We are saved from sin completely.

Listen, we don't serve a halfway Savior. Jesus doesn't simply wish, want, or hope to save people. Jesus actually and effectively saves. And He saves from beginning to end, from top to bottom, from inside out, from past to eternity, or as the King James Version says, *He saves to the uttermost.*

Article 4 explains that, quote, “salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and then it's broadest since salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.”

Those rich theological words mean that salvation is of the Lord and God has saved us.

If you are in Christ, He has saved you completely.

In regeneration, you were born again to new life in Christ through the gracious miracle of conversion wrought by the Holy Spirit through the conviction of sin leading to repentance and faith.

In justification, you were declared not guilty based upon principles of his righteousness as the penalty for your sin was paid in full.

In sanctification, you have been set apart to God's purposes and empowered to grow in Christlike character and conduct.

And ***in glorification***, you and I will experience the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed where all sin without and within will be eradicated for all eternity.

Some have put it this way, “our salvation is past, present, and future. We have been saved from the penalty of sin. We are being saved from the power of sin and we will one day be gloriously saved from the very presence of sin.”

In other words, we are saved from sin completely.

How can that be? How can a holy God let sinners like us into his eternal presence?

Number three, we are saved from sin completely through Jesus Christ alone.

Article four goes on to say this. “Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by his own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.”

This is how a holy God can allow sinners into his presence.

Listen, your sins haven't simply been ignored or swept under the rug. That's not good news. What if someone moves the rug?

Your sins have been paid in full by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

So Peter can boldly declare in **Acts 4:12**, *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.*

Jesus is not just one in a buffet line of potential saviors. He is the one and only. We come to God the Father through Jesus Christ or we don't come to God at all.

We must unapologetically and without hesitation or embarrassment, preach the absolute exclusivity of Christ in salvation.

Pastor, listen, preach boldly. Preach boldly about His eternal deity, His miraculous incarnation, His sinless life, His substitutionary death, His victorious resurrection, and His promised return.

This is our hope. We are saved from sin completely through Jesus Christ alone.

Believe that. Rejoice in that. And preach that with every breath in your lungs and every fiber of your being until you come to be in the very presence of the living God who has saved you for his glory. Amen.