

Saved or Being Saved?

I Am Already Saved

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Ephesians 2:5-8 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: **7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

- We believe that the Bible teaches that salvation is the beginning of the life of a Christian.
 - It starts by the grace of God coupled with the truth of the Gospel, then it transfers in responsibility to the hearer to either respond by faith or reject the message.
 - Once you are saved, you are completely forgiven, you become a completely new creature in Christ, the old man is passed away, behold all things become new.

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- Ephesians 2:9 makes it crystal clear that our own works have no part in salvation because if we were saved by our works, then it would result in us becoming prideful because we accomplished salvation.
 - No different than when people put lots of effort into running a marathon, succeeding in a diet, finishing a college degree...there is pride there, but pride has no part in the life of a Christian.
- I was doing some research and I came across a question and answer from a Catholic website and the question was whether they believe that they can work their way into heaven.
 - They said that they don't believe that they can work their way into heaven, but then they said, "The Bible says very clearly that we are not saved by faith alone. Works do have something to do with our salvation."
 - I'm confused!
- "As Catholics, however, we believe that salvation is a process which begins with our Baptism and continues throughout our lifetimes, just as the Bible teaches us."
 - Where are they getting this idea from the Bible?

I Am Being Saved

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Catholic New American Bible (NAB) - The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

New Jerusalem Translation (NJT) - The message of the cross is folly for those who are on the way to ruin, but for those of us who are on the road to salvation it is the power of God.

Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE) - 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

ESV - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

NASB - For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

NIV - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- When you say “who are being saved” it doesn’t make sense because if you aren’t yet saved, but are close to being saved, then the preached Gospel is not power, but convicting.
 - If we are being saved, what verses do we use to figure out if we have attained salvation?
 - They would argue that it is ongoing and you cannot know or have any assurance of salvation until the end.

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

NAB - For we are the aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

RSVCE - For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

NJT - 15 To God we are the fragrance of Christ, both among those who are being saved and among those who are on the way to destruction;

ESV - For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

NASB - For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

NIV - For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

- Romans 5:10 tells us that before we were saved and reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, we were enemies of God.
 - How can we be a sweet savour in the nostrils of God if we are still his enemy because our salvation has not completed?
- The problem is Catholicism and other groups demand works and you cannot force works if salvation is a free gift and it is complete at the point it is accepted.
 - The Bible doesn't talk about forced works, if we are saved, we are called to work willingly because Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
 - We should want to work because when we are saved we realize that we were created to serve the Lord!

Mormon – After All We Can Do

2 Nephi 25:23: "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."

- We believe that the Bible teaches that grace comes first, then faith, then salvation, then works come afterward.
 - For the Mormons, they believe that grace comes after the works, once the person exhausts what they are capable of doing, then the grace of God fills the gap for salvation.
 - You keep the law as best you can or you keep the rules that are connected to the law and grace helps where you fall short.
 - It leads to the same problem as before, "How do you know when you have done "all that you can do"?"

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

- As a Christian, we begin a life-long struggle of working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.
 - Remember, we were given a new life, we had a new birth and were made a new creature in Christ.
 - Babies have to learn everything, how to crawl, how to feed themselves, how to walk and talk.

- As a baby Christian, we have to learn how to talk, how to treat people, how to love, how to serve...basically, we need to learn how to live this new life.
- The problem is that unlike a baby, we don't forget the old life and we start with sinful habits.
 - Some things the Lord takes away the moment we are saved.
 - I have heard many testimonies that God instantly took away addictions when the person got saved, but sometimes God doesn't do that and it will take a lifetime of battling against it and working on it.

Assurance of Salvation

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- We aren't saved by works and we aren't progressively being saved, the Bible clearly teaches that "ye may know that ye have eternal life"!
 - Not later, not after you die, you may know it now!
 - The devil wants to twist the Gospel message so that it isn't Christ's finished work on the Cross but our efforts, because he knows our efforts are in vain.
 - If he can't twist the Gospel, he wants us to doubt our salvation and live in despair or turn to a false religion.