

Salvation is an Ongoing Process

Some Primitive Baptist will say, if you make this statement; Preacher you have gone nuts, we believe in eternal security. However, bear with me, and we will look at some scriptures, and substantiate the statement. How many of you have heard the expressions: I have been saved, I am being saved, and I shall be saved?

Just as you believe there is a Trinity in the Godhead, so is salvation a three part process. What do you mean? The Trinity we are speaking of, in the aspect of the truths, that there is one God the Father, one God the Son, and one God the Holy Ghost, yet they are coequal, coexistent, and coeternal. We also find in scripture many times that God does things in sets of three, especially in creation. When God created the heavens and the earth, he created time, space and matter, and etc. Your complete salvation is also comprised of three parts, as defined by the expressions you are familiar with: I have been saved, I am being saved, and I shall be saved.

1: I have been saved: Every person who will inhabit the eternal heaven and earth has already been saved, by the finished work of Jesus Christ, in his incarnation, as defined in scripture in: ***Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.***

The manifestation of this salvation is made known to man through rebirth and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in you as seen in: ***Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 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: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: 11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. Since this happened before creation, we were secured by Christ before the world began.

Tit 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2: I am being saved: With the new birth, as Jesus said "*you must be born again*", we have the manifestation of salvation, put on display for us, and those around us, and we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. This is demonstrated that it is ongoing in: ***Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*** We understand that the good work is begun in time, and if it is begun then it is not complete.

Being born again we have a new nature and it is the time to begin bearing fruit. Now I ask you a question: When you were born again, did the old nature you had die? The answer is no. To demonstrate this point we want to paint a scene of a fruit tree that has been grafted, just as we were grafted into the family of God by the finished work of Jesus Christ. Let's say you have a wild plum tree, a picture of the old nature, and you graft onto the stump of the tree a good plum tree, a picture of the new nature. The wild plum tree, all that is below the graft line, is still there and in time will shoot forth limbs and continue to bear wild plums. However, the good plum tree on the top of the wild tree will bear good fruit. Thus we see a born again sinner. We still have the sin nature and will continue to sin, unless we prune off the new growth of the wild plum stump below the graft line. We do this by purging our consciences from all evil as seen in scripture: ***2Ti 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.***

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. We understand that this action of purging is accomplished by the power of Christ, through the Holy Spirit presence working in our lives.

Now to continue on with point **2: I am being saved:** As we see, from the scriptures above, the purging of the conscience is a continuing work until we die our natural death. What happens when you fail to obey God after you have been born again? It is sin, and we find in scripture that there is always a penalty for sin, here on earth in time. Therefore, if we have sin in our lives we still stand in need of an intercessor to stand between us and offended God the Father. A similar picture of this is when on the wilderness journey, Israel had Moses who acted as an intercessor between Israel and an offended God when they messed up. Since we cannot be free of the sin nature we are born with, until we are resurrected and changed, we still need an intercessor. We can see that Jesus Christ, our intercessor is seated, and/or standing, on/at the throne of God, and fulfilling this action on our behalf. Consider these scriptures: ***Ro 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*** This is an ongoing work until we die.

Ro 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. So we understand that Christ in

the eternal abode of God is constantly working on our behalf making continual intercession for us when we sin in time. There are many other scriptures that make both these points very clear if we read and study God's Word of Truth, the Bible.

3: I shall be saved: Why do we need to be saved again, if our salvation is eternal? What do you mean by "I shall be saved"? As I stated earlier, salvation is an ongoing work. It began before the foundations of the earth were laid as we saw in scripture. It continues in time, on earth, as we saw in scripture. Truly, complete salvation will not be accomplished until three things happen:

1. The end of time will come, the resurrection will take place, at which time we shall either be raised from the dead in changed bodies or be changed if we are alive. Our resurrected bodies will be changed from mortal bodies to immortal bodies.
2. Our corruptible bodies will be changed to incorruptible bodies.
3. We shall be carried, by the power of Christ, to the New Heaven, the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem, to be forever with our Saviour and Lord.

When these things happen, there will no longer be a need for salvation. What do you mean? Salvation will be completely something of past tense. In the Eternal New Kingdom there is no sin, therefore there is no need of salvation.

We have this picture laid out clearly in scripture in: **1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Now do you see and understand how salvation is indeed an ongoing work? We have seen in each phase of the three phases of salvation that it has been, is being, and will be, accomplished completely by Jesus Christ, God the Son, in concert with God the Father, and God the Holy Ghost. You can rejoice in the truth; salvation is an ongoing work that is completely in the hands of our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore; we cannot mess it up? That is why we can be comforted **1Th 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."** Consider: **Mt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.** The reason we see "if it were possible" is that our security is

completely in Christ. He has already demonstrated for us, in incarnation, that satan cannot deceive him. Therefore, we see that complete salvation, in all its phases, is accomplished by Christ and secure.

Hallelujah! Praise God! Hallelujah!

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