

Salvation by Inheritance

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Introduction

Christians believe in a gift from God that they refer to as salvation. They often talk about being saved and believe that Jesus Christ is their saviour. It is the whole purpose for being a Christian. But just what is this salvation that they talk about and how is it obtained?

John 3:16 -18 “For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. 18 The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.” NET

Salvation is the gift of eternal life. God wants to save mankind to such an extent that he gave His only son, known as Jesus Christ, to the human race to remove its condemnation brought about by evil.

Romans 6:23 “ For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” NET

We all have one of two destinies. Either condemnation and death or eternal life. To be saved means to be saved from eternal death and given the gift of eternal life.

To prepare for Christ, the son of God, to enter the world as the saviour God chose the patriarch Abraham to become the father of the nation of Israel. Christ was to be born of the nation of Israel as a direct descendant of Abraham. Abraham was called by God to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees and to make his home in the land of Canaan, the centre of the then known world. God wanted Israel to be a just God fearing nation to teach the surrounding nations all about God and the plan of salvation so that all the world could be blessed through them until the Christ arrived.

Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16 “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he would later receive as an inheritance, and he went out without understanding where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as a foreigner in the promised land as though it were a foreign country, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who were fellow heirs of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with firm foundations, whose architect and builder is God...

These all died in faith without receiving the things promised, but they saw them in the distance and welcomed them and acknowledged that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth. 14 For those who speak in such a way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 In fact, if they had been thinking of the land that they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they aspire to a better land, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” NET

By faith (ie believing and doing what God told him) Abraham left his own country and went to the land of Canaan. This land was always to be a foreign country to him as it was not the eternal inheritance. The eternal inheritance is an eternal city whose architect and builder is God. In the last book of the bible, the Revelation, this city is described in detail and is referred to as the 'New Jerusalem', a jewelled city of gigantic proportions that comes down from God out of heaven. (Rev 21:2-22:5)

Galatians 3:29 “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.” NET

Those people who are Christians are accounted by God as being descendants of Abraham and are therefore entitled to the same inheritance as Abraham. That inheritance is the eternal heavenly city built by God himself and an endless life to live in it.

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.” NET

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Jesus said this in the sermon on the mount. Indicating that the eternal inheritance also encompasses the whole of the earth as well as the heavenly city.

Matthew 25:34 “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, [inherit the kingdom](#) prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” NET

After the judgement when the eternal destiny of all humanity has been decided, the king, Christ himself, will then give the promised inheritance of the eternal kingdom to all people who have chosen salvation through him.

Hebrews 9:15 “...And so he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may [receive the eternal inheritance he has promised](#), since he died to set them free from the violations committed under the first covenant.” NET

The nation of Israel worshipped God under what is referred to as the Old Covenant. But after the Christ had come a New Covenant was established by God. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant and it is he who sets us free from sin and evil and gives us eternal life.

Revelation 21:7 “The one who conquers will [inherit these things](#), and I will be his God and he will be my son.” NET

Speaking of the new earth, the new Jerusalem and the blessed state of the saved Christ himself says that he who conquers will inherit all of it and will be considered a son of God.

We inherit salvation by becoming adopted Sons of God

John 1:11-12 “He came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who have received him—[those who believe in his name](#)—he has [given the right to become God’s children](#)— 13 children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband’s decision, but by God.” NET

Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. The Jews were his own but they rejected him. But those people who do accept him as the Son of God he gives the legal right to become sons of God. Because we are children of God we are also entitled to the promised inheritance. This is why Jesus taught that when we pray to refer to God as “Our Father in heaven”.

Mark 3:31-35 “Then Jesus’ mother and his brothers came. Standing outside, they sent word to him, to summon him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him and they said to him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you.” 33 He answered them and said, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking at those who were sitting around him in a circle, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 [For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.](#)” NET

Jesus was teaching inside a house. The house was full of people when his mother and brothers arrived to see him. Jesus made it plain that his family members are those who do God's will. And that this even overrides blood relations. We are sons of God only if we do the will of God. Even Jesus own blood relations will not be considered children of God if they do not do God's will.

What is the will of the Father?

John 6 :40 “For [this is the will of my Father](#)—for everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him to have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” NET

Jesus says that the will of the Father is to believe in the Son of God. Those people who believe in Jesus will receive everlasting life. Jesus says that he will raise them up from their graves on the last day; that is the last day of this earth's history. But what does it mean to believe in Jesus? Does it simply mean to believe that he exists and to believe in the resurrection? The chief priests who had Christ crucified paid the Roman soldiers who

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guarded his tomb not to report that the resurrection had taken place. They believed the resurrection happened but they didn't believe in Jesus. Those professed Christians whom Jesus orders to depart believed in the historical fact of the resurrection but they are not saved. Therefore belief in Jesus must be more than an acknowledgment that He exists and that He was raised from the dead. Belief in Jesus is to believe that he is the messiah who was raised from the dead and to do what he commands.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the [renewing of your mind](#), so that you may test [and approve what is the will of God](#)—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.” NET

Colossians 1:9-14 “For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and [asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding](#), 10 so that you may live worthily of the Lord and please him in all respects—bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully 12 giving thanks to [the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light](#). 13 He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. NET

1 Thess 4:1-8 “Finally then, brothers and sisters, we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received instruction from us about how you must live and please God (as you are in fact living) that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is God’s will: that you become holy, that you keep away from sexual immorality, 4 that each of you know how to possess his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not know God. 6 In this matter no one should violate the rights of his brother or take advantage of him, because the Lord is the avenger in all these cases, as we also told you earlier and warned you solemnly. 7 For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. 8 Consequently the one who rejects this is not rejecting human authority but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. ” NET

1 Peter 3:17 “For it is better to suffer for doing good, [if](#) God wills it, than for doing evil. ” NET

1 Peter 4:1-5 “So, since Christ suffered in the flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same attitude because the one who has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin, 2 in that he [spends the rest of his time on earth concerned about the will of God and not human desires](#). 3 For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to do what the non-Christians desire. You lived then in debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking bouts, and wanton idolatries. 4 So they are astonished when you do not rush with them into the same flood of wickedness, and they vilify you. 5 They will face a reckoning before Jesus Christ who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.” NET

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 16 because all that is in the world (the [desire of the flesh](#) and the [desire of the eyes](#) and [the arrogance produced by material possessions](#)) is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away with all its desires, but [the person who does the will of God remains forever](#). ” NET

1 John 5:13-15 “I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that [you may know that you have eternal life](#). 14 And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, then we know that we have the requests that we have asked from him.” NET

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The world and its desires that are the opposite of the will of God will pass away. These desires are – the cravings of our sinful natures, the lust of the eyes, and boasting about what we have and do. They are the opposite of the will of the Father. Doing the will of the Father is absolutely mandatory if a person is to be saved and inherit eternal life. The above verses give a good overview of the will of the Father. From these verses we see that God's will is:

- (1) To believe in Jesus and accept him as Lord.
- (2) To be filled with the Spirit of God.
- (3) To grow in holiness and to be cleansed from sin by the power of the Holy Spirit
- (4) To live a life pleasing to God
- (5) To avoid evil
- (6) To grow in knowledge and understanding of God's will.

The Unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God

1 Corinthians 6:9 –11 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals, 10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. NET

Ephesians 5:1-7 “Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children 2 and live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. 3 But among you there must not be either sexual immorality, impurity of any kind, or greed, as these are not fitting for the saints. 4 Neither should there be vulgar speech, foolish talk, or coarse jesting—all of which are out of character—but rather thanksgiving. 5 For you can be confident of this one thing: that no person who is immoral, impure, or greedy (such a person is an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God 6 Let nobody deceive you with empty words, for because of these things God’s wrath comes on the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be sharers with them,” NET

In contrast to the people who do God's will the wicked who do not do God's will are lost. Paul lists a number of sins that will bar a person from the inheritance. He warns against being deceived on this matter.

Is Salvation conditional?

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” NET

According to Jesus salvation is definitely conditional. Conditional upon doing the will of the Father. It is those Christians who do God's will who are given the right to become children of God. It is possible to think that one is a Christian but be deceived. According to Jesus you can call him 'Lord' but if you are not doing the will of the Father then you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:22-23 “On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’ 23 Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’” NET

Here we have the sad story of the loss of many professed Christians. They address Jesus as 'Lord' and then list the commendable things that they did for the building up of the kingdom of God. Prophesied in Jesus name, cast out demons, and did many other wonderful things. But like Judas they did many wonderful things but they were unconverted. They were fine church members but not family members. They had not become adopted children of God. They had not done the will of the Father. The condition Jesus expressly states as necessary for salvation.

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Jesus pronounces sentence on them saying 'depart from me you lawbreakers'. The word translated 'lawbreakers' is the greek word 'anomia' (anti / law). This pronouncement will be surprising to some of them who thought that they were keeping the law of God. False Christians who are opposed to the law of God are called '*antinomians*' and there are many of them who teach that God's law is abolished and that we are to ignore it.

Psalm 40:8 "I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart." NASB

According to the psalmist the will of God is for his people to have God's law in their hearts. The inspired prophets also refer to this as the new covenant.

Hebrews 10:15-17 "And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, for after saying, 16 **"This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will inscribe them on their minds,"** 17 then he says, **"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no longer."** NET

The writer of the book of Hebrews describes the New Covenant. The Spirit of God molds the mentality of people so that obeying God is their desire. Those people who are changed by the Holy Spirit in this way are to have the record of their sins and lawless acts thrown out.

Romans 8:3-4: "For God achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." NET

What was the law powerless to do? It was powerless to transform humanity into godly beings because of the sinful nature/flesh of man. To overcome this obstacle God sent the Christ. The apostle Paul is discussing the incarnation of the Son of God. He states that Christ became a man for two purposes. One was to be a sin offering to pay the death penalty for sin so that all humanity can have their debt to God paid in full. The second reason for the incarnation is so that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us if we live according to the Spirit of God and not according to the desires of our sinful natures. Any spirit that says that we do not have to obey God's law is a demonic spirit.

Romans 8:12-17 "So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh 13 (for if you live according to the flesh, you will die), but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children. 17 And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ)—if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him." NET

If we remain unconverted and live according to our sinful natures, the flesh, we will not be saved from destruction. To receive the inheritance as Son's of God we must live by the spirit of God. We cannot be sons of God without living by the spirit of God. As sons of God we become heirs of the of the promises of eternal life and the new earth.

Galatians 5:22-25 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit." NET

If we live by the Spirit of God and are Son's of God we will have godly character attributes grow like fruit on a tree within our characters. It is a natural law of cause to effect. There is no law that is against these character attributes. If these attributes are not growing within our characters then we do not have the spirit of God and are therefore not sons of God. And if not sons then we will not share in the inheritance.

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Galatians 6:7-9 “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” NIV

In this life God's people will always have a battle to fight. The fight between the sinful nature, the flesh, and the spirit of God. Our eternal destiny will depend on whether we allow our minds to be controlled by the spirit of God or by our sinful natures. If our minds are controlled by our sinful natures we will develop a character that is unfit to enter heaven and we will reap destruction. But if we allow our minds to be controlled by the Spirit of God we will develop a character that is fit for heaven and will reap eternal life. The battle is to remain connected to the spirit of God and let him develop the fruit of the spirit. It is most important that we do not give up.

Ephesians 1: 13-14: "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of His glory." NIV

The spirit of God is referred to as a seal and is a deposit that guarantees our inheritance.

Luke 11:13 “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” NIV

Conclusion

1. Salvation is the inheritance of the new earth, the new Jerusalem and eternal life
2. We do not get salvation by working for it or by earning it, we inherit it as we become children of God.
3. Only Jesus gives us the authority to become adopted sons of God.
4. The adoption is ratified by being born by the Spirit of God.

Once we are born again by the Spirit of God the Spirit does four things for us.

1. He guarantees our inheritance – Immortality in the New Earth.
2. He develops within our characters the fruits of the spirit.
3. He makes us obedient to the Ten Commandments.
4. He compels us to exercise our talents for God's service.

With this understanding of salvation we can see that the LORD'S prayer contains all the gospel

Matthew 6:9-15 “Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” NASB

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Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

By acknowledging God as our Father we claim to be sons and therefore heirs of eternal life.

Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus made it quite clear that only those who do the will of the Father will inherit the Kingdom of God. We confess that we desire to do the will of God as much as the inhabitants of heaven do.

'Give us this day our daily bread.

In a world of uncertainty we are to rely upon God for our needs.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

One of the conditions of salvation is that we extend to others the grace that God has given us.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

This is a desire that we let God take control of our lives and put our trust in Him

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

In the battle between good and evil we acknowledge that devil and evil have lost the battle and that we have placed ourselves on the winning side by acknowledging the eternal Sovereignty of God.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 “O Lord, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You, Lord, have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. 12 You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. 13 Now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name!” NET

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