

The Baptist Faith and Message

Article 4 – Salvation

Ephesians 2:8-10

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Grace unto salvation is:

I. Delivering Grace – Regeneration

Grace, grace, God's grace...

John 3:16 – *“For God so loved...that He gave...”*

¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together (4806, *suzoopoeio*) with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

A. Man is spiritually dead. (1)

B. Man is Satanically deceived. (2)

C. Man is sinfully depraved (3)

D. Man is Sovereignly drawn (4-5)

John 6:44 No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him

Can anybody be saved who wants to be saved?

I'll give you a firm and unequivocal, “Yes and no.”

If you want to be saved you can be saved

Be glad that God does the drawing.
If not, no one would ever be saved.

I don't know who is "chosen" or "elect" so I preach "whosoever!"

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
John 3:16, John 6:37

Only those who trust in Christ will be saved.

"There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord."

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

The sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

II. Declaring Grace – Justification

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1

Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

Turn to Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

A. A new intimacy (15b)

"Abba" is an Aramaic term connoting intimacy.

So "*Abba, Father*" is a term of intimacy. We can call God, "*Daddy*."

Yes, He is holy, just, righteous, etc.

I can not only call Him, "*Master, Lord*" and "*King*" but I can call Him, "*Father*."

I Peter 3:18 (we've been reconciled to God!)

B. A new identity (16)

We are sealed with the seal of the Holy Spirit. (Contrast with seal).

It is not based on who I am in practice but on who the judge has declared me to be. It's not based on who I look like...

C. A new inheritance (17)

Bumper sticker: I'm spending my children's inheritance!

Clauses in the will were activated
Upon your death, your "will" has 2 clauses.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
⁴to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

III. Developing Grace – Sanctification (10)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. *Ephesians 2:10*

Saving grace does not come without sanctifying grace.
Sanctification is not a 2nd experience.
It is a manifestation of grace.

Saving grace and sanctifying grace are not 2 different graces.
They are distinct expressions of the same grace.

The Greek word here for "workmanship" is the word for "poem."
God is a poet and I am the poem.
He is a painter and I am the painting.
He is the potter and I am the clay.

By this we know if we have come to know Him, if we keep his commandments. *1 John 2:3*

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him. *1 John 2:15*

No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. *1 John 3:9-10*

The grace that saves and secures you will also sanctify you.

St. Augustine said, "Love God with all your heart then live like you please."

IV. Dying Grace – Glorification

16Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Closing Story: An LAPD officer pulled over a speeder. The man had just robbed a grocery store. He shot the officer at point-blank range with a .357. The officer was wearing a bullet-proof vest and it saved his life.

2 months later, the same officer was serving a warrant on a well-known drug dealer. When he announced "Police" shots were fired through the door, striking the officer in the chest. He died instantly. 27-year old Ray Hicks left behind a wife, 2 kids, and a bullet-proof vest in the trunk of his car.

The best life-saving device is worthless if not put to use.

The same is true with grace.