

# What Salvation Means

## I. Introduction

A. The theme of the Bible is God's plan to save mankind through His Son. Consider seven terms Scripture uses in connection with salvation, each of which helps us understand the depth of what it means to be saved. **Hebrews 5:9; Matthew 1:21**

## II. Salvation

A. The first term is the word *salvation* itself. The word denotes the idea of being rescued. What we need to be rescued *from* is sin and its consequences. **Matthew 1:21; Romans 5:9**

## III. Justification

A. Salvation also denotes *justification*. Though we have all sinned, we can stand un-condemned before God, being pronounced "not guilty" through the blood of Jesus. **Romans 5:9**

## IV. Propitiation

A. Another way of looking at this is through the term *propitiation* (or atonement). Our perfectly just God cannot allow sin to go unpunished. Jesus, though, has made appeasement of God's wrath possible, so that we need not face the eternal wages of sin. **1 John 2:2**

## V. Redemption

A. Through the blood of Jesus, we can also receive *redemption*. That is, the blood Jesus shed on the cross paid the ransom price to release us from the bondage of sin. Jesus paid the debt we cannot pay, thus allowing us to be bought back for God. **John 8:34; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:7**

## VI. Reconciliation

A. This is connected to the concept of *reconciliation*. The blood of Jesus allows us to have fellowship and harmony with God restored. Salvation involves "crossing the bridge" Jesus built from spiritual death (separation from God) to spiritual life (fellowship with Him). **Romans 5:10; 6:23**

## VII. Adoption

A. Returning to God is described in some passages as *adoption* into His family. Instead of facing His wrath, we can approach Him as our Father, lean on His strength, and live with the hope of receiving the inheritance that only our Father can give. **Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 3:1; Colossians 1:12**

## VIII. Sanctification

A. As people who now belong to God, those who receive salvation also choose *sanctification*. Entrance into God's family means leaving behind that which we must be saved from (sin), and being set apart for the glory of Him who allows us to be His holy people. **1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 17:17**

## IX. Conclusion

A. These seven terms and other descriptors Scripture uses to explain salvation help us appreciate what a blessing it is to be saved. Further, the Bible's explanation of salvation provides the motivation we need for doing what we must to receive this blessing God offers all of us through His Son. **Matthew 1:21**