

Salvation - John 3:16: Eternal Life

Galatians 3:26 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

John 1:12 - As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, namely to those who believe on His name.

1 Peter 1:3 - Blessed 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,

1 Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:5 - who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. All these verses indicate that faith in Christ is the only requirement for salvation and eternal life.

One of the passages we have just quoted, Ephesians 2:8 and Ephesians 2:9, contains a grammatical guarantee of our eternal security.

In Ephesians 2:8, the word for salvation is *sozo*. It is an intensive perfect tense which means the action of salvation occurs in the past but with the result that its effects continue forever.

Thus, we can develop an expanded translation which recognizes this grammatical point:

Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace you have been saved in the past with the result that you stand saved forever, through faith; and that salvation is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God;

Ephesians 2:9 - not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

This principle is also emphasized in the final phrase of John 3:16. It begins with the adversative conjunction: *alla* - “but”

Sets up a contrast between the idea of perishing in the Lake of Fire and eternal life. Eternal life mentioned next; we have the present active subjunctive of the verb: *echo* - “have”

present - Gnostic; designates a state or condition which perpetually exists. It is a universal Biblical principle that when you believe in Jesus Christ you have eternal life.

active - As subject the believer produces the action of the verb by believing in Christ.

subjunctive - Indicates here that this is the final purpose clause and is therefore related to the action of the main verb. The purpose for God giving Christ to the world is so that those who believe in Him might have eternal life.

The purpose is stated in the direct object which is made up of two words, first of all the adjective: *aiionios* - “eternal”; and the noun: *zoe* - “life”

John 3:16 (Corrected Translation) - For God unconditionally loved the world so much [the entire human race] that it resulted in Him giving His Son- the uniquely-born One-[equal provision of salvation to all] for the purpose of assuring that everyone who believes in Him [faith alone in Christ alone] shall not perish [eternal salvation] but have eternal life [eternal security].

1. This verse, along with the others we have noted, gives us a very clear understanding of how one acquires eternal life.
2. All that is required is faith in Christ. God looks on that faith decision as being totally sufficient to satisfy His righteous requirements for salvation.
3. Since it is sin which separates mankind from God, and since all sins were imputed to Jesus Christ and judged, then it must be concluded that sin is no longer the issue which separates mankind from God.
4. So, what is? It is the failure to believe that Jesus is the One who took care of the problem.
5. A relationship with God is achieved when the individual both understands the message of the Gospel and then accepts it.
6. The message is that Jesus Christ is our divinely authorized Substitute and was uniquely qualified to remove our sin problem.
7. We must believe that He is both God and Man and that He suffered the punishment for our sins in His own human body and that as a result He is our Savior.
8. By believing in Christ, you are in essence trusting in Him and His work to save you.
9. You are placing your faith in the Person and work of Jesus, trusting Him to ensure that your soul will not perish in the Lake of Fire but rather live forever with Him in heaven.
10. The issue has been reduced by God Himself to the utmost simplicity: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

Acts 4:12 - There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

Corinthians 6:2 - Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation.

John 10:9 - I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved.

Once a person believes in Jesus Christ he is placed by the power of God into His royal family. We have established from Scripture how through faith in Christ one becomes a child of God.

And if one is a child of God then he is in the family of God. God is the ruler of the entire universe; Jesus Christ is the King of kings.

Thus, by becoming a child of God you are instantly adopted into His royal family. Thus, one second after your salvation, you become royalty. You have eternal life yet you remain alive in a human body which is still susceptible to the desires of the sinful nature.

This means that while you remain alive in this body, God has a Plan for your life. That Plan requires the believer to perform certain obligations and to do so in a predetermined manner. Learning this process and procedure is the top priority of the believer and is absolutely necessary for him to be successful in executing the Christian way of life.

Consequently, we are going to study the Plan which God has designed for us. We are going to study the unique assets which God has imputed to us which enable us to learn the Plan, to understand the Plan, and ultimately to fulfill the Plan.

Once we learn the mechanics of the Plan we will conclude by noting a few examples of how the believer who knows and understands the Plan is able to fulfill the Plan.

First of all, we will study the mandate to know the Plan, then we will study the mandate to understand the Plan and finally we will study the obligation to fulfill the Plan. In so doing we will develop the mechanics of executing the Christian way of life.