

The culture of salvation

I. Defining some words.

A. **Culture**: All the knowledge and values shared by a society. Word Web.

Culture will dictate life style. What we believe and value must be a reflection of heaven's culture. As Jesus prayed "Your Kingdom (culture) come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10. Jesus said "in this manner pray." I think He meant it. Heaven's culture has been invading earth's realm ever since Jesus made His appearance on earth and ascended into heaven some 2000 years ago. Our lives must reflect heaven's values and priorities.

B. **Saved**: Sozo. From a primary word **σῶζ** sōs (contraction for the obsolete **σῶος** saos, "safe"); to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole. #4982 Strongs.

To be saved means to be healed, preserved, to do well (prosper), and be made whole...body, soul, and spirit.

C. **Salvation**: soteria. Feminine of a derivative of **G4990** as (properly abstract) noun; *rescue* or *safety* (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving. #4991 strongs

Again, salvation involves deliverance, health, rescue, and safety. There is provision for the whole man.

In a sense, we are saved (spirit), we are being saved (soul: by the continual renewing of the mind), and will be saved (completed when we get our immortal bodies).

II. What are we saved from?

A. The rightful punishment for our sins.

a. Eternal separation from God and hell. Heb. 6:2, Luk 16:19-31, Matt. 25:41-46, Rev.

20:11-15

B. The power of sin, the flesh, the devil, and the world and its systems.

a. Sin. Col. 1:21-23, Rom. 6: 11-14, Eph. 2:1-3.

b. The devil. 1Jn. 3:8, Heb. 2:14&15, Col.2:13-15.

c. The flesh. Rom. 8:5-10.

d. The world. 1Jn. 2:15-17.

C. The law that reveals sin in us. Rom. 7:7-11, 8:2&3

III. What are we saved into? Must reads: Eph. ch 1&2 (the believer's bill of rights), Rom. ch 6-8 (our identity in Christ and the new covenant).

This isn't even close to an exhaustive list; that would be nearly impossible. I encourage further personal study to enlarge your perspective. What we're saved from is a much shorter list because there is no destiny in death; its a short and tragic end to a life of potential. However, what we are saved into is all about destiny: both in this life and in the life to come. The potential of a redeemed life is unlimited.

A. Complete salvation: body, soul, and spirit. 1 Thess. 5:23&24.

a. Body. Isiah 53:4-6, Matt.8: 16-18 Rom. 8:11

b. Soul. (mind, will, emotions) Isiah 53:4-6, Rom. 12:1&2

c. Spirit. Isiah 53:4-6, Jn 3:3-7

B. Finished salvation. We can now enter His presence so we must be at least as righteous as Adam and Eve before the fall. Heb. 4:16, 2Cor. 5:21.

C. A "now" salvation and a future salvation. 1 Jn. 3:1&2

D. Sonship. Eph. 1:5, 1 Jn3:1&2

E. Inheritance. 1 Pet. 1:3&4, Eph 1:11-14

F. A limitless kingdom. Isiah 9:6&7, Col. 1:13&14.

G. The person of Christ. His death, burial, and resurrection. Rom 6:1-8, Gal 2:20, Col. 126&27

H. Divine nature through His seed. I Pet. 1:23, II Pet. 1:3&4, Jn 1:12&13.

I. A destiny and purpose. Eph. 2: 8-10, Phil. 3:12.

J. A position. Eph 1:20-21, 2:4-6.

IV. Some concluding thoughts.

When we live a sin focused life (*what we are saved from*) as believers, we see ourselves as sinners and deny the finished work of salvation. We'll never have victory over sin because we become what we focus on. We'll continually work to try to be better which will always be gaged by a law we are set free from, even if it is a revised Christian law. A very small box indeed.

When we focus on our righteousness in Christ (*what we are saved in to*) that is by faith, we live in confident favor as sons and daughters. Our strength to overcome sin will lie in our identity and the give and take of relationship be strengthened by love. Our actions and victory over sin will be a natural out flow of that love relationship. The possibilities become limitless in this complete overwhelming salvation with destiny and fulfilling purpose.

Some discussion questions.

1) Where can you find salvation for your body, your soul, and your spirit in Isaiah 53:4-6?

2) Is there a difference between a traditional gospel of salvation and the gospel of the Kingdom.

What did Jesus preach and is it different from what is popularly preached in America today? See Matt. 4:23.

3) What is the difference between a "Kingdom culture" and the "church culture"?

Notes: