

SALVATION AS DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE

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We are to follow these principles of interpretation regarding anything that is related to the Bible:

1. Let the Bible interpret itself.
2. Do not add or take away anything to what is said in the Bible.
3. Consider the context and compare scripture with scripture or the whole Bible.

Regarding mankind's salvation:

1. The salvation of all mankind was planned before the Creation of Man.
2. Eph. 1:
"4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Being holy and blameless is a choice to be made and not automatic)**
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

2 Peter 3:8-10
"8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (Coming to repentance is an individual choice and therefore, a good work that is required of each person who then can be forgiven and saved).**
10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."
3. Salvation is not forced on any one and is based on the free will and free choice of each individual.
4. Once a person chooses to be saved, the life and works that follow are not automatically good and a person does not lose the power of choice to do wrong or evil.
5. A person can still fall or even choose to be unsaved after being saved. Take the example of King David, Solomon, Judas Iscariot, Peter who denied Jesus at one time, etc.

6. If a saved person falls, he/she can seek forgiveness and “sin no more”.
7. It is false to say that if a person who was once saved and then decides to no longer be faithful was never “saved” to begin with. Lucifer the arch enemy was once the highest ranking angel in heaven who decided to rebel. Adam and Even at one time were sinless but then sinned and their actions were punished with universal ramifications.
8. The system of animal sacrifices was instituted after the Ten Commandments were given first to Moses on Mt. Sinai to show and teach mankind right from wrong and the consequences of sin or transgressing God's moral law summarized in the Ten Commandments. These were given as requirements and not merely as options or principles and that's why they are called commands so that it is not misunderstood.
9. However, man has been instructed to follow these commands wholeheartedly and not merely as requirements to be saved. In other words to not be hypocritical.
10. The moral law in summary is love to God and love to man. Without a moral law, there can be no moral standing. Without a standard, there can be no standing to judge right from wrong. Anyone can do anything where there are no rules or laws.
11. In fact, the entire universe is governed by laws including your smartphone.
12. The moral standard is what constitutes the basic tenets of the Christian faith. Those who follow Christ are in fact commanded to not only believe in Jesus mentally but also practice their beliefs i.e., walking the talk daily as it is not automatic or optional. Jesus said that if anyone wishes to follow Him, they should take up their cross and follow Him. In many places, believers are in fact commanded to keep God’s moral law so that their faith will manifest in faithfulness.
13. By having faith in Jesus we are saved and we live by obedience to His moral laws. Faith and works go together.
14. It is a false equation to say that the requirement to the keeping of God’s moral laws means a person is trying to rely on his own works to be saved. On the contrary, when we obey God, we are living in obedience and doing His works and therefore, are being faithful to God and He should be given the credit or glory for our ability to live righteously. Unfaithfulness happens when we are not living in obedience to His moral laws summarized in the Ten Commandments.
- 15. Legalism is keeping the moral laws minus faith in Jesus. Lawlessness is claiming to have faith in Jesus but not keeping His moral laws. The point is to avoid both pitfalls.**
16. While good works by themselves will not save a person, bad works will not be excused either as the Bible clearly talks about God bringing every “work” of everyone into judgement as stated in Eccl. 12:14. Daniel 7:10 and Rev. 14:7 clearly talk about the fact that God’s judgement “has” come which is all about every man’s actions to be judged. It clearly says that it “has” come and not will come or perhaps may come. In other words, it is going on and in progress.
17. **God will reward everyone according to their works.** Romans 2:6-29
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2%3A6-29&version=ESV>
18. The purpose of the sacrificial system and sanctuary services was to point to Jesus who was prophesied to take the place of man's eternal punishment.
19. Jesus’ life on earth and the punishment he took for man was therefore completed on the cross. I.E., the atonement. Therefore, man is no longer required to offer animal sacrifices as a penance for his sin but simply ask for forgiveness by claiming the

atoning blood of Jesus. This is remembered by the Communion service for believers as often as it is possible to do.

20. **The finished work of Jesus on earth cannot be claimed by believers to say that they are no longer bound to keep the moral law or that they no longer need to do anything to keep their salvation once they accept Jesus and thus "saved". The finished work of Jesus on the cross does not mean that the believer's work is finished too the instant they are "saved". Each person also has to take up their cross and follow Jesus till the very end as Jesus Himself has commanded. Matt. 16: 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." It's a lifelong process.**
21. Salvation actually is a **three step process**. Repentance by the believer itself is a work or good work that must be undertaken by (by the help or prompting of the Holy Spirit when a person comes to know the truth of salvation from sin) asking God for forgiveness and therefore, the first step is called JUSTIFICATION. This can be also be done publicly by taking a baptism. The second step is SANCTIFICATION or walking the talk or preparing daily throughout one's life for the final step of GLORIFICATION when Jesus returns the second time. **Salvation therefore, is not a one-time event or a completed event but a continuous process** and we have the assurance of salvation and being saved if we are faithful till the very end. We are saved when we accept Jesus and we are being saved (perfecting of the character daily) and we will be saved in the end with the receiving of eternal life and a glorified body when Jesus returns.
22. **If Jesus' work of salvation is completed on the cross, then why are we still on earth?** Why would there be a judgement followed by a second coming and then a third coming after one thousand years in heaven during which another judgment or judging will take place by the saved of those who were lost or did not make it to heaven? **The work of salvation is only fully completed when sin is finally and fully eradicated from the universe and all things made new. What happened on the cross is only the atoning sacrifice of Jesus once and for all but not the completion of the entire work of salvation by Jesus. It's a long process and by no means instantaneous. Jesus said that He will prepare a place for us and that we should prepare by sanctifying ourselves throughout our lifetimes for that to happen.**
23. Rev. 21
- "1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**
- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
- 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**
- 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."
24. **TOTAL DEPRAVITY of MAN.** https://www.openbible.info/topics/total_depravity
Yes. Man is born in sin and will die at least the first death but the Bible does not say that all automatically are destined to hell because they are born in sin. Hell or the

second death is specifically reserved for those who deliberately reject the light they have been given or reject Jesus. But before this happens, all have the opportunity to choose to be saved by accepting the gift of salvation. All will be judged according to their particular situation as well. Romans 2:6-29.

25. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3 “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” This verse therefore means that we are not all hopelessly depraved since the time we are born, for after all, we are created in His image though in a fallen condition but with a conscience to know right from wrong to one degree or the other and then we learn and grow through a lifetime of experiences and making choices whether they be good or bad and hopefully mature and go in the right direction as God would want through the leading of the Holy Spirit that works in all human beings to save them if they are willing to be saved.
26. God found Noah to be a just man. Genesis 6:9, NIV: “This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.” According to this verse, it says that though we are born in sin, we can choose in our actions to be right and find favour with God. Jesus said in Matt. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Our actions and works do count and they are by no means automatic once we are “saved”.
27. **The gift of salvation comes with conditions.** It is a conditional gift as in that those who accept Jesus’ free gift OUGHT to live wholeheartedly **according to the teachings and instructions and commands** to keep that gift until the very end of their lives. This does not therefore equate to legalism or of works based salvation but faith based works or works based on the faith of Jesus. It says in Rev. 14: 12 “**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**”
28. **Rev. 22**
 - 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, **to give every man according as his work shall be.**
 - 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
 - 14 **Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life,** and may enter in through the gates into the city.
 - 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, **and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**
 - 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
 - 19 **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**
 - 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**