

“Saved”
Ephesians 2:8
Sermon Series: “Be Rich”

Introduction: This may not be the case if you are from some other places, but “saved” is a fairly well known word if you have grown up in East Tennessee. However, I think at times it is thrown around without being explained. I think that possibly we assume that people know what it means. The word means to rescue or deliver. Spiritually, it speaks of Jesus delivering us from our sinful, condemned condition. Do you know the meaning of salvation? Even more importantly, do you know the Savior? Let’s examine salvation biblically and hopefully settle your salvation today.

1. Salvation is to be rescued from death to life. “Rescued” is the meaning of “saved.” This passage clearly pictures us being rescued from spiritual death and raised up to life in Jesus (v. 1-6) through the cross of Christ. Our salvation is past, present, and future. In a sense, we have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. We were justified, which means we were saved immediately from the penalty of sin (Romans 3:21-24). Justification is God forgiving us and declaring us innocent in Christ but also imputing the righteousness of Christ to us positively. We are being sanctified, which means that positionally we were set apart to God at the moment of salvation and are progressively being delivered from the power of sin and conformed to the image of Christ (Acts 26:18, Romans 8:29). We will be glorified, which means that we will eventually and eternally be delivered from the presence of sin. We will be perfected physically and spiritually in the presence of God (Romans 8:30, Philippians 3:20-21). Here are some implications of these three aspects of salvation. Since we are justified and guaranteed to be glorified, we are eternally secure and do not have to live in fear about our status with God or our future. The fact that I am being sanctified means that I have not arrived yet (that happens

at glorification) so I am going to blow it sometimes. However, since I am justified, it does not mean that I lose my salvation because my status with God does not depend on my performance. On the other hand, sanctification means that I cannot be happy in sin and that change is evidence of genuine salvation. This also means the prosperity gospel cannot be true because what it teaches happens when we are glorified and God uses difficulties to sanctify us.

2. Salvation is a gracious gift from God. Grace literally means “unmerited favor” or “undeserved blessing.” It refers to the fact that we deserve judgment but Jesus took our punishment so we are not condemned and become children of God blessed with every spiritual blessing. This is a gift from God. We cannot earn it. Grace and works are mutually exclusive.

3. Salvation is received through faith. John Stott writes, “For grace gives and faith takes. Faith’s exclusive function is humbly to receive what grace offers...God’s grace makes promises which we believe, and so we receive blessing.” He also writes, “Not works, but grace. Not law, but faith. Not our righteous deeds but his mercy. There is no co-operation here between God and us, only a choice between two mutually exclusive ways, his and ours. Moreover, the faith which justifies is emphatically not another work. No, to say ‘justification by faith’ is merely another way of saying ‘justification by Christ.’ Faith has absolutely no value in itself; its value lies solely in its object. Faith is the eye that looks to Christ, the hand that lays hold of him, the mouth that drinks the water of life.” **Three elements of genuine faith are knowledge, heart response, and commitment.**

Conclusion: Jesus said, “Repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15). Romans 10:9 says, “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Are you really saved?**