



"Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Romans 7:24-25

There is no technical or magical way in which Jesus saves us. God saves those who come to him with sincere faith and repentance through his son, Jesus (John 3:14-17, Acts 3:19, 17:30-31, Romans 3:22-26).

WHAT DO I NEED SAVING FROM?

We all face the certainty of death (James 4:14, Romans 5:12, Ecclesiastes 9:2-10). Humans are also inherently selfish, and while God created a beautiful world, mankind has made it violent, corrupt and inequitable (James 4:1, Jeremiah 17:9).

God offers an alternative to sin and death. God invites those who want to live his way to share eternal life in his coming kingdom, where there will be peace, plenty and safety for everyone (Romans 2:7, 2 Peter 3:9, Isaiah 2:2-4, 35:10, Psalm 72, Micah 6:8).

JESUS' VICTORY

God loves us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, knowing he would be rejected and crucified, to show us his way, and his earnest desire to help us. (Acts 2:22-24, 3:17-26, 1 John 4: 9-11).

People filled with anger and envy killed Jesus. Jesus could have saved himself and shown his true status to the mocking crowds (Matthew 26:53, Luke 22:41-44), but Jesus overcame these temptations and instead showed God's goodness and love, even to the point of death (Heb 2:18, Phil 2:6-8, 1 Peter 2:21-24 Luke 23:34, 46).

SALVATION IS THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Jesus' death does not automatically save. He did not die to pay for our sins, or to take our punishment (Exodus 32:31-33). Jesus died choosing to live God's way in the face of human injustice, but God raised Jesus from the dead to eternal life to be our king (Hebrews 4:15, 5:7, Acts 2:23-24, Philippians 2:8-11).

The great power that the risen Jesus displayed was not to condemn the world which inflicted such pain and humiliation, but to proclaim his love and desire to forgive those who repent and save them to be part of his coming kingdom (Mark 16:15-16, John 3:17, 11:24-26, Luke 24:46-47, 1 John 3:16).

"Repent and be baptised every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins" Acts 2:38

Forgiveness is a free pardon, given by the love and grace of God (Ephesians 2:4-8). Forgiveness is not earned or deserved. God simply forgives those who seek it sincerely and faithfully through Jesus.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us... made us alive together with Christ... For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:4-10

WHAT DO I NEED FORGIVENESS FOR?

Most of us would consider that we live 'good' lives. However, Jesus' perfect example shows us the much higher moral standard that God calls us to live by (Matthew 5:48, Micah 6:8, 1 Peter 2:19-25).

God wants us to put others before ourselves, even those who dislike us. He calls us to love even our enemies, not just in our actions, but in our thoughts. He wants us to not only avoid doing wrong, but to actively do good. This all requires us to put our complete trust in God (Matthew 5:21-48, James 4:17, 1 Peter 1:13-2:3).

A NEW LIFE IN JESUS

The more we try to live God's way, the more we will see our need for forgiveness (Rom 7:18-24). God asks us to show our repentance and commitment to him by associating ourselves with Christ's perfect example through baptism into his name (Acts 2:38).

Baptism involves going completely under water as a symbolic burial to our old way of life, and rising to live a new life for God (Romans 6:3-11, Galatians 3:26-27, 1 Peter 2:24).

Just like newborns, those who are baptised need to grow and mature as children of God (Colossians 2:6-7, 1 Peter 2:2-5). This is a lifetime challenge. Thankfully Jesus continues to help us and we have every assurance of his willingness to forgive. We need only believe, and let that belief compel us to extend the great mercy and love God has given us to others (Heb 4:14-16, 2:18, James 1:18-27, Matt 6:14).

It is God's good pleasure to give eternal life to those who remain faithful to Jesus when he returns to set up God's kingdom on earth (Luke 12:32, Matthew 10:32, John 5:24-30, 6:40, Daniel 12:2, Hebrews 3:14, Isaiah 2:2-4).

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:32