

What are we saved from?

Growing up, I have constantly heard phrases like “Are you saved?” “Do you know where you are going when you die?” etc. I grew up in a Baptist church, so this terminology isn’t new to me. I knew that Jesus did the saving. Everyone knows that, right? But I never thought about what He saves us from. What are we saved from? The first time I realized what we must be saved from, it blew my mind. The answer is found throughout Scripture:

We are saved from God Himself...from His wrath.

“Wait just a minute,” you might say. “I thought the Christian God was a God of love. How do love and wrath go together?”

God’s wrath

God’s wrath might be a hard thing to fit into your image of God or what you think God should be like. Even some Christians have a tough time with it. God’s wrath is not like human wrath, where God gets His revenge on humans who have offended Him. Romans 1:18 says, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (sin against God) and unrighteousness (sin against each other) of men...” Romans 2:2 says, “And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.”

God’s wrath is God’s righteous judgment against the sinfulness of man.

“All *unrighteousness* is sin” (I John 5:17) and “...all Your [God’s] commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172).

So then, unrighteousness—sin—is *breaking* God’s commandments.

The Bible says that there is no partiality with God. He is always perfectly just. His holiness and justice demand that evil be punished. Those who think lightly of His forbearance and kindness and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness are storing up wrath for themselves to be revealed in the day of judgment.

Man’s sin problem

Man’s sin problem originated with Adam and Eve. When they disobeyed God, sin entered the world.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—” Romans 5:12

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23

James 1:14-15 tells us we are drawn away from God by our own desires. Romans 3:10-18 shows how all the world is guilty before God...that there is none righteous, not even one.

Before we are born again in Jesus, Ephesians 2:1-3 says that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and that we are sons of disobedience and children of wrath.

The Ten Commandments Test

Romans 2:14-15 says that God has written His moral laws (The Ten Commandments) in our hearts. Our conscience bears witness to this. We intuitively know right from wrong. There is no excuse for sin.

You might say, "I'm a good person. I live a quiet life, minding my own business, and I don't harm anybody. I even volunteer in my church and community. So I don't fall into the category of sinful people that God would send to hell."

Let's go over a few of the ten commandments, shall we? Have you lied? Have you stolen something? No? What about downloading music or videos from the internet that wasn't yours? Have you used God's name in vain (e.g. OMG)? That's called blasphemy, and it's an offence punishable by death. Jesus said if you are angry with your brother, you are guilty of murder; if you look with lust, you are guilty of adultery. God's holy standards are too high for us to obey perfectly. James says that if you break even one law, you are guilty of breaking all of them.

So if God judges us according to His laws, we'd be found guilty and condemned to hell.

"But," you say, "God is love. He would just forgive me, right? I would repent and say I'm sorry, so God would have to let me into heaven." Well, my friend, I hate to break it to you, but unfortunately, that will not work for you. Let's say you committed a crime and were brought before a judge. You tell the judge, "I'm so sorry. I'll never do it again, I repent. Please forgive me." While you should be sorry, the judge, if he is a just judge, is not going to let you go scot free. You will be judged and sentenced according to your crime. Similarly, if you repent of your sin in God's court, He is not going to let you off the hook either.

Repentance after death and before God's judgment throne is too late to be of any good. You must repent *now*.

"And inasmuch as it is appointed men to die once and after this comes judgment." Hebrews 9:27

So what we've got so far is that God is Holy and perfect in all His works, and we have all transgressed God's law and rightly deserve God's wrath and indignation. We are all going to die one day and stand before God's judgment. To get to heaven, we have to be as good as God, which is impossible. No amount of right living will get us there. So what can be done?

God's Solution

Humans are not able to pay the price for sin. So...

Jesus Christ, God's Son (who is God Himself, because the Son and the Father are one (John 10:30)) became a man, lived a perfect and sinless life, and died on the cross to save sinners.

The wrath of God was poured on Jesus on the cross, and the debt of sin which we could never pay was paid in full by Jesus. When Jesus died, He bore God's judgment in full on our behalf.

Jesus was both fully man and fully God. Only God, in His righteousness, could pay the price for human's sin. Yet it was imperative that God did so in human form. Charles Spurgeon explains it well: "We know that had he only been God yet still he would not have been fitted for a perfect Savior, unless he had become *man*. Man had sinned; man must suffer. It was man in whom God's purposes had been for a while defeated; it must be in man that God must triumph over his great enemy."

"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

"But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:18

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave, and He later ascended into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father. Through His resurrection, He defeated death, offering us the gift of eternal life. He died to pay the price for our sin, and He rose again so that we could be justified.

"He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification." Romans 4:25

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." Ephesians 2:4-5

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

I don't know about you, but God's wrath is not a mystery to me; God's grace and love is. How such a Holy God could love sinners while we were still in our rebellion and failure is beyond my understanding. But boy, am I grateful for His mercy and grace. Because of His mercy and Grace, we have a way out of eternal condemnation.

How do we ensure that we have the Son of God and eternal life?

The price for our sin has been paid in full; but we must choose whether or not to accept the payment for our sin.

Think about it: a hardened, unrepentant criminal does not accept the payment of his fine by another. He refuses the payment, rejects it. He wants NOTHING to do with it. If that is the case, he will still have to pay the price for his crime himself.

God does not force us to accept the payment He made for our sins on the cross. But if we reject salvation, we will have to pay the price for sin—eternal death.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
1 John 5:12

To receive God's gift of salvation, you must:

1) Acknowledge your sin and repent (turn away from your sin to God)

-“Repentance must never be thought of as something we must do *before* we can come back to God. Repentance describes what coming to God is. You can't turn *towards* God without turning *from* the things He is against.” (David Guzik)

2) Believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that He paid the price for your sin so that you don't have to.

-Romans 10: 9-10—“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

-Acts 2:21—“...That everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

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

3) Trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior

-“The faith that saves is not believing certain truths, nor even believing that Jesus is a Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, lying with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope. Believe that he can save you; believe that he will save you; at any rate leave the whole matter of your salvation with him in unquestioning confidence. Depend upon him without fear as to your present and eternal salvation. This is the faith which saves the soul.” (Spurgeon)

Final Thoughts

The Word of God says in Ephesians 1:10 that God ultimately resolves all things in the heavens and on earth in Christ. We will either meet Jesus as our Savior or our judge. A day is coming soon when every knee will bow to the Lordship of Jesus.

“That at the name of Jesus every knee would bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11

Friend, if you do not confess that Jesus Christ is Lord now, you will be before the judgment throne. Jesus Christ *is* Lord; that is a fact. But He can only be your Savior if you choose to place your faith in Him *now*.

Dearest friend, bow your knee now so you can rejoice at Christ's appearing. Amen!

This document was compiled using *God's Plan of Salvation* from Bible.org, *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary* by David Guzik, and Ray Comfort's YouTube videos from *Living Waters*.

Scripture quotations are from the NASB Bible (New American Standard Bible) unless otherwise indicated.