

The clear emphasis of this section is on what *God Himself* has provided through the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit and the consequences for believer. The focus, then, is on God's actions, not the believer's.

(William Mounce)

Salvation is *NOT*

- Cooperation with God
- Intoxication of financial-prosperity
- Estimation of oneself
- Demonstration of virtue
- Declaration of goodness
- Exertion of meritorious-deeds
- Infatuation of law-keeping

The main clause is in v.5 – “[God] saved us...”

1. He [God] – God is the initiator, the worker, the accomplisher, the one who does the action.
2. Saved – God actually saves. He doesn't potentially save all; He actually, perfectly & wholly saves all whom He predestined.
3. Us – We are the particular ones whom He elected. We are justified. We are heirs. We have the hope of eternal life.

The central truth of God's saving grace is succinctly stated in the assertion, “Salvation is of the Lord.” This strong declaration means that every aspect of man's salvation is from God and is entirely dependent upon God.

(Steve Lawson)

THESIS — In this passage, we'll see God's gospel of grace & view it in 7 declarations.

These verses present the theological realities (vv.4-7) that make it possible for godly living (vv.1-2).

--Phillip Towner

I. SALVATION BEGINS WITH GOD'S SOVEREIGN INITIATIVE (4)

A. Your lostness (3)

B. God's graciousness (4)

1. the POWER of God — BUT... (you were lost, but GOD is able to save...)
2. The PRECISION of God — WHEN ... at the perfect, precise, timely moment

II. GOD ACCOMPLISHES SALVATION FOR ALL HIS ELECT (5a)

Titus 3:4-7 — “7 Declarations of the Only Saving Gospel!”

A.He - God alone saves. (REDEEMER)

B.Saved - accomplishes; full, complete, wrought action (REDEMPTION)

C.Us - the particular ones, the elect, the predestined. (RECIPIENTS)

III.SALVATION IS ENTIRELY APART FROM OUR MERIT (5b)

A.NOT because of deeds which we've done

B.NOT because of righteousness

1. 2 Tim 1:9
2. Rom 3:21-28
3. Rom 4:2-6
4. Rom 9:11
5. Gal 2:16
6. Eph 2:8-9
7. Phil 3:9

IV.SALVATION IS APPLIED BY THE SPIRIT'S REGENERATION (5c)

A.We are saved as the Spirit regenerates us, renews us, washes us

Many allusions back to John 3 & Ezekiel 36:26ff

V.THE TRINITY ACHIEVED OUR SALVATION: GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT THRU JESUS CHRIST (6)

A.God saved us

B.Christ saves us

C.Spirit saves us

VI. THE SINNER IS JUSTIFIED BY GRACE (7)

Justification is the main hinge on which salvation turns.

-- John Calvin

A. justified by God's grace

1. Rom 3:24;
2. Rom 5:1, 9;
3. 1 Cor 6:11;
4. Gal 2:16-17;
5. Gal 3:24

VII. SALVATION INCLUDES THE UNFAILING HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE (7b)

A. we are made HEIRS (=inheritors) of eternal life; the HOPE of eternal life (Rom 8:17)

The extent of God's love at Calvary is seen in both the infinite cost to Him of giving His one and only Son, and in the wretched and miserable condition of those He loved. God could not remove our sins without an infinite cost to both Himself and His Son. And because of their great love for us, both were willing—yes more than merely willing—to pay that great cost, the Father in giving His one and only Son, and the Son in laying down His life for us. One of the essential characteristics of love is the element of self-sacrifice, and this was demonstrated for us to its ultimate in God's love at Calvary.

-- Jerry Bridges

MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD

My hope is in the Lord
 Who gave Himself for me
 And paid the price
 Of all my sin at Calvary.

For me He died;
For me He lives,
And everlasting life
And light He freely gives.

No merit of my own
 His anger to suppress
 My only hope is found
 In Jesus' righteousness

And now for me He stands
 Before the Father's throne
 He shows His wounded hands
 And names me as His own

His grace has planned it all
 'Tis mine but to believe
 And recognize His work of love
 And Christ receive

IN CHRIST ALONE

“In Christ alone my hope is found;
 He is my light, my strength, my song;
 This cornerstone, this solid ground,
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 My comforter, my all in all—
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
 Fullness of God in helpless babe!
 This gift of love and righteousness,
 Scorned by the ones He came to save.
 Till on that cross as Jesus died,
 The wrath of God was satisfied;
 For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
 Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious day,
 Up from the grave He rose again!
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
 For I am His and He is mine—
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus commands my destiny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
 Can ever pluck me from His hand;
 Till He returns or calls me home—
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.”

Prayer Meeting:

- The Gospel and our **PRAISE** (thank/adore God)
- The Gospel and our **CONFESSION** (silent: confess sin)
- The Gospel and our **INTERCESSION** (pray for the lost by name)
- The Gospel and our **HOLINESS** (pray for the gospel to inflame us with holy love for Christ)