

Spiritual History of Jehovah's Saints

Psalm 66:16

I will declare what God has done for my soul.

Part 3: What God the Son Has Done for My Soul

As we already considered, the salvation of Jehovah's saints involves all three Persons in the Holy Trinity. Our salvation is of God the *Father* with regard to its *origination*, and of God the *Son* with regard to its *acquisition*, and of God the *Spirit* with regard to its *application*.

Having already considered the work of God the Father for my soul, let me now tell you what God the Son, Jesus Christ, has done for my soul.

Jesus performed most of His saving deeds during the days of His incarnation, and especially in His death on the cross, and by the blood He shed in His death.

Jesus' saving deeds are said to have been performed "when the fullness of the time had come" (Galatians 4:4) – at the precise time God foreordained or predestined before the foundation of the world.

At that time was fulfilled the prophecy that "You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come" (Psalm 102:13).

And Jesus performed His saving deeds at the end of Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" (Daniel 9:24ff). For in that seventieth week was fulfilled God's prophecy "[1] to finish the transgression, [2] to make an end of sins, [3] to make reconciliation for iniquity, [4] to bring in everlasting righteousness, [5] to seal up vision and [6] prophecy, [7] and to anoint the Most Holy".

And Jesus finished His saving deeds in His death on His cross on Calvary (Isaiah 53:4f): "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

Having suffered in full the divine wrath and punishment His people deserved, He then shouted in glorious victory "It is finished!" (John 19:30). *Accomplished* was the saving work of God the Son for my soul!

Among the saving deeds done for my soul by God the Son are the following:

I. Jesus Christ saved me. It was for this purpose that He was born (Matthew 1:21): "you shall call His name *Jesus* [literally *Jehovah Is Salvation*], for He will save His people [God's elect] from their sins."

He saved me from the penalty of death my sins deserve (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4). For He died in my place and stead, vicariously, as my substitute.

He saved me from every sin of every kind:

- my *original* sin and *actual* sins;
- my *public* sins and *private* sins;
- my sins of *commission* and sins of *omission*;
- sins of my *body's deeds* and my *lips' words* and my *heart's*

thoughts;

- my sins whether *known* or *unknown* to me;
- my sins *past* and *present* and *future*.

I therefore am not of those who fear being "saved today but lost tomorrow" (as they speak of their salvation).

II. Jesus Christ redeemed me (Revelation 5:9): "You [Jesus Christ, Lamb of God] were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

In the Greek verb translated redeemed (*agorazō*) is found *agora*, "marketplace". This marketplace was a *slave-market*, in which God's elect were in bondage to His law they had broken. God sent His only begotten Son to that slave-market to redeem His elect from the curse and bondage of the law, and in order that God might adopt them as His own sons and make them God's heirs with Christ (Galatians 4:4-7; 3:13f).

Consider three facts regarding this redemption by Jesus Christ:

First, here is *blood-redemption* – redemption by blood, for nothing else could pay the price (1 Peter 1:18f): "you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Second, here is *particular* redemption – redemption of a particular people, not of all people universally. For the redeemed are "*out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation*". I am not of those who wrongly aver that Jesus Christ redeemed everyone *in every tribe and tongue and people and nation*.

Third, here is *accomplished* redemption – not a provisional redemption. I am not of those who wrongly aver that Jesus Christ paid the price of redemption of all people universally, and that His redemption is effectual only to those who make it so through their faith or some deed they perform.

III. Jesus Christ justified me (Isaiah 53:11; Romans 3:24; 5:9):

- in Isaiah 53:11, God the Father says, "My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities";
- in Romans 3:24, saints are assured that they are "justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus";
- in Romans 5:9, saints are told that "having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

To be *justified* in the sight of God is to be "declared righteous" by Him.

The *moving* cause of my justification was "God's grace". For there was no goodness or merit in me that deserved it: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). I was therefore "justified *freely*" or *gratuitously* – for no reason except that God was pleased to do so.

But God did not justify me by a mere *fiat*. For His law and justice against me had to be satisfied. I therefore was

“justified *through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*”, or through His payment of a ransom in His death.

The *instrumental* cause of my justification was therefore “Christ’s blood”. I therefore am not of those who boast of being justified through keeping the law. For “by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (3:20). Besides, as I earlier told you, Christ redeemed me from the law and its bondage.

And since *Christ justified* me, “I *shall* be saved from wrath through Him.”

IV. Jesus Christ sanctified me (Hebrews 10:10, 14): God’s elect are assured that “we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

As the shedding of Jesus’ blood *justified* me in the sense of *declaring me to be righteous*, so has it *sanctified* me in the sense of *making me to be holy* – separated from the world and consecrated unto God.

And He did this “once for all”. I therefore am never again, in God’s eyes, unclean or estranged from God. I therefore am not of those who fear that they “lose their sanctification” (as they express it).

Nor am I of those who believe they may improve on their sanctification, as do those who speak of “*progressive sanctification*”.

V. Jesus Christ perfected me (Hebrews 10:14): “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

The verb *perfected* means “made to be complete”.

And this Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that “the law made nothing perfect” (7:19). Even after all its sacrifices were faithfully performed, all for whom its sacrifices were performed were still imperfect, incomplete. For example, they still knew in their hearts that they were unrighteous and unholy, and that another sacrifice would be required for them.

But the one offering made by Jesus Christ eternally perfected all those whom God is sanctifying, separating them from the world and consecrating them to Himself. They know from the moment they trust in Him that through His death they are perfectly and completely righteous and holy before God, and that no other sacrifice needs to be made for them.

VI. Jesus Christ cleansed me (Revelation 1:5): “Jesus Christ ... washed us from our sins in His own blood.”

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecy “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness” (Zechariah 13:1). For from His pierced side flowed a fountain of blood in which we were washed from our “sin” and “uncleanness”.

VII. Jesus Christ healed me (Isaiah 53:5): God’s elect are assured that “by [Christ’s] stripes we are healed.”

I was from head to feet a mass of spiritual “wounds and bruises and putrefying sores” oozing forth the pus of my

infection (Isaiah 1:6); but the wounds and bruises and stripes He suffered from His head to His feet healed mine.

Furthermore, in my conversion, Jesus Christ continued His work of healing me:

- I was *diseased*, a spiritual and unclean leper because of my sin; but He as the Great Physician healed me and made me clean.
- I was *deaf*, and could not hear the call to come to God; but Jesus opened my ears so I could do so.
- I was *blind*, and could not see my way to God; but Jesus opened my eyes so I could do so.
- I was *crippled*, and could not walk to God; but Jesus strengthened my legs so I could run to Him.
- I was *mute*, and could not call upon God to save me; but Jesus restored my voice so I could forever speak and sing of what He has done for me.

Jesus Christ has truly fulfilled the prophecy that “The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2). The healing He accomplished for me on Calvary was applied to me in my conversion to Him.

VIII. Jesus Christ remitted my sins (Matthew 26:28): He declared “My blood of the new covenant ... is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

The *remission* of sins denotes “letting them go as if they had never been committed” (*Thayer’s Greek Definitions*).

Therefore, Jehovah, in prophesying of this present age, declares: “In those days and in that time, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found” (Jeremiah 50:20).

IX. Jesus Christ reconciled me to God. I was born an alien from God and an enemy against Him. I opposed Him in my wicked deeds, blasphemous words, and impure thoughts.

But upon believing the gospel of Jesus Christ I learned that I had been reconciled to God through His Son’s death on Calvary:

- “when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Romans 5:10);
- “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind [as evidenced] by wicked works, yet now God has reconciled in the body of Christ’s flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (Colossians 1:21f).

Now, as a gospel preacher, I say to you; “Now all things are of God [the Father], who has reconciled us [His chosen people] to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us [His ministers] the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were exhorting through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Will you obey my exhortation and be reconciled to God?

– Daniel E. Parks