



Jesus the "Savior"!

Psalm 62:1-8 Titus 3:1-8 Luke 2:1-14

December 20, 2020

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In Christology, that is, *the study of Christ*, you can organize your thoughts around two major points: The Person of Christ – that is, who Jesus is and the Work of Christ – that is, what He has done for us.

John the Baptist taught us that Jesus is the Lamb of God, and His work is to takes away the sin of the world. John teaches us that the only way to meet Jesus is through repentance and faith: turn from sin and trust that God forgives you because of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Later in the New Testament, we learn that Jesus is the very Son of God, who came into the world to purify and cleanse you from your sin. Jesus is the Incarnate, in flesh God who was given the Name Immanuel --> God with us. God not only purifies you from your sins, but He also promises to be with you every moment of every day, watching over your life.

In Scripture, perhaps the most fundamental way to think about Jesus is simply as our SAVIOR. God named His Son "Jesus" because He will save people from their sins.

The word family "save/salvation" is the idea of rescue, deliverance, safety, and escape. Christmas is about Jesus coming into the world to do the work of salvation for you: He is the Savior that God provided for you!

This is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, 1 Timothy 1:15

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:17

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14

Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

The emphasis on all of these verses --- and a 100 others -- is that Jesus came into the world for one purpose: to save us! His work was to do what we could not do: to **rescue** us from the devil and to **deliver** us from sin so that we are **safe** from death and we will **escape** final judgment.

Jesus does not save you by His birth in Bethlehem; He saves you by His death in Jerusalem. *Everything in Jesus' life pointed forward to His suffering and death.*

- † The Old Testament prophecies foretold it;
- † John the Baptist's martyrdom foreshadowed it;
- † Jesus even taught about His approaching suffering and death.

According to God's great love for you, God planned to have His Son take your place in death so that you would have life. God saved you through the death of Christ on the cross. In His Resurrection from the Dead, the Son of God guarantees your salvation.

The word "**salvation**" implies *m o v e m e n t*: Jesus has rescued you from something terrible and deadly and *m o v e d* you to something great and safe.

God the Father has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col 1:13-14

The word "**salvation**" implies *m o v e m e n t*: Jesus has rescued you from something terrible and deadly and *m o v e d* you to great and safe place.

You have been saved **from** the power of sin, death, and darkness and **brought into** the Kingdom of Christ and His light, peace and grace.

The "**dominion of darkness**" is everything evil; just think of the danger that God has rescued you from: **the power of sin, the pain of guilt, the fear of shame, the dread of condemnation, the terror of death, the control of the devil, the enticements of your own sinful nature,** and He has rescued you from **the certainty of fire, brimstone, wrath, judgment, and hell itself.**

This is why Christ came into the world!

Only the Son of God could do this for you. Only Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, could save you from the **dominion of darkness**. His birth in Bethlehem began His long journey to the cross in Jerusalem. This is all His Work, and not your own. The New Testament teaches that *when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.* Jesus came into the world for one purpose: to save you! His Name is “Jesus”, because He will save His people from their sins!

This is why you put your faith in Jesus and not your own good works. Faith trusts that Jesus is the Savior that God sent for you. Faith knows and believes that the Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, has **rescued** you, He **delivered** you from sin so that you are **safe** from death and you will **escape** final judgment. **Faith connects you to the Savior!**

But remember, that the word “**salvation**” implies *m o v e m e n t*: There is another side to salvation! Not only has God the Father has rescued you from the **dominion of darkness** but He has also *m o v e d* you into **THE LIGHT OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST**.

You now belong to Christ and live in His Kingdom. Something substantial happens to you because of the Savior Jesus Christ. Everything about you changes. Your entire identity is turned upside down. Rather than living in darkness, you live and move and have your being in the Light of Christ and His Kingdom. You have been set free to live a new, grace filled, Christ centered life!

Look at this fascinating passage:

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. Titus 3:4-8

You are to be careful to “**Devote yourself to doing good!**” *That is life in the Kingdom of God!*

The word “**devote**” means to give careful attention to, to busy yourself with and take the lead in doing good works. The tense of the verb is that this *continuous action* in your life. It happens daily: *day in and day out* you devote yourself to doing good!

Life in the Kingdom of God changes you. Not only has God the Father has rescued you from the **dominion of darkness** but He has also *m o v e d* you into **THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST**.

- ⇒ Like fruit on a tree, you now strive for good **works** and speak good **words**;
- ⇒ You have been set free to glorify God, serve your neighbor, and grow in faith!
- ⇒ The direction of your life is love: loving God and loving your neighbor!
- ⇒ Your life is filled with the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.
- ⇒ You have been give Spiritual Gifts to help, serve, and benefit other people!
- ⇒ The **dominion of darkness** has no power over you – you live your life in the Light of Christ!

On this last Sunday of Advent, only days away from Christmas, we remember that God named His Son “Jesus”, because He is our **Savior**. He has *m o v e d* you from the Kingdom of darkness and brought you into His eternal Kingdom.

You belong to God: Let **those who trust in God devote themselves to doing what is good!** **AMEN!**