

CHOOSE FREEDOM SUPPORT GROUP
WEEK 2 SUPPLEMENT

Salvation is more than a ticket to Heaven.

Jesus defined salvation, in His terms, when He told us why He was here.

Luke 4:17-19 (ESV)

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the *poor*. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the *captives* and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are *oppressed*, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Whenever Jesus spoke and taught, He quoted from the Old Testament because that is the only Bible they knew at that time. The Old Testament prophesied of Jesus over and over and over.

It's important to look at the root words that are translated from Greek and Hebrew to gain a better understanding of scripture and the truth it teaches us.

- *Poor*: "destitute, lowly, afflicted, lacking in anything."
- *Captive*: "a prisoner of war."
- *Oppressed*: "crushed, bruised, broken and shattered."

If salvation sets us free from all the above, it MUST mean more than just forgiveness (not that alone isn't miraculous!). Let's look at some more root words that will help us grow in our knowledge of Christ. First, let's define the root word that is translated as forgiveness in the following verse. It's *aphesis* which has a much richer meaning than just forgiveness.

Luke 24:46-47

He also said to them, This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for *forgiveness* of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations,...

Aphesis: freedom; (figuratively) pardon: — deliverance, *forgiveness*, liberty, remission... release from bondage or imprisonment, forgiveness or pardon, of sins, remission of the penalty

This literally means letting them go as if they had never committed a crime (or a sin). Their past is LITERALLY wiped clean. NO record of wrongs! Complete freedom... born anew... without a past...

Now, let's define the root word used for salvation.

Sozo: to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction one (from injury or peril) to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to

make well, heal, restore to health to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue...

Does this mean salvation *includes* being protected AND healing?!

God's Rescue Plan

Jesus died to save us from evil. In Genesis, we are told of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The word knowledge means to know intimately, to experience.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

"Good" is the same word God used when He concluded that everything He created was very "good." Everything experientially wonderful, such as: "good, beauty, the best, bounty, cheerful, glad, loving, pleasant, pleasure, prosperity, wealth, happiness, etc."

"Evil" warned of everything experientially nasty: "evil (natural or moral), adversity, affliction, calamity, distress, grief, harm, hurt, ill, misery, sorrow, injury, trouble, etc."

God never wanted us to experience evil. Adam and Eve did not become more knowledgeable, as the devil deceived them about why to taste of the tree. They *experienced evil and the absence of good* because they stepped outside of Father for the first time. They became slaves of the devil and began to experience death and all it's nasty, miserable fruit, including harm, affliction, illness, distress, sorrow, pain, anxiety...

Notice the blessing and calamity in the verse? This is why, without God, we can have good days and bad days. We are eating from that tree, under the oppression of evil, until we are saved in Christ.

Romans 6:16 (AMPC)

Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)?

The GOOD NEWS! Once you are saved, you are eating from the TREE of LIFE, which is Christ Jesus. This has always been God's plan from the very beginning.

Romans 8:29

For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

John 14:6

"I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Zephaniah 3:15 (ESV)

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

Colossians 2:14-15

...by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Luke 1:68-75 (HCSB)

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and provided redemption for His people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, just as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets in ancient times; salvation from our enemies and from the clutches of those who hate us. He has dealt mercifully with our fathers and remembered His holy covenant — the oath that He swore to our father Abraham. He has given us the privilege, since we have been rescued from our enemies' clutches, to serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness in His presence all our days.

Luke 4:17-18

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

Colossians 1:13-14

He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him. (darkness: ignorance/light: knowledge)

Hope Filled Prayer

Thank You, Lord, that I am predestined to be conformed to Your image and all You promise in Your Word is yes and amen in Your Son, Christ Jesus.

You have redeemed me from the consequences of my sin. You have deposed the devil and eliminated his authority over me. You have put Your Spirit within me. You are always right here with me because we are One Spirit. I never have to fear evil again!

Thank You, Lord, that You have delivered me from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of Your Son Jesus. You have made me new so that I may walk in Your ways and see Your kingdom here on Earth. I don't have to wait for Heaven!

Thank You, Lord, that You are my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.