

The Significance of Salvation

John 1: 12-13

Today we plan to celebrate Communion, as we remember all the Lord did to secure our salvation and reconciliation to God. Communion is a time of worship and remembrance of the great sacrifice the Lord made on our behalf, in order to atone for our sin and save us by His marvelous grace.

Communion is reserved for those who have believed in the finished work of Christ on the cross for salvation and baptized into the family of God. The observance of Communion is familiar to us, but I fear we often fail to see the significance of the service in worship. Through the remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice, on our behalf, we are reminded of all we have received in Him. We have been pardoned from sin, reconciled to God, placed eternally within the body of Christ, and promised an eternal inheritance in His glorious presence.

The observance we will soon participate in is not an observance of little value or consequence. We are reminded of the gracious provision of Christ for those condemned in sin, separated from God, without hope in our own merit. We stood in need of one to provide a sacrifice pleasing to God to atone for our sin. Christ offered Himself in order to secure our salvation!

Before we partake of the Lord's Table in remembrance of His provision, I would like for us to examine the [elements](#) of His provision as we consider: [The Significance of Salvation](#).

I. Salvation is Universal (12) – [But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name](#). I say that unapologetically and maintain that to be foundational truth. The Scripture is very clear regarding whom salvation is available. [But as many as received Him](#) – It doesn't get much clearer than that. Pastor, are you insinuating that anyone can be saved? Absolutely! Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, whosoever will.

- Now I am aware that there are those who teach that only a select group or number will be saved, but I find no evidence in Scripture to back up such a claim. Christ didn't come just for the wealthy, the educated, or a specific race of people. He came for all men, as many as receive Him! [Titus 2:11 – For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men](#). [1 Tim.2:4 – Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth](#). That appears to be universal doesn't it?

II. Salvation is Transformational (12) – [to them gave He power to become the sons of God](#). That is such a blessing and a powerful encouragement. God makes us His children when we are saved.

That literally means that “*we become something that we formerly were not.*” Think about that for just a moment. We were sinners, undone and condemned before God. We had no hope of eternal life. We were outside the grace and provision of God.

- But, at the moment of salvation we were adopted into the family, transformed from sinners deserving of hell to heirs of God! [Rom.8:17 – And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.](#) [2 Cor.5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.](#)

III. Salvation is Provisional (12) – [But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.](#) I stand amazed at the salvation of our Lord. We had no hope of being reconciled to God in ourselves. We were hopelessly lost. By His abundant grace and mercy, God gave us **power** to become the sons of God. That is a powerful word and thought. It has the idea of both “*power and right or authority.*” He drew us unto Himself by the working of His Holy Spirit. He enabled us to receive the gift He offered.

- Now we also have the right to identify with Him. When He sees the blood applied to the heart of one who is saved, we have the right to come before Him. He has given us the glorious privilege of being a child of God and approaching His throne. Isn't that amazing and glorious? [Heb.4:14-16 – Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.](#) ^[15] [For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.](#) ^[16] [Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.](#) [1 John 3:2 – Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.](#)

IV. Salvation is Supernatural (13) – [Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.](#) No one can deny that salvation is a supernatural act of God. Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be born again. Nicodemus was confused at this saying and questioned – [How can one be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?](#) John declared the supernatural state of salvation. We are not born of blood into the body of Christ, nor of the will of the flesh or man, but of God. Through God's marvelous grace, we are cleansed of our sin through the shed blood of Christ on the cross and declared righteous in the eyes of God. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to us. Our sin and guilt are exchanged for His righteousness. We are graciously and providentially placed within the family of God. Salvation is not of works or earned by merit; it is wholly the gift of God!

V. Salvation is Conditional (12) – *as many as received Him...even to them that believe on His name.*

Now I do not say that salvation is conditional in that it is based upon our good works or merit. Salvation is not something we do; it has already been done! Christ provided for our redemption fully and eternally upon the cross of Calvary. However, salvation is conditional in that we must receive Him; we must believe upon His name. That has the meaning of “*trusting to be true, persuaded of, fully placing our confidence in.*”

- Christ came that all men might be saved, but that doesn't mean that all men will be saved! Only those who receive Him will experience salvation. *Matt.7:13-14 – Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Acts 24:25 – And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. Acts 26:28 – Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

VI. Salvation is Personal (12) – *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the*

sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Salvation includes the masses of humanity throughout the ages of time, but we must not overlook the personal aspect of salvation. Christ came to save individuals. He came for me and He came for you.

- I rejoice that I am not just a number among the multitudes that have received Christ, but I too can enjoy a personal relationship with Him. I have a personal Savior who forgave my sin. He redeemed my soul. He cares for me. He provides for me. Aren't you glad that salvation is also personal?
- We must also be reminded that salvation is a personal experience. Christ came to save individuals, but we must individually respond to Him. Just because our family, friends, or those we go to church with are saved, doesn't translate to us. All must make that personal choice and come to Christ for their salvation!

Conclusion: That is the significance of salvation. It is offered and available to all who will come to Christ by faith. We must however meet Him on His terms. Have you been born again? Do you know Christ as your Savior? If not, He wants to save you and transform you into an heir as well.