



Saved

(Mat 1:21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Let us never ignore the great truths set forth in verse 21. We are told that Mary will bring forth a son whose name shall be called Jesus. This Jesus shall save his people from their sins. In retrospect, we know that Mary did bring forth a son whose name was called Jesus. Those two aspects of 'save' have been completed. The third aspect of 'save', whereby his people are saved from their sins, is still in play. What kind of excitement builds in you when you consider the impact of this verse? I hope



that it stirs your heartstrings in a mighty way. *You, as a Christian, are one of 'his' people—you are born again.*

(Rom 10:9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Every person who follows the instructions in Romans 10:9 is saved or born again. This saving

is the same saving mentioned in Matthew 1:21. The word saved is translated from the Greek word sozo. It means exactly what it says, to be saved. It also means, to be safe. Once Jesus Christ is in your life, you are safe from all forms of evil which stand against him (and, consequently, you).

(Rom 10:13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

No matter whom it is, everyone who calls upon the name of the lord shall be saved. Again, the same word sozo. This sounds like a pretty good deal, doesn't it? Jesus did his work, God made those works known through the Bible, and now, it is

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up to the people of the world to respond. Pretty simple, isn't it?

Jesus is made know by the preaching of the cross.

(1 Cor 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Lots of people will consider it foolishness, but had Jesus not died on the cross (actually it was a tree), his people could, in no wise, be saved. Therefore, that preaching represents God's power. I would reason that no Christian would ever scoff at what was accomplished for us in Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor 1:21) For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

God derives great pleasure from our preaching his son to the world.

Paul preached Jesus.

(1 Cor 15:1-4) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. {3} For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

These four verses contain a noteworthy progression of events that we should be very familiar

with. It is these events that we are to believe. It is on these events that we are to stand.

- Keep in memory
- Believe what was preached
- Christ died for our sins
- Christ was buried
- God raised Christ from the dead
- All was accomplished according to the scriptures

It is actually quite simple. We should keep it that simple too. *Religion confuses the story of salvation beyond belief (literally).* If you really want to go somewhere in your life spiritually, you need to simplify your belief system and believe the truth regarding salvation.

You may not feel saved. You may even feel unworthy.

(Eph 2:5) Even when we were
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dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

The truth is—you are saved by God's grace. This precludes any and all works that you may attempt.

None of your feelings matter, my friends.

There are no feelings associated with the act of being saved. It takes place in the spiritual realm via spiritual means. When was the last time you took a walk in that realm. Jesus talked about that realm in John 10.

(John 10:1-5) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. {2} But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. {3} To him the porter openeth;

and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. {4} And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. {5} And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

In verses 1-5, Jesus taught about a 'sheepfold.' He talked about a thief and a robber climbing up some other way to get into the sheepfold. He even said that they 'entereth.' This means that bad can show up among the sheep. We are safe from all evil once saved. When one enters into the sheepfold via the door, the porter of that door will open it and the sheep will hear his voice. Sheep will not follow strangers.

(John 10:7-14) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily,

verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. {8} All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. {9} I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. {10} The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. {11} I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. {12} But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. {13} The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. {14} I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

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Verses 7-14 clarify that Jesus is the door of the sheep. Anyone seeking entrance into the sheepfold must stand before Jesus Christ in order to get in. Everyone must enter in through Jesus Christ. This is a fantastic truth. The thief will also be there, mostly in the pasture. His job is to steal, kill and destroy. In contrast, *Jesus' job is to bring his people life, and also a more than abundant life.* Jesus taught that he had to give his life for his sheep. No one else would ever qualify as the savior because of this and because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are saved by a perfect savior, one who died for us, and one who was raised from the dead by God for us! Don't pay attention to any other teachings. They are all lies.

Peter set the record straight:

(Acts 4:10-12) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. {11} This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. {12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The keepers of the prison cried out for help and Paul set the record straight:

(Acts 16:30-31) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? {31} And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou

shalt be saved, and thy house.

It is the death of the son of God which enabled (1) his resurrection, and (2) his life that now saves us.

(Rom 5:10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Let us reorganize our thoughts and beliefs to adhere to the scriptures.

(Eph 2:8-10) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast. {10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

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- We are saved by grace and that is what we are to believe.
- The grace we are saved by is not of ourselves; it is of God.
- We are not saved by works and therefore, cannot boast of our salvation.
- We are God's workmanship, masterpiece, not of our own doing.
- We are created in Christ Jesus to perform good works.
- We are ordained by God to walk with a life filled with good works.

Jesus gave himself for us.

(1 Tim 2:4-6) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. {5} For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; {6} Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Let's not spoil the works of Jesus Christ. His actions were sanctioned by God himself! God wants all men to be saved and to come unto a knowledge of the truth. Part of that truth is as follows:

- There is one God.
- There is one mediator between God and men—the man Christ Jesus.
- Christ Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all.

I'd like to invite you to accept Jesus as your lord, to confess his sweet name upon your lips—*to say 'Jesus is my lord.'*

I'd like to invite you *to believe that God raised this same Jesus from the dead*—this same Jesus who gave himself for you so that you might receive his new life.

I'd like you *to rest in the assurance that you are now saved*, safe from all forms of evil, now part of Jesus' sheepfold, and eternity bound.

Preach these healing words to others, so fulfilling God's desire that you live a life ordained to good works.

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown