

## **“So Great Salvation”**

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Heb. 2:3

Salvation is a great Bible word. It encompasses all the wonderful doctrines of reconciliation... redemption... regeneration... imputation... justification... adoption... glorification... sanctification, etc. All of these fundamental truths are wrapped up in the one word “salvation!”

It is great to be saved! There is nothing greater in all the world than salvation (Mk. 8:36). If a person is not saved, nothing else matters.

Salvation is *“SO great!”* The little word “so” means **beyond description**. For example: *“God SO loved the world...”* How much did God love the world? He *“SO loved...”* There is no way to measure how much God loves you.

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A man tells his wife after a delicious dinner, “Sweetheart, the dinner was so good.” How good? SO good I can’t explain how delicious it tasted.

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➡ *“SO great salvation.”* How great is salvation? It is SO great! How great? **“So great” even God could not find a word to describe how great it is.**

The word *“great”* appears only four times in the N.T. Each time it refers to something **incomparable** and **unique**. There is nothing to compare with the greatness of salvation. Here is something which no man would have ever devised or initiated. In its conception, initiation, operation and consummation, **salvation is all of God.**

➡ **What is so great about salvation?**

**I. “So great” you cannot do anything to EARN IT.** Titus 3:5

A. If you had to work for an eternal home in heaven, how much work would it require? There is no way you could do enough to work your way into heaven.

1. God standard is perfection (Rev. 21:27).

2. No one is perfect— *All come short of the glory of God.*

B. It is a GIFT. It is by grace, not of works (Eph. 2:8-9). It is all of God and none of man.

**II. “So great” you cannot do anything to PAY FOR IT.**

- A. If salvation had a price tag, how much would it cost?
- B. The GREAT cost of salvation— The shed blood of Christ on the cross. Jesus PAID IT ALL! **PAID IN FULL!**

**III. “So great” you cannot do anything to IMPROVE IT** (Col. 2:10—*“Ye are complete in him.”*).

- A. What would make salvation better than it already is?
- B. God never makes anything less than perfect. You cannot improve on perfection! Salvation is DONE— *“It is FINISHED!”* **“Ye are COMPLETE in him.”** If something is complete, nothing needs to be added.
  1. You cannot get more of God.
  2. You cannot get more of the Holy Spirit.
  3. You cannot make yourself more saved than you already are.
  4. You cannot become more of a child of God than you already are.
  5. You cannot make God love you more than He already does.

**IV. “So great” you cannot do anything to LOSE IT.**

- Once you are saved, you are saved forever! Hebrews 5:9 calls it *“eternal salvation.”*
- A. If you could lose salvation, what would you have to do to lose it?
  1. You would have to break the seal of the Holy Spirit.
  2. You would have to make God forfeit the earnest of the Spirit.
  3. You would have to make God renege on His promise (1 John 2:25).
  4. You would have to make a liar out of God (Titus 1:2).
  5. You would have to find a way to cut yourself out of the body of Christ (Eph. 5:27-30).
  6. You would have to find a way to cease being God’s child.
    - a. Child by adoption (Gal. 4:5-6; Rom. 8:15-17).
    - b. Child by birth.

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Barb and I have four children. One is adopted and three are natural (or born) to our marriage union. None of the four had anything to do with their choosing their parents. They could have a **blood transfusion** whereby all of the original blood would be exchanged for new blood, and still they would be our children. They could have **plastic surgery** that would change their appearance to the point they would not even look like our children... They could **rewrite their birth certificates... change their names** and completely disregard all association with us. Yet, they would still be our children!

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7. To lose salvation you would have to commit some sin that Jesus did not die for (Rev. 1:5; Col. 2:13-14).
- B. If you could lose salvation, then salvation is ultimately by works. If good works cannot save me; bad works cannot un-save me!

**V. “So great” you cannot escape hell without it** (text).

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This a **question without an answer**. A Welsh minister, began his sermon saying, "Friends, I have a question to ask. I cannot answer it. You cannot answer it. If an angel from heaven were here, he could not answer it. If a devil from hell were here, he could not answer it." Every eye was fixed on the minister, who proceeded. "The question is: *‘How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?’*"

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➡ Tract: “*What Must I Do To Go To Hell?*” Nothing! Just keep going on with your life without receiving Christ, and you’ll end up in Hell.

- A. You must simply receive salvation!
  - B. Anybody who wants it can have it. “*Whosoever will...*”
  - C. If you go to hell, it will not be because you were predestinated to be damned. It will be because you rejected salvation in Christ.
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On Sunday, February 18, 2001, NASCAR lost one of its most renown drivers. Dale Earnhardt Sr. He was in third place on the last lap of the Daytona 500 when his car was tapped from behind and sent head-on into the wall at 180 mph.

Dale Earnhardt died in the crash. An autopsy revealed he had died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Some have suggested if Earnhardt had been wearing the HANS device (Head and Neck Safety Device) he would have survived the crash. Although it was available, Earnhardt neglected to use it. A “blunt force to the head” did not kill Earnhardt. Neglect killed him.

We are all on a collision course with God's judgment (Heb. 9:27). God has provided a safety device—one designed to keep people from suffering an eternity in hell. But, like Dale Earnhardt, each of us must decide whether to accept or neglect His offer of salvation.

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**SUMMATION:** A salvation as great as this deserves your very best.

- A salvation as great as this should be told throughout the world.
- A salvation as great as this should be appreciated by manifold thanksgivings to God. *“Thank-You Lord for Saving My Soul”*
- A salvation as great as this should be demonstrated by faithful service to the One who provided it!
- A salvation as great as this should never be neglected.

➡ **IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING AN ESCAPE** (Illus: Fire Safety seminar, instructions for planning an escape route from burning house)!

All of us need to make plans for our escape from this planet. In spring of 1981 a free-lance photographer chartered a pontoon-plane to fly him into the desolate north country to photograph the natural beauty and mysteries of the tundra. He had photo equipment, 500 rolls of film, several firearms, and 1400 pounds of provisions.

As the months passed, the entries in his diary told his experience: He wrote of his fascination with the wildlife around him. But in August he wrote, "I think I should have used more foresight about arranging my departure from this wilderness. I'll soon find out."

He waited and waited, but no one came to his rescue. His family began to worry when he did not return. In November a search party finally found him frozen in a nameless valley, by a nameless lake, 225 miles northeast of Fairbanks. He had carefully mapped out his plan, but failed to make any plans to be flown out of the area. **Have you made plans to be flown off planet earth?**