

Where is Salvation Found?

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A man of my acquaintance many years ago was constantly saying: "Salvation is found in the church." What did he really mean by this? He was very proud of a baseball cap he owned which bore the inscription: "The Church Saves." Was his message true to the Bible? Where is salvation found? Consider the following statements from the New Testament.

- Rom. 6:11 – Christians are "dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus"
 - Rom. 6:23 – "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - Rom. 8:1 – "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"
 - 1 Cor. 1:2 – "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus."
 - 1 Cor. 1:4 – "his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
 - 1 Cor. 15:9 – "we have hope in Christ."
 - 1 Cor. 15:22 – "in Christ all will be made alive."
 - 2 Cor. 5:17 – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
 - 2 Cor. 5:19 – "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ."
 - 2 Cor. 5:21 – "so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
 - Gal. 2:16 – "have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ."
 - Gal. 2:17 – "we seek to be justified in Christ."
 - Gal. 3:26 – "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
 - Eph. 1:3 – "who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."
 - Eph. 1:7 – "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins."
 - Eph. 2:6 – "who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."
 - Eph. 2:13 – "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."
 - Eph. 3:6 – "sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."
 - Eph. 4:32 – "forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
 - 2 Tim. 1:1 – "the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus"
 - 2 Tim. 1:9 – "his grace was given us in Christ Jesus."
 - 2 Tim. 2:10 – "that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus."
- Where is salvation found? These verses teach that salvation, forgiveness, hope, justification, blessing, eternal life, sanctification, etc. are found in Christ. Does that mean Christ is the Savior? Consider these New Testament passages.
- Luke 1:47 – "God my Savior."
 - Luke 2:11 – "a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."
 - John 4:42 – "this man really is the Savior of the world."
 - Acts 4:12 – "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
 - Acts 5:31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior."
 - Acts 13:23 – "the Savior Jesus."
 - Acts 15:11 – "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved"
 - Acts 28:28 – "God's salvation."
 - Rom. 1:16 – "the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation"
 - Rom. 5:9 – "how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"
 - 1 Cor. 15:2 – "By this gospel you are saved."
 - Eph. 2:5 – "it is by grace you have been saved."
 - Eph. 2:8 – "For it is by grace you have been saved"
 - Eph. 5:23 – "Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior."
 - Phil. 1:28 – "that you will be saved--and that by God."
 - Phil. 3:20 – "we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 2 Thess. 2:13 – "to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit."
 - 1 Tim. 1:1 – "God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope."
 - 1 Tim. 2:3 – "God our Savior."
 - 1 Tim. 4:10 – "the living God, who is the Savior of all men."
 - 2 Tim. 1:8-9 – "God, who has saved us,"
 - 2 Tim. 1:10 – "our Savior, Christ Jesus."
 - Tit. 1:3 – "God our Savior."
 - Tit. 1:4 – "God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior."
 - Tit. 2:10 – "God our Savior."
 - Tit. 2:13 – "our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."
 - Tit. 3:4 – "God our Savior."
 - Tit. 3:5 – "He saved us....He saved us."
 - Tit. 3:6 – "Jesus Christ our Savior."
 - Titus 2:11 – "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."
 - Heb. 2:10 – Jesus is "the author of their salvation."
 - Heb. 5:9 – Jesus is "the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."
 - Heb. 9:28 – "Christ...will...bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."
 - 2 Pet. 1:1 – "our God and Savior Jesus Christ."
 - 2 Pet. 1:11 – "our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
 - 2 Pet. 2:20 – "our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
 - 2 Pet. 3:2 – "our Lord and Savior."
 - 2 Pet. 3:18 – "our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
 - 1 John 4:14 – "The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."
 - Jude 25 – "the only God our Savior."
 - Rev. 7:10 – "Salvation belongs to our God."
 - Rev. 19:1 – "Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."

These verses teach that it is God, it is Christ, and it is the Holy Spirit who is the Savior. God, Christ, God's power, and Christ's mercy are who and what does the saving. It is not the church that saves in any direct sense. Rather, Christ saves the church. Christ is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:23). Being in the church is a result and a consequence of being saved, not the cause that effects and secures salvation (Acts 2:47). Let us teach people what they need to do in order to be saved. But let us also continue to give praise and honor to the Savior who does the saving.