**God’s Complete Redemptive Plan for Man**

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To understand God’s complete redemptive plan for man, one should view it as encompassing all elements of man’s tripartite (spirit, soul, and body) nature, for God’s salvation applies to each element in a different but cohesive manner. Therefore, this text will briefly consider each.

(Keep in mind that often the student of God’s Word commits the error of attaching the same meaning to a word or phrase in the Word “across the board,” regardless of context, which leads to much confusion and apparent contradictions in the student’s mind regarding doctrine. This is especially true in regards to the subject of “salvation,” *i.e.*, God’s redemptive plan for man. Once a person appreciates the difference in the manner in which Scripture portrays redemption as it pertains to each of the “parts” [spirit, soul, and body] of man, the mental confusion and apparent contradictions will vanish.)

Salvation is a tripartite doctrine. A Christian *has been saved, is being saved*, and *will be saved*. This multilateral (three-part) doctrine is often partitioned and described as justification, sanctification, and glorification. Each has to do with a different part of tripartite (spirit, soul, and body) man. It is unfortunate that these aspects of salvation are often ignored, misinterpreted, misapplied and/or combined, birthing doctrinal error. So, let’s examine each.

**Spirit Salvation**

Most of the emphasis by the Church (Christendom – the Body of Christ ) pertaining to the subject of salvation is focused on the redemption of man in regards to his eternal existence, which is his “justification” based solely on *the finished work of Christ* (His sacrifice) on the Cross of Calvary and is therefore presented in Scripture as a totally free “gift” from God (free in the sense that it costs man nothing; but was not “cheap,” costing God the death of His Son) – a *gift* that may only be obtained by *faith apart from any merit* (works) of man, which is represented by the following:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* ([John 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.16&t=NKJV))

*And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."* ([Acts 16:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.30-31&t=NKJV))

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV))

(Without going into detail, it should be understood that the grammatical construction in the original language used in verse eight portrays a salvation that was *totally accomplished on the Cross by Jesus Christ and which extends into the present in a finished state* for all those who appropriate it through *faith*.)

*And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely*. ([Revelation 22:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.17&t=NKJV))

This is the salvation of the *spirit*, and it is for the purpose of saving man from the *penalty* of his sin and giving him eternal life (life throughout the ages). By this, man *has been saved*. It is a salvation that is totally complete and can never be retracted or nullified by man or God. It is a salvation that is obtainable *by faith alone in Christ alone* ([Acts 16:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.30-31&t=NKJV)). Furthermore, it is a salvation that will extend throughout eternity, *i.e*., the countless ages to come, which will follow Christ’s millennial (thousand year) reign upon and over the earth.

Yet, this doesn’t mean that there will be no consequences for sin committed by a Christian during this (temporal) life, for the Bible is very clear that a Christian is free to choose and thereby able to walk “*according to the Spirit*,” or conversely, walk “*according to the flesh*” ([Romans 8:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.1-8&t=NKJV)).

To walk *according to the Spirit* is to *by faith* ([Colossians 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+2.6&t=NKJV)) allow the Spirit to control your life and thereby produce spiritual fruit, which will result in benefits in this life and in the millennial kingdom to follow ([Revelation 20:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.4&t=NKJV)).

To walk *according to the flesh* is to allow the old “sin nature” to control your life ([Romans 7:23-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+7.23-25&t=NKJV); [8:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.1-11&t=NKJV)), which results in no spiritual fruit or benefits, now or later. God’s Word is clear to the Christian – he will give an accounting of his life at the Judgment Seat of Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV); [Romans 14:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+14.10&t=NKJV)), which will result in rewards or lack of rewards ([1 Corinthians 3:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.11-15&t=NKJV)).

(For an inclusive treatment pertaining to this issue, please read the book, [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Judgment Seat of Christ](http://bibleone.net/JSC.htm).)

It is in light of this coming judgment of Christians (which has nothing to do with eternal matters) that the apostle Paul said, “*Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*” ([2 Corinthians 5:11a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.11a&t=NKJV)) and issued 6 distinct warnings to Christians (not so-called “professing Christians”) throughout the book of Hebrews.

The fact is that there is much for the Christian to lose by a life that is conducted *according to the flesh*, as well as there is much to gain for a life conducted *according to the Spirit*. And this all centers on the “salvation of the soul.”

(For an inclusive treatment pertaining to the salvation of the spirit, please read the book, [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Salvation by Grace through Faith](http://bibleone.net/SGF.htm).)

**Soul Salvation**

The word “soul” (from the Greek word that means “life”) as used in the New Testament refers to the “life principle” or “life force” of man. Whereas the “spirit” of man is that element in which he is able (upon its activation at the “new birth” by the Spirit) to connect to or unite with God, the “soul” is the seat of his emotions and intellect, which animates his physical body during this lifetime and will do the same in the next (millennial) “age.” And it is in connection with this coming age (Messianic or Millennial Age) with which the “soul” is concerned.

Just as Christ was raised from the dead in a physical body and in which He will continue throughout all eternity, so also will man continue in a resurrected physical body, animated by spirit rather than by blood, throughout all eternity. It will then be this quality that the Christian will have the ability to personally and intimately know God (who is spirit), *i.e.*, by his physical connection with Christ.

And this physical life in connection with Christ must first start in the coming Millennial Age – a literal 1,000 year reign by Christ relative to the earth. It is in this coming age that the rewards garnished at the Judgment Seat of Christ by the Christian’s faithful and fruit-producing life during this (temporal) lifetime will materialize. This will be the salvation of one’s soul, which will then satisfy God’s purpose for man, which was established when He created man, *i.e*., to have dominion over the earth.

This salvation operates in the *present continuous tense*. Unlike the completed past tense salvation of the “spirit,” this salvation reveals a present and continuous work, which begins at the moment the spirit is saved and continues until it ends at the Judgment Seat of Christ. In Scripture this salvation is the *salvation of the soul* that is amply represented throughout the New Testament, of which the following scriptural passages represent:

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* ([1 Corinthians 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+1.18&t=NKJV))

*For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved . .* . . ([2 Corinthians 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+2.15&t=NKJV))

*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved* [Gk: being kept safe], if *you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.* ([1 Corinthians 15:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.1-2&t=NKJV))

*But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.* ([Hebrews 10:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.39&t=NKJV))

*Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls*. ([James 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.21&t=NKJV))

*Receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls*. ([1 Peter 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV))

This is the sanctification process of the believer that evolves either in a positive or negative manner throughout his physical life, depending upon whether or not he lives for himself (gains his soul/life) during his temporal existence, or lives for Christ (loses his soul/life). If he “gains his soul” here, he will lose it there. If he loses his soul for Christ’s sake here, he will gain/find it there ([Matthew 16:24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.24-27&t=NKJV)).

A Christian who loses his soul at the Judgment Seat of Christ because of his disobedience in this life will lose his rewards, which will be manifested in loss of his future quality of life during the millennial reign of Christ upon earth. He will either be chosen to rule and reign with Christ in the coming kingdom, or be excluded from ruling in it by the side of Christ.

By living “*according to the Spirit*,” he will either gain great power and ability to produce great works, or, by living “*according to the flesh*,” he will lose his ability and power to accomplish any future works whatsoever ([Matthew 25:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.28&t=NKJV), [Romans 8:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.5-8&t=NKJV)).

To put it another way, “soul salvation” has to do with an inheritance that the “child of God” (a position established at “spirit salvation” by faith in Christ) may obtain (or lose) by the quality of his life subsequent to “spirit salvation” – which may or may not result in being a co-heir and co-ruler with Christ during the Messianic Era. Again, the Word is quite clear that if the Christian suffers (endures) with Christ, he will indeed reign and rule with Christ.

*And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together*. ([Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV))

*This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.* ([2 Timothy 2:11-12a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.11-12a&t=NKJV))

Soul salvation is what the Christian must be concerned with over all other doctrinal matters, since it will determine your condition throughout the coming age. The Christian will either be within a position of favor, which means co-heirship and co-rulership with Christ, or, he will be in a position of disfavor – for 1,000 years. But once the age has run its course, the Bible then indicates that all tears and pain and “*former* *things*” will pass away ([Revelation 21:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.4&t=NKJV)).

For an inclusive treatment pertaining to the salvation of the soul, please read the books, Arlen Chitwood's [Salvation of the Soul](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php), in this site, [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Redeemed for a Purpose](http://bibleone.net/RFAP.htm), [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Let Us Go On](http://bibleone.net/LUGO.htm), and [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's The Spiritual Warfare](http://bibleone.net/TSW.htm).)

**Body Salvation**

Having considered the past and present tenses of salvation pertaining to the nonphysical aspects of tripartite man, the third aspect of salvation is future tense and involves the physical body, which saves it from the *results* and *presence* of sin.

This salvation of the body will occur at the Rapture of the Church ([John 14:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.1-3&t=NKJV)), both facts amply described by the following passages of scripture:

*So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. . . . And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.* ([1 Corinthians 15:42-44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.42-44&t=NKJV), [49](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.49&t=NKJV))

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.* ([Philippians 3:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.20-21&t=NKJV))

*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.* ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+4.13-17&t=NKJV))

*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*. ([1 John 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+3.2&t=NKJV))

According to Scriptures, all of the Church, *i.e*., those believers living in the period from the Cross to the Rapture, will be raised from the dead or translated in order to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ ([Romans 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+2.6&t=NKJV); [14:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+14.10&t=NKJV); [2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.8&t=NKJV); [Colossians 3:24-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+3.24-25&t=NKJV) [Revelation 22:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.12&t=NKJV)), to be followed by the thousand year Messianic Era.

**Conclusion**

Hopefully, it has become clear that God’s Redemptive Plan, the concept of “salvation” as seen in the Word of God, which incorporates His original purpose for man, *i.e*., dominion over the earth, is considerably more complex than simply the saving of a person for eventual residence in “heaven” in the hereafter.

Hopefully, it has become clear that “soul salvation” has everything to do with the consequences for the way Christians live their temporal life, to be eventually faced at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the result of which will last a very long time (1,000 years). Such is a very grave matter.

In fact, it is the consideration of the consequences connected to “soul salvation” that will give meaning to the following verse of Scripture:

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*. ([Psalm 111:10a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+111.10a&t=NKJV))

In any case, this is why the salvation of God, as seen in the Word, is both *a gift* and *a reward*, depending of course, which aspect of it is being considered.

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Excerpted from[Bible One - Charles Strong's Salvation – Gift of Grace and/or Reward for Works](http://www.bibleone.net/Salvation_G-G-R-W.htm).