**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.**

**Salvation – Gift of Grace and/or Reward for Works
By Charles Strong of** [**Bible One**](http://www.bibleone.net/)

The title of this presentation may be confusing, since it apparently presents the possibility of one or two ways of classifying the concept of “spiritual salvation” as presented in Holy Scripture, particularly the New Testament. But if the student of God’s Word believes that the Greek words utilized in the New Testament translated “save,” “saved,” and “salvation” refer *only to one form* of the matter, he then should be confused, not only by the above title, but by the multitude of passages in the New Testament regarding the subject.

Actually, the New Testament Greek words translated “save” and “saved” (Gk. *sozo*) and “salvation” (Gk. *soteia, soterion*) are words that are utilized over a broad range of both material (temporal) and eternal matters. In order for one to know the nature and effects of salvation when it is spoken of in Scripture, one should study the matter in a particular fashion.

The truth is that the “spiritual salvation” available to man from God incorporates distinctly different aspects of the matter, which if seen as one, can only produce confusion to the reader of Scripture. Hence, within Christendom, there are a wide range of denominations and doctrinal positions regarding the subject, *e.g*., Calvinism vs. Arminianism. And unless one comprehends and appreciates the different aspects of “spiritual salvation,” he will remain confused over the many apparently contradictory passages of Scripture and the many opposing denominational teachings.

To properly overcome this confused state, it is recommended that the student of the Word of God should understand and utilize the following when studying the Word:

1) God’s Purpose for Man.

2) The Composition of Man.

3) Key Principles of Biblical Interpretation.

A utilization of these truths will then assist the student of God’s Word to thoroughly comprehend and appreciate “God’s complete redemptive plan for man.”

(It should be understood that this subject is extensive, the theme and scriptural proofs of which run throughout the entire Bible; therefore, this message will only cover some of the “high points” and passages of Scripture. It is designed to whet your appetite for additional and more resolute study in God’s Word.)

**1) God’s Purpose for Man**

We learn of God’s purpose for man in [Genesis 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1&t=NKJV), which purpose has never changed. In fact, most if not all doctrines contained in the Word of God have their origin in the book of Genesis, which is why Genesis is an appropriate place to start when one wishes to study the Word.

God’s purpose for man upon his creation was for man to “*have dominion*” over the earth and God’s other creatures, as seen in the following:

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV))

And God’s purpose for man has never changed. It remains as true today as it was upon its initiation. Why? Because it is anchored in God’s immutable (unchanging) nature, as is referenced in the following passages of Scripture:

*God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.* ([Numbers 23:19a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+23.19a&t=NKJV))

*For I am the LORD, I do not change*. ([Malachi 3:6a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Malachi+3.6a&t=NKJV))

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.* ([James 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.17&t=NKJV))

God intends for man to replace Satan as the “*ruler of this world*” ([John 12:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+12.31&t=NKJV); [14:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.30&t=NKJV)), the position Satan was designated to lose when he attempted to exalt himself over God ([Isaiah 14:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.12-14&t=NKJV)). So Satan, understanding God’s purpose for man and intending to prevent it, influenced man (Adam, in the garden of Eden) to sin and thereby suffer death, both immediate spiritual death and eventual physical death, along with the devastation of the earth ([Genesis 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3&t=NKJV)).

But unlike Satan’s fall in the heavenlies, God initiated a plan of redemption both for man and the earth.

**2) The Composition of Man**

God made man in His image ([Genesis 1:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.27&t=NKJV)), a concept encompassing several attributes. But it essentially means that God is three persons in One (*i.e*., One in essence who reveals Himself in and through three Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), which is to say God is a tripartite Being. And in accordance with this tripartite image, God created man as a tripartite being. He is spirit, soul, and body; and, it is important to understand that the spirit is not the soul, as some may teach. This is clearly seen in the following passages of Scripture:

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*. ([1 Thessalonians 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.23&t=NKJV))

*For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow* [body], *and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* ([Hebrews 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.12&t=NKJV))

**3) Key Principles of Biblical Interpretation**

**Principle Number One**

The *core* (primary) *principle* that one should understand pertaining to correct Biblical interpretation is actually a composite, a union of three essential components revealed in the Word pertaining to the reception and comprehension of ultimate Truth.

***First Component***

It must be recognized that all Scripture is God-breathed. The manner in which God revealed Himself, His plans, and His purposes in His Word (a God-breathed revelation, penned as the Spirit moved men to write) is what makes Scripture different from all other writings.

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God* (Gk. *theopneustos* – God breathed), *and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* ([2 Timothy 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.16&t=NKJV))

*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.* ([2 Peter 1:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.20-21&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Luke 1:70](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.70&t=NKJV); [Acts 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.18&t=NKJV))

***Second Component***

There is and can only be *one true Guide and Teacher* of Bible doctrine, which was revealed by Christ while in “*Bethany*” with His disciples just “*before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father*” ([John 12:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+12.1&t=NKJV); [13:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+13.1&t=NKJV)), as follows:

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*. ([John 14:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.26&t=NKJV))

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come*. ([John 16:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+16.13&t=NKJV))

And this was reiterated by the apostle John, as follows:

*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. . . . But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.* ([1 John 2:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+2.20&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+2.27&t=NKJV))

When studying the Word of God, a Christian must understand that the Holy Spirit and He alone can properly and completely reveal the correct interpretation of any passage of Scripture. No human being, including the author of this document, is infallible. This being the case, each student of God’s Word should sincerely and totally recognize and look only to the Helper (*lit*. Comforter), the Spirit of God, for the correct understanding of Holy Writ.

This is not to say that the Spirit does not utilize man (ministers or their networks) in the distribution of the truth, but it is to say that one’s dependence must solely be directed toward God the Spirit in order to be able to truly ascertain fact from falsehood.

***Third Component***

The primary quality that man may possess according to God’s Word is *faith*, the ability to take God at His Word, to simply and utterly *believe* what God has to say about any matter. In other words, God expects man to *trust* Him; failure to trust (to believe) Him was in essence the first sin by man ([Genesis 3:1-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.1-7&t=NKJV)). Scripture is replete with the concept of faith as it pertains to the relationship between God and man, and it is the only means in which one may activate and receive the instruction from the Spirit of God.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.* ([Proverbs 3:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+3.5-6&t=NKJV))

**Principle Number Two**

One must understand that all of the Bible, both Testaments, are about one Person, the Word of God, God manifest in the flesh, Jesus the Christ, and His relationship, His connection to man. Such is expressed appropriately by Arlen L. Chitwood in the [Foreword](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#Foreword) to his book, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#The%20Study%20of%20Scripture), as follows:

When studying the Scriptures – whether the Old or New Testament – one is studying about *Jesus the Christ*, whom God has “*appointed Heir of all things*” ([Luke 24:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.25-27&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.2&t=NKJV)). There is nothing in the New Testament that is not seen after some fashion in the Old. The New Testament is simply a revealing, an unveiling, of God’s Son, as previously introduced in the Old Testament Scriptures.

“*Jesus*” is *the Word made* “*flesh*,” referring, in an inseparable sense, to both the *Old Testament Scriptures* and to God becoming “*flesh*” in the person of *His Son*. “Jesus” is not only *God* manifested in the flesh but the *Old Testament Scriptures* manifested in the flesh as well.

There is “the written Word,” inseparably identified with “God,” and there is this same Word manifested in the form of “*flesh*,” *with life and inseparability seen throughout*.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*He was in the beginning with God. . . .*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* ([John 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.14&t=NKJV))

Thus, “studying Scripture,” one is simply *studying about God’s Son*. And note that *the Word* became “*flesh*” *after* all of the Old Testament had been penned but *before* a single word of the New Testament had been penned. In that respect, one would have to conclude that there is nothing in the New that is not seen after some fashion in the Old, else God’s Son, *the Word becoming* “*flesh*,” would have been incomplete at the time of His incarnation.

Then, in [John 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.14&t=NKJV), *the Word* becoming “*flesh*” is seen in connection with two things:

1) *Christ’s Glory.*

2) *Christ’s Sonship, God’s Firstborn* (“sonship” implies *rulership*, and it is *firstborn sons* who rule in the human realm).

All of this can only take one back to the beginning of God’s revelation of His Son, back to the opening verses of Genesis. That which God desires man to know about His plans and purposes, which He will bring to pass *through His Son*, begins at this point.

And everything from this point forward is *regal*. Everything has to do with God’s *Son, God’s Firstborn, who has been* “*appointed Heir of all things*.” And *everything moves toward that day when God’s Son will come forth in all His Glory and realize this inheritance.*

**Principle Number Three**

One must understand that God presented His Word after a particular fashion, one in which the various truths of His Word are revealed and clarified by various examples (*types*) throughout His Word. Again, in his book, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#The%20Study%20of%20Scripture), [Types and Antitypes](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#Types%20and%20Antitypes), Arlen addresses this subject, as follows:

Then, it must be recognized that God structured His revelation to man after a particular fashion, alluded to in [Luke 24:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.25-27&t=NKJV), [44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.44&t=NKJV) and stated in so many words in [1 Corinthians 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.6&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.11&t=NKJV). Scripture not only deals with a completely accurate history of certain events surrounding God’s dealings with the earth, angels, and man, but biblical history has been recorded after such a fashion that it is highly typical as well. God has established His primary means of teaching, not through history per se, but through inherent types seen in history, pointing to antitypes seen in later history and/or prophecy.

The manner in which God revealed Himself to man is as stated in [1 Corinthians 10:11a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.11a&t=NKJV),

*Now all these things happened to them as examples* [Greek, *tupos*, types; “Now all these things happened to them for types”] . . . .

The reference is to events during Moses’ day, drawing from the wilderness journey of the Israelites. But the reference would, of necessity, have to go far beyond simply the specific events listed in [1 Corinthians 10:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.1-10&t=NKJV), preceding the statement in [1 Corinthians 10:11a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.11a&t=NKJV). In the light of other Scripture, as becomes increasingly evident when one views all of Scripture, the reference would have to be enlarged to encompass not only all biblical history during Moses’ day but all biblical history beginning with [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV).

That would be to say, God has structured His revelation to man after a fashion in which not only true, correct history is presented but this history is presented in such a manner that it is *highly* *typical* in nature. And Scripture, within this highly typical structure, is jam-packed with spiritual significance and meaning.

God, within His sovereign control of all things, brought matters to pass after such a fashion (within the history of the earth, angels, and man) that He could, at a later time, have these events to draw upon in order to teach His people the deep things surrounding Himself, His plans, and His purposes. And this would be accomplished mainly through *types* and corresponding *antitypes*.

Thus, God draws not so much from history *per se* as He does from the spiritual content set forth in the historic accounts – *the great spiritual lessons*, taught mainly from *types* pointing to corresponding *antitypes*.

Anyone can understand facts within revealed biblical history (saved or unsaved man). This would pertain more to the letter of the matter. But only saved man can go beyond *the letter to the spirit* of the matter ([2 Corinthians 3:6-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+3.6-16&t=NKJV)). Only the saved can understand *the spiritual lessons* drawn from history. Only the saved can look within biblical history and see *spiritual content* ([1 Corinthians 2:12-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.12-16&t=NKJV)).

For *the unsaved*, things beyond the simple, historical facts are completely meaningless. They can neither see these things nor know them. Spiritually, they are *dead*; and these things are “*spiritually* *discerned*.” They can view Scripture only from a “*natural* [‘soulical’]” standpoint ([1 Corinthians 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.14&t=NKJV)).

But for *the saved*, the matter is entirely different. They, by/through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, have been made *spiritually alive*. The Spirit has breathed life into the one having no life; they have “*passed from death to life*.”

And they have this same Spirit – the One who gave the Word to man through man — indwelling them to lead them “*into all truth*” ([John 16:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+16.13-15&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.16&t=NKJV); [6:19-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+6.19-20&t=NKJV); [1 John 3:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+3.24&t=NKJV)). Accordingly, the saved possess the ability to see beyond the facts of history and view the spiritual lessons inherent therein.

This is what is meant by “*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*.” It is within this facet of Scripture that man can see the things that “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard* . . . .” It is within this facet of Scripture that “*God has revealed them to us by his Spirit*."

*But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.* ([1 Corinthians 2:9-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.9-13&t=NKJV))

And it is within this complete, overall thought, as previously stated, that one finds all of biblical history forming types that are fraught with spiritual significance and meaning.

This is the manner in which God has structured His Word. It has been given to man after this fashion, and if man would properly understand that which God has revealed in His Word, *he must study it after the fashion in which it was given and recorded.*

(Aside by Pat: The following Word Document, which is Safe to open, contains over 50 pages of types/antitypes: [Types and Antitypes Two.docx](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/resources/Types%20and%20Antitypes%20Two.docx)

Also, aside: If of interest, is a list of biblical trichotomies I've gathered so far [199 Trichotomies to date], click on the following Word document: [Trichotomies of the Bible.docx](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/resources/Trichotomies_of_the_Bible/Trichotomies%20of%20the%20Bible.docx) with Scripture Links.)

**Principle Number Four**

In addition to all of the above, when studying a particular doctrine within the Word, one must always consider the context of (that which surrounds and is relative to) the passage under consideration.

**God’s complete redemptive plan for man**

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, [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](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.20&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.21&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.