

## Teaching Orthodoxy...using Bible Verses      Lesson 12

### Salvation in the past tense: Jesus saved us on the cross

Being “saved” has a past, present, and future tense: it is a journey that we **START, CONTINUE, & FINISH** at the **END GOAL**.

*Jesus said:* "Whoever wants to be my **disciple** must deny themselves and take up their cross **daily** and follow Me." Luke 9:23

Being saved is not simply limited to “calling” on God one time only (that is just the important beginning step):

“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  
Acts 2:21.

This calling on God is a good beginning, but being saved requires a continuation until the End. Never quit. Never give up. Keep on keeping on, by the help of Jesus Christ. **Thus, salvation is a process, a synergy/cooperation with Grace until Christ returns to Judge us on Judgment Day.** Don't give up on God. Stick with Him.

Christ gets **PLANTED** in our hearts, His Presence **GROWS** there, until the **HARVEST** of spiritual new life. This process has a past, a present and a future.

Jesus spoke the **Parable of the Four Soils** (Matthew 13:1-23)...in which planting/receiving Christ (the “Seed”) was just the beginning of the story, not the end of the story. Rather, the spiritual life that was planted had to endure rocks (trials and tribulations) and weeds (pleasures and cares of this life). The plant could be choked and **spiritual life could die out**.

Jesus gave the **Parable of the Ten Virgins** (Matthew 25:1-13)...in which ten virgins were given oil (symbolizing the Grace of the Holy Spirit), but by the end of the story, **only five** wise virgins entered Heaven. The other five who started on the path to salvation did not arrive. They ran out of oil. They lost the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

*Jesus said:* “**Work hard** to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter **but will fail**.” Luke 13:24

**Past:** [The Work of Christ on the cross **has saved** us.]

For the Grace of God **has appeared**, **bringing salvation** to all men.  
Titus 2:11

Christ was **once offered** to **bear the sins of many**. Heb. 9:28

He **gave Himself for us to redeem** us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.  
Titus 2:14

For this **purpose** the Son of God was manifested, that **He might destroy the works** of the devil. 1 John 3:8

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that **you were redeemed** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **but with the precious blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18-19

When **you were dead** in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive** with Christ. He **forgave us all our sins**, having **canceled** the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; **He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross**. And having **disarmed** the powers and authorities [i.e. the Devil and demons], He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**. Col. 2:13-15

...**4** Surely our griefs **He Himself bore**, and our sorrows He **carried**; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But **He was pierced through for our transgressions**, **He was crushed for our iniquities**; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging **we are healed**. **6** All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused **the iniquity of us all to fall on Him**. [*and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all--KJV*] Isaiah 53:4-6

**Christ redeemed us** from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” Gal. 3:13

For it is by grace **you have been saved**, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8-9

For in this hope **we were saved**; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he can already see? Romans 8:24

He **saved** us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.** Titus 3:5 [*this speaks of Holy Baptism and Chrismation*]

Since **we have now been justified** by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! Romans 5:9  
[*this speaks of the Holy Eucharist*]

Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that hears My word, and believes on Him that sent me, **has everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but **is passed from death unto life**. John 5:24