

Jesus is my SALVATION

1. Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

- Like John 14:6 (“no one comes to the Father except by way of Me”) this verse makes clear the exclusiveness of Jesus’ provision. But its uniqueness is in the emphasis on “no other name.”
- Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed, Ala – none can save. And no one else has been given to save.
- Jesus MEANS “Savior” and Jesus is THE Savior. I am confident in both knowing and asserting that Jesus is the only provision for our salvation. And, note: we MUST be saved – it is a NEED.

Jesus is my SUBSTITUTE

2. 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.

Jesus’ death:

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. VOLITION | “for Christ also died” |
| 2. PROPITIATION | “died for sins” |
| 3. SUBSTANTIATION | “once for all” |
| 4. SUBSTITUTION | “the just for the unjust” |
| 5. RECONCILIATION | “that He might bring us to God” |
| 6. CONSUMATION | “put to death in the flesh” |
| 7. EMANCIPATION | “made alive in the Spirit” |

Jesus is my SIGNIFICANCE

3. John 15: 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. [Phil 4:13]

In Philippians 4:13, Paul tells us: “I can do all things” through Jesus. In this verse, we learn that we can “do nothing” apart from Jesus. This truth charts my course of decision and acknowledgement of Jesus in all. The metaphor of vine and branch teaches me that He is my only spiritual sustenance, and that my significance (fruit bearing) comes only from being dynamically attached to Him.

Jesus is my NEW LIFE

4. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.
[2 Corinthians 5:17]

My life is not mine. It died when Jesus died. My life is His life in me. When my faith is strong, He is strong in me. When it is weak, my crucified life comes back to “haunt” me.

Jesus is my RIGHTEOUSNESS

5. 2 Cor. 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This amazing verse says that Jesus not only bore my sin, but was MADE TO BE SIN by God, for me. In other words, He was perfect, but was made, by God, IMPERFECT to take my place in imperfection that I might be seen as perfect (righteous). Wow. No wonder the Father forsook Jesus on the cross (“why hast Thou forsaken me?”). No wonder he went to hell following death. My righteousness = relationship is a process (note: “become”). To forsake that process is to again forsake Jesus and what he became for me.

Jesus is my RESURRECTION

6. John 11: 25,26 I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies. And everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?

This amazing verse teaches 2 great truths. (1) Because Jesus is the resurrection, I will experience life after death. (“He who believes”, ie is a Christian, will go on to live, spiritually, after physical death). (2) Because Jesus is “the life” the Christian will live forever – never suffer spiritual death.

This is HUGE – and an important part of my belief as a Christian.

MY BELIEF CHOICES, pt 2 (3 more) Oaks 3rd Anniversary - 8.24.08

God has PURPOSE

7. Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- This is similar to the OT promise of Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”*
- Note: God “causes” all circumstances and situations to come together for His good in the life of His children. We might not see but a portion of His purpose, yet we can be certain of God’s good purpose in all.
- “to those who love God” and “to those who are called according to His purpose” are describing the same children of God from different perspectives – the first from our perspective of loving God, the second from God’s perspective of eternal purpose

- **OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS:**
 - Love God and stay within His purposes, as best we can know them
 - Trust that whatever befalls the Christian, God will bring good out of it
 - Remember that ultimately His good purpose is to conform us into the image of Jesus (Romans 9:29)– sometimes a painstaking and always a lifelong task

God gives PROVISION

8. Phil. 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God will provide. God will meet ALL the needs of His children. Do you believe? When it feels like He's not providing, He's providing. When it feels like He's not providing, He's providing. It's what God does because it is WHO He is. It's what Christians believe and experience.

God gives PROTECTION

9. 1 Cor. 10:13

- a) No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man;
- b) and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,
- c) but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Note the subdivision of the above verse into 3 incredible promises. 1. No temptation is unique – many have experienced the same and many have been victorious as they trusted in Jesus. This can and should be your experience. 2. Don't tell me you can't handle it. God pre-screens what Satan can throw at you! If you get tempted, God has already determined that you can handle it. 3. God will always provide THE (special for you) way out. It might be to run. Or to say "yes" or "no" and walk away. Or it might be to pray or get council. But look for the "door" when temptation comes. Temptation never is allowed to come your way without a "specially for you" created exit door. THANK YOU, DEAR GOD FOR YOUR CONSTANT PROTECTION. It's what believers believe.