

Salvation in Coptic orthodox view



**WHAT IS THE GOAL OR PURPOSE OF MY LIFE
AS CHRISTIAN?**

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF SALVATION?

IS IT FOR ANYONE?

CONDITIONS OF SALVATION?

HERESIES ABOUT SALVATION?



- 1- My goal or purpose:
- A- To escape from sin or corruption
- B- To live a good life as the image of God
- C- To reach my destiny , my eternal life
- 2- define salvation:
- - My salvation is simply define as “ my Lord Jesus Christ” ...how and from where we got that?



- Isaiah the prophet also writes, “For YAH, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2; compare Psalm 118:14).
Therefore, we pray and confess this faith that Christ is our Salvation in the Holy Week Doxology, “Thine is the power [...] my Lord Jesus Christ, my good Savior; the Lord, Who is Holy, is my strength, my praise, and has become to me sacred salvation.

1- Need Christ blood

- No faith nor works without the blood of Christ can be of any benefit••. Faith means to believe in the blood of Christ, and works are those based on the deserts of the blood of Christ, as St. Paul the Apostle says, " ••. Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22).
- 1. Sin is disobedience to God, transgression of His rights and lack of love for Him... Since God is Unlimited, sin is unlimited too because it is committed against God, the Unlimited..so it requires God himself to incarnate and shed his own blood.
- The Passover lamb was a symbol of our Lord, "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us" (1Cor 5:7). o "This is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins " (Mt 26:28).

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- 2. This applies to the sin of Adam as well as to the sin of anyone else; because sin is sin, God's justice is the same, and death-the punishment of sin-is the same in the Old Testament as in the New Testament. It is stated that, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God", there is none who does good, no, not one" (Rom. 3:23,12). So, everyone became under the sentence of death, H •• that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may became guilty before God. " (Rom. 3:19).so the blood saves everyone, but does everyone accept it to be saved?

- Our Lord said that His blood is shed for many (Mt 26:28) but in reality only few are saved (Mt. 7:13-14).



- That takes us to the next question. What are the conditions of salvation?
- 1. Faith.
- 2. Saving Sacraments:
 - a. Baptism.
 - b. Confirmation.
 - c. Repentance & Confession.
 - d. Eucharist.
- 3. Good Works

1- *faith*



- “•• whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ” (Jn. 3:16).
- “if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24). How dangerous are the words, "you will die in your sins"! There is the blood of Christ, and it is capable of saving.. but it cannot save you against your will.
- My faith should be A LIVING FAITH.
- I believe that I have been saved, having put on our Lord Jesus Christ in baptism.
- I believe that I am being saved, growing in our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacramental life of the Church.
 - I believe that I will be saved, by God’s mercy in the Last Day of , that what we say in the Creed, we believe.

2- Baptism:



- “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mk 16:16).
- "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. " (Jn. 3:3).
- So baptism renew me, rewash me, unit me with the main body, forgive my sins, cloth me or cover me with a new garment
- "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:37,38).

AS THE LORD DIED FOR ME,

- So as salvation started with the Lord death, baptism starts with death with the lord , to rise up with him
- “...Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” (Rom. 6:3-8).
- **2- *The sacrament of chrismation:***
- "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). What is this gift of the Holy Spirit? And is it necessary for our salvation? What is its importance? And can we be saved without it? We can never be saved without this gift of the Holy Spirit... That is because our whole spiritual life is just a response of our will to the work of the Holy Spirit within us.



- Therefore. the apostles were very careful regarding giving the gift of the Holy Spirit to the believers, and not all of them were able to give it,
- It started first by lay hands then the holy myron.
- “..Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:14-17).
- In baptism, then, we share Christ His death and we become sons•• while by the Holy Spirit we live in a way that suits our being sons••• Both matters are necessary for our salvation.

3-The sacrament of Eucharist



- “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me. and I in him...” (Jn. 6:53-58).
- Every day you sin, and you need the flesh of Christ sacrificed on your behalf. You need the Holy Sacrifice an atonement for your sins.. In fact, the Holy offering of Eucharist is a continuation of the sacrifice of Christ. Therefore, you cannot be saved of your sins without it. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 Jn. 1:8).

4-The sacrament of repentance&confession



- Do faith and baptism prevent you from sinning afterwards?! Certainly not
- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).
- God requires the repentance from the angels of the churches too. In the book of revelation 2
- , "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any , they are forgiven ; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (In. 20:22,23).

5-The good work



- good works alone are not sufficient for salvation without faith, baptism and without the deserts of the blood of Christ.
- (james 2:14-26)
- 1. Evil work leads to eternal condemnation (Gal. 5:19,21; Eph. 5:5,6).
- 2. Judgment will be based upon our deeds (Matt. 16:27; John 5:28, 29).
- 3. Works are the fruit of true faith (Luke 3:8, James 2:14).
- 4. Through good deeds we witness to our faith (James 2:18; Matt. 7:16, 17).
- 5. Through our good deeds we witness to be children of God (I John 2:29; 3:9, 10).
- 6 Works make faith perfect (James 2:22; 1: 2 7).

Heresies: does salvation happen in a moment?



- The protestant relay on the thief's story and saying : he didn't do any of the above things and he got saved
- We answer them and saying:NO , actually he passed through everything we said ,not in a moment
- 1-The first good deed of the thief was to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, because he believed in the Lord Jesus while He was crucified, humiliated, despised, and in a weak state in front of all. The cross of the Lord made many to stumble, even the disciples, the Lord said,



- 2-second good work. Our Lord said, “Unless you repent you will likewise perish” (Lk 13:3,5). This thief had reviled the Lord in the beginning and then repented (mk15:32)
- 3-third good work the thief performed, confessing his sins. He said, “We receive the due reward of our deeds” (Lk 23:41). Thus, he confessed his sins and acknowledged that the death penalty on the cross was the due reward for his evil deeds



- 4-The fourth good work of the thief was to have tremendous hope, The thief loved our Lord Jesus and although he never heard the words of St. John, “Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1Jn 3:18)
- 5-fifth good work and defended the Lord saying, “This Man has done nothing wrong” (Lk 23:41). Our Lord stood alone, no one defended Him of those who enjoyed His gifts and miracles, not even His disciples or followers, but the voice of this thief came out loud to put to shame the ungrateful thousands.



- 6-The sixth good work of the thief was to declare a complete confession of faith. He said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom” (Lk 23:42)
- And yes he got baptized, he died, and broke his legs, baptism of blood
- Also the lord spoke to him at the 6th hour, his death was at the 9th hour, while the thief death was at the 11th about 5 hours after the lord’s death.