

Saved to Serve

The Lord saves sinners to mold them into saints.

Many people know for sure that they are saved by the grace of God because they have trusted Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, was buried and rose from the dead the third day. Do you know what the Lord saved you from? There can only be a need for salvation when one is in some kind of danger or hazard. The Bible says in Romans 5:9 that we are **“saved from wrath through him.”** The wrath of God will be revealed against all unrighteousness and sin. Nobody can get away with sin. One day the day of wrath comes and the righteous judgment of God will be revealed when all evil deeds will get their just reward (Romans 2:5). But there is good news for those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. The Bible says: **“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”** *1. Thessalonians 5:9,10.* That's a comforting assurance! Those who sleep (died) in Jesus will be resurrected to obtain a new, incorruptible body. Those who still live in Jesus will be raptured at His coming and changed in the twinkling of an eye to obtain a new, incorruptible body. One might ask now: What are we saved for? What is our purpose in this life? Many people profess to be saved, but they never really get a personal walk with the Lord and even refuse to learn what the Bible says on some issues. For what purpose does the Lord save us? First of all, that's His will for us. **“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”** *1. Timothy 2:3,4.* The word “all” means “all”, and that includes you. Secondly, the Lord saves people because he's got some work for them to do. **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”** *Ephesians 2:8-10.* Walk in good works? Yes, we are created in Christ Jesus (born again) unto good works! What does this verse tell you? We are not saved by works, but we are saved in order to do a work! God has a plan and purpose for us. We no longer live to please ourselves, but to serve and please Him! Could it be that too many Christians today are busily trying to please their own selves while ignoring the good works that God has ordained them to do? Those who are Christ's can no longer say “I can do what I want to!” No! If you call Jesus your Lord, then that makes you His servant. You do whatever He wants. Your will needs to be lined up with God's will, or else you are self-willed. Who but a servant would call anyone Lord? The apostle Paul considered himself a “servant of God” (Titus 1:1). He was saved to serve! He did not brag about being a “spoiled child” of God. As far as I know, God does not want His children to be spoiled. **“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.”** *Hebrews 12:6.* God saves us, so that we may serve Him! Salvation is not something that we can put on the shelf. It needs to be used for something. Do you know God's will for your life? Ephesians 2:10 says that there is work for you! Thirdly, the Bible says, **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.”** *Colossians 2:6.* It is one thing to “receive Christ”, but it is another thing to “walk in him” after we've received Him. We need a walk with God. Those who walk in Christ Jesus are called to separate themselves from the sinful things of life, and to surrender every area of their life to Jesus Christ. There are some things

the Bible calls us to “abstain from”, “flee”, “be not conformed to”, “keep thy tongue from”, “depart from” and “deny”. Here is something that every saved person is called to do: **“That as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”** *1. Thessalonians 4:1-3*. Many people are too pleased by just “being saved” without really walking with God, pleasing Him and abounding in the things they've been taught from the word of God. They've never been taught that God's will for them is sanctification, i. e. to be holy! Yes, **“be ye holy in all manner of conversation,”** it says in 1. Peter 1:15. Would God be pleased with unholy children? Don't use salvation to excuse you sin! The Christian life is not about what pleases us. It's what pleases the Lord that really matters! Is the Lord pleased with what I'm doing? Is he pleased with the music I listen to? Or does that grieve Him? Christians too often listen to the music that pleases them. But does that music please and honor the Lord? We need to be able to face these questions. God saves us, so that we may serve Him. He redeems us and that makes us His property. **“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”** *Titus 2:14*. Those good works can include service in the local church. It might be going to a mission field. It might be faithful support of missionaries. It might be guiding your home according to God's principles. It might be soul-winning. It might be reading the Bible daily. It might be speaking up in public to defend the right to life for the unborn. It might be giving a word of encouragement to someone who is down. It might be regular prayer and family devotions. You can be saved to serve! **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”** *Acts 16:31*.