

Agents of Salvation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. Salvation (soteria) "rescue or safety (physically or morally); deliver, health, salvation, save, saving" (Strong's)
 - 1. Rom. 10:9-10
 - 2. This word is used of the deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians (Ex. 14:13), and of deliverance generally from evil or danger. In the New Testament it is specially used with reference to the great deliverance from the guilt and the pollution of sin wrought out by Jesus Christ, "the great salvation" (Heb. 2:3). (Easton's Bible Dictionary)
- B. Justification (dikaiosis) "the act of pronouncing righteous; acquittal" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, by W. E. Vine).
 - 1. Rom. 5:16-18
 - 2. "Justification is the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands. In addition to the pardon (q.v.) of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge and not of a sovereign. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law." (Easton's Bible Dictionary)
- C. One of the best ways to understand salvation is examine agents of salvation
 - 1. "Agents are the means or instrument by which a guiding intelligence achieves a result; one authorized to act for or in the place of another as a representative, emissary, or official" (Merriam-Webster)

I. GOD'S GRACE, THE FREE AGENT

- A. Rom. 3:23-26 - God was moved by His love to give us His grace
- B. Titus 2:11-14 - His grace renews and restores us
- C. Eph. 2:8-10 - His grace cannot be earned

II. CHRIST, THE EFFECTIVE AGENT

- A. Rev. 3:20 - He brings salvation to us
- B. Acts 13:38-39 - He is the only One who can

III. CHRIST'S BLOOD, THE CLEANSING AGENT

- A. Rom. 5:6-10; Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38
- B. Jesus' blood brings about the remission of sins.

IV. THE NAME OF THE LORD, THE AUTHORIZING AGENT

- A. Acts 4:7-12 - Jesus' name invokes His authority and power
- B. Matt. 28:18 - Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth
- C. Col. 3:17 - Salvation is maintained by the authority of Jesus
- D. Acts 8:35-37 - The name of Jesus must precede salvation

V. MAN'S FAITH, THE LINKING AGENT

- A. Rom. 5:1-2, 10:17 - Faith makes the connection between God's revelation of salvation and man's reception of salvation
- B. Heb. 11:6 - There is no salvation in the absence of man's faith

VI. MAN'S OBEDIENCE, THE ACTIVATING AGENT

- A. Man can never earn or merit his salvation; however, God has required certain acts on man's part in extrication from sin - Titus 3:5-7
- B. Even belief itself is a work God has ordained - John 6:29
- C. James 2:14-26 - No works of obedience, no salvation

Conclusion:

- A. All men stand condemned in their sins - Rom. 3:23, 6:23
- B. Man cannot pronounce himself acquitted; only God can do this.
- C. In order to save man, God supplies His agents in salvation
- D. In order to be saved, man must respond to God's agents with faith and obedience