

Salvation in Three Tenses

Salvation is a rich word in the Bible. One of its many meanings is “deliverance from slavery or bondage.” For example, note how Moses used the word in Exodus 14:13,30: “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever... 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.” Just as the national deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage was real, practical, and had enormous present and future implications, so our salvation from the bondage of sin and death touches our entire being (body, soul, and spirit) [“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thessalonians 5:23] and relates to our past, present and future. “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;” 2 Corinthians 1:10

1. **The Past Tense of our Salvation relates that we have been saved from the penalty of our sins from the past, the present, and in our future.** When Christ died on the Cross and was raised from the dead for our justification ALL OF OUR SINS WERE YET FUTURE. Now they are ALL PAST through the blood of Christ. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 “That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:21 “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:25–26
2. **The Present Tense of our Salvation relates that we are being saved from the power of sin.** (Read Romans 6-8; especially Romans 8:1) “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen

again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Romans 8:34. If a person really wants victory in the Christian life, God provides complete victory. Sin has NO dominion over the true Christian.

3. **The Future Tense of our Salvation looks forward to deliverance from the presence.** Our future residence is in heaven with the Lord. Our bodies of humiliation will be fashioned like unto His glorious body. “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”
Philippians 3:20–21

Therefore, salvation covers every experience through which a believer may pass.