

BEING CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN:

Faith and Salvation

Part 1b:

Salvation--a Biblical Portrait;
“Being Saved” and the Catholic Response;
Knowledge of Salvation.



Salvation/Being Saved: A Biblical Portrait

The two words, “salvation” and “being saved” in the New Testament are the words,

soterion, a noun (denoting deliverance, preservation, salvation), and,
sozo, a verb (denoting to save).

Both words have a number of meanings, determined by the varying contexts in which the words are used.

In **a first and basic sense**, the word “salvation” virtually stands for ***Jesus Christ, Savior, by whose act of salvation, we are saved.***

Luke 2:28,30-31

He (Simeon) took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: ... for **my eyes have seen your salvation**, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,

Luke 19:9-10

And Jesus said to him (Zacchaeus), “**Today salvation has come** to this house ...”

John 4:21-22

Jesus said to her (the Samaritan woman), “... because **salvation is from the Jews.**”

Acts 4:11-12

He (Jesus) is “the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.” **There is no salvation through anyone else**, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.

In **a second sense**, the words, “salvation” and “being saved,” are also used of ***the present experience***, God’s power to deliver from the bondage of sin.

1 Corinthians 15:2

Through it (the gospel) you **are also being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore, he (Jesus) is **always able to save** those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Philippians 2:12

So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling.

1 Peter 1:8-9

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, **as you attain the goal of (your) faith, the salvation** of your souls.

2 Timothy 3:15

... and that from infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are **capable of giving you wisdom or salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

In **a third sense**, “salvation” and “being saved” are also used for ***the future deliverance of believers*** at the Second Coming of Christ. This salvation is the object of the confident hope of the saints.

Romans 5:9

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, **will we be saved** through him from the wrath.

Romans 13:11

And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For **our salvation is nearer now** than when we first believed;

Hebrews 2:3

How shall we escape if we **ignore so great a salvation?**

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation. For God did not destine us for wrath, but **to gain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:14

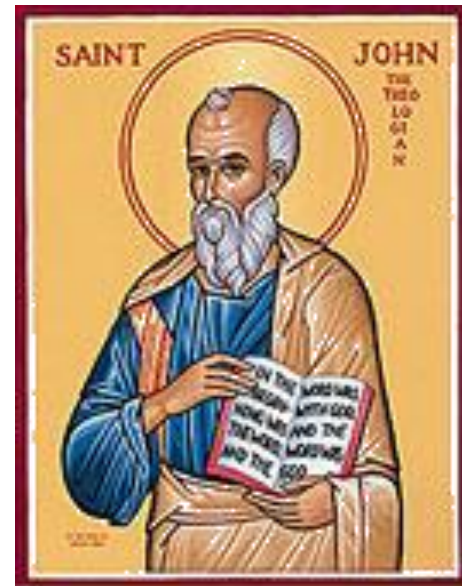
Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those **who are to inherit salvation?**

Salvation: “Being Saved”

The Evangelist John expressed best the meaning of “being saved.”

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might **not perish but might have eternal life.**



All Christian churches teach essentially the same basic truths about salvation.

And these truths are taught in much the same manner.

Differences arise in the way or in the process churches teach that a person becomes a Christian--the process of Christian initiation.

The essential differences are in terminology and ritual.
There is no essential difference theologically.



All Christian churches agree that God entered into our human affairs to "save" us from the consequences of sin which is eternal death.

1 Timothy 2:4

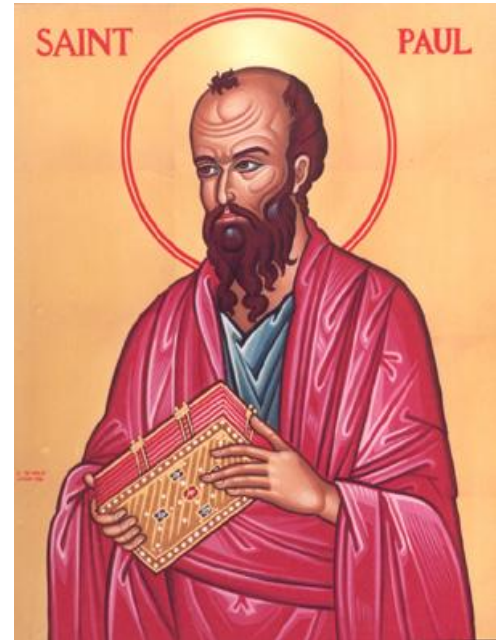
(God) wills **everyone to be saved** and to come to knowledge of the truth.



In his loving kindness, it was God who took the initiative in the process of our salvation.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.



God called a people, the Israelites of the Hebrew Scriptures, and from them sent his own Son as the means of our salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not destine us for wrath, but **to gain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The entire goal of Jesus' life and teaching was our salvation.

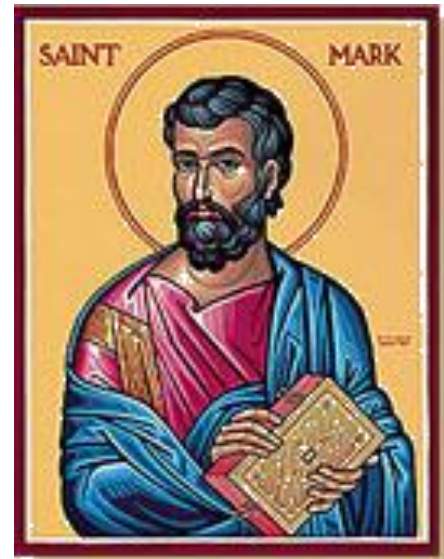
John 12:47

And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but **to save the world**.

Jesus commissioned his disciples and all those who follow him to the same salvation.

Mark 16:15-16

Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized **will be saved**; whoever does not believe will be condemned.



Christian churches still teach the good news of salvation today.

1 Timothy 1:15

This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**.

Luke 5:32

I have not **come to call** the righteous to repentance but **sinners**.



Catholic Response to “Being Saved”

The Catholic Christian answers this question in three stages or levels corresponding to the three meanings the words “saved” and “salvation” have in the Bible.

Catholic Christians can respond that *they have been saved*.

This acknowledges **the first meaning** of “saved” and “salvation” in scripture--Jesus Christ, Savior, by whose act of salvation we are objectively saved--He died, rose from the dead, saved them from sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17

So whoever is in Christ is **a new creation**.

Catholic Christians can also respond that ***they are being saved.***

This acknowledges **the second meaning** “saved” and “salvation” have in scripture--the present experience, God’s power delivering constantly from the bondage of sin.

1 Corinthians 15:2

Through it (the gospel) **you are also being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

Catholic Christians also respond that ***they will be saved***, that they have hope and confidence that God will give them the grace of perseverance; that they will respond to it; and accept his gift of salvation until their death.

This acknowledges **the third meaning** the words “saved” and “salvation” have in scripture--the future deliverance of believers at the Second Coming of Christ.

Romans 5:9

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, **will we be saved** through him from the wrath.

The Knowledge of Salvation

Some Evangelical Protestant and Pentecostal Christians believe that an individual Christian can have a certain unmistakable knowledge, an assurance from God, that one is saved.

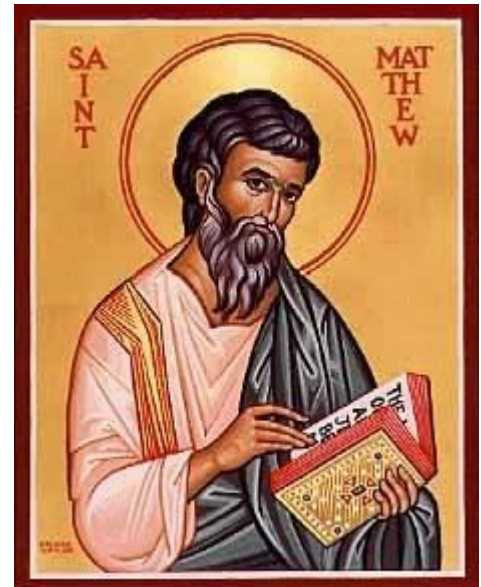
Catholic Christians believe that a Christian can have a firm hope and confidence of salvation, but that no one can know of one's final salvation with absolute certainty. This fact is amply affirmed in the New Testament.

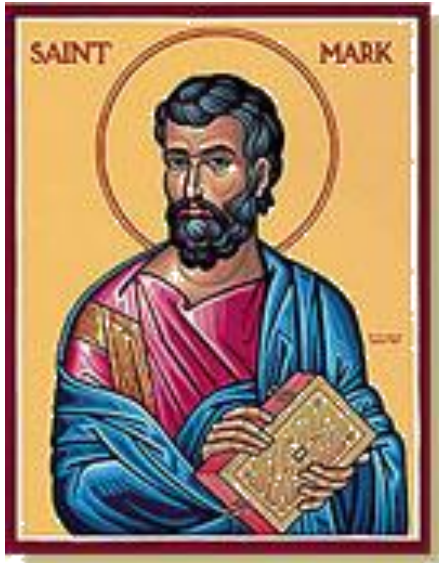
Matthew 10:22

... but whoever **endures to the end** will be saved.

Matthew 24:13

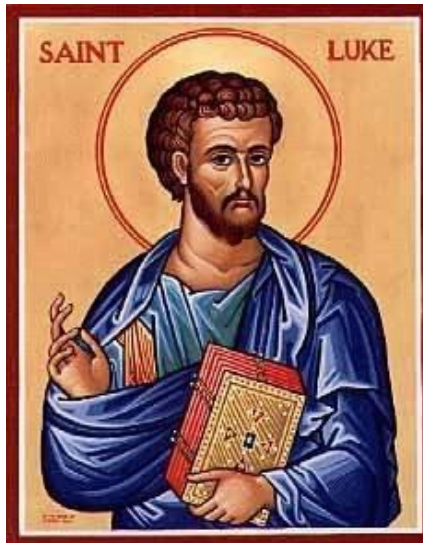
But the one who **perseveres to the end** will be saved.





Mark 13:13

But the one who **perseveres to the end** will be saved.



Luke 9:62

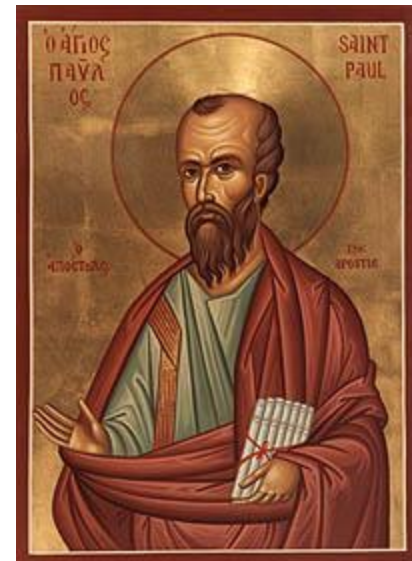
(To him) Jesus said, “No one who sets a hand to the plow and **looks to what was left behind** is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore, whoever thinks he is **standing secure** should **take care not to fall**.

Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling**. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work.



2 Corinthians 6:3-5

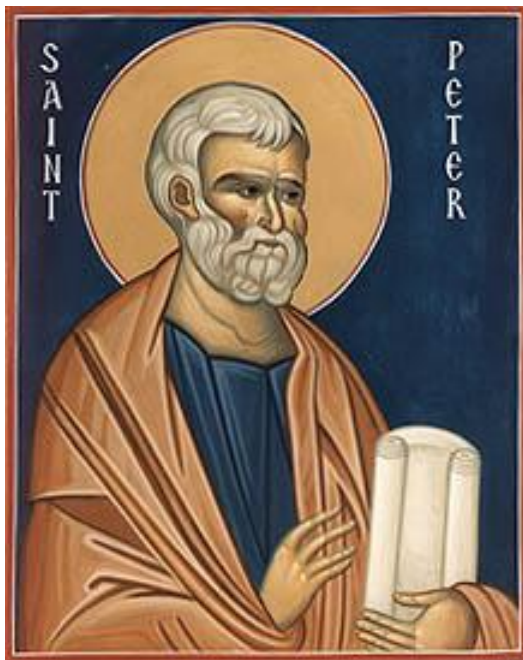
We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as **ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts;**

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

It does not concern me in the least that I be judged by you or any human tribunal; I do not even pass judgment on myself; I am not conscious of anything against me, but I do not thereby stand acquitted; the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, **do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God.**

Hebrews 6:11-12

We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, **through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.**



1 Peter 1:13

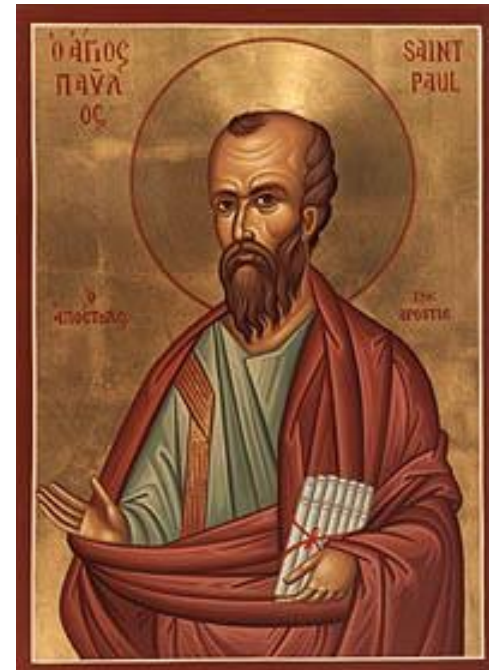
Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and **set your hopes completely on the grace** to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2

... we boast **in hope** of the glory of God.

Romans 8:24-25

For **in hope we were saved**. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?
But if **we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance**.



The End of
Being Catholic and Christian, Part 1b
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Being Catholic and Christian, Part 1c