



The word “saved” itself refers to a **rescuing** of someone in imminent, grave, serious, and even permanent danger or disaster.

If “He saved us” is the core of Christianity, then the question becomes: “Saved **from what?**”

Finding **fulfillment** and overcoming bad **habits** cannot be the most important understanding of what God saves us from.

Ephesians 2:1-7

The imminent, grave, serious, and even permanent danger or disaster we need to be saved from is **sin** and **death**.

“*We were dead in our transgressions and sins*” is talking about the sphere in which we exist. We aren’t dead **because** of our transgressions and sin; we are dead **in** our transgressions and sins.

“*transgressions*” – to slip, fall, or stumble – to go the **wrong** direction
“*sins*” – to miss the **target**, to miss the mark

God uses two words to show the totality of the sinfulness that goes hand in hand with and is the **result** of our being dead.

Romans 3:23

Sin is a failure to **glorify** God.

Sin has much more to do with what you **don’t** do than what you do.

Being a **good** neighbor or husband or wife or parent isn’t the issue. The point is what you don’t do – you don’t live a holy life, you don’t live a perfect life, you don’t reach the standard that reflects our Creator. The issue is the **glory** of God.

Man’s problem isn’t social, psychological, or environmental, man’s problem is that he is **dead**.

Ephesians 4:18

Man is spiritually **dead** in sin but physically alive. But if man dies physically while still dead spiritually – still alienated from God, still separated from the life of God – then man **stays** that way forever: separated from God existing not in sin but in Hell for eternity.

“Saved” not only has the negative sense of rescuing us **from** imminent disaster, it also has the positive sense of saving us **for** blessing. (*Colossians 1:13-14*)

Ephesians 2:5 & Titus 3:5

Titus 3:7 & Titus 2:7

You aren’t saved primarily to keep you out of Hell, you are saved primarily so that God could not only give you life but shower His **grace** and **blessings** on you.

How?

*Titus 3:6: “through **Jesus Christ** our Savior.”*

Matthew 1:21; Acts 4:12; John 11:25-26; Romans 6:3-5

Jesus died and He rose again. But when He died, He was bearing **our sins** and when He rose out of the grave, He was providing **our life**. And God applied His sacrifice and His resurrection to us. That’s the wonder of Easter – that is what “He saved us” is all about.

How do I stop being among the “living dead” and come to be among the “alive in Christ”?

Ephesians 2:8-9 – Through **faith**.

Faith is the **God-given conviction** that the forgiveness of sins, the promise of new life, and the hope of eternal heaven through Jesus Christ is all true. And that conviction moves the will to ask God for that gift.

The foundation of God’s church and the core of Christianity is the profound simplicity of Easter: **He saved us** through Jesus Christ our Savior.