

Salvation of All

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Grace is much more glorious and amazing than man recognizes. Religion hides the full accomplishments of the vast cross-work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The work of salvation for mankind is full and complete. As ambassadors of Christ, we are only to proclaim its glorious message. Those who respond by faith can enjoy their salvation in Christ now while here on earth.

Make no mistake about it. When I speak of salvation, I do not just speak of the *potential* of “salvation for all” – in the sense that it is only available for all men to have; but I speak freely of the *surety* of the “salvation of all” – that all men will in reality enjoy the fullness of salvation, completely applied to them personally.

I firmly believe in the *salvation of all* – that God in His goodness, grace, and love, on the account of the cross-work redemption of the Lord Jesus Christ, will indeed actually save *all* mankind.

There are three different views of the destiny of the lost. These approaches can be termed as (1) “Eternal Conscious Torment,” (2) “Annihilation,” (3) “Universal Reconciliation.” All three have *apparent* scriptural support, but for every verse apparently supporting the first two views, there are many more verses that appear to support the latter.

According to theology, the majority of God’s creation will be hopelessly lost to Him. It teaches that God knowingly (with foreknowledge) created mankind, the majority of which He will eternally damn. However, this is out of character with the true God of the Scriptures.

Here are examples of verses that show the salvation of all mankind:

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall **all families** of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:2-3).

“**All the ends of the world** shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and **all the kindreds** of the nations shall worship before thee” (Psalm 22:27).

*“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, **and plenteous in mercy**. He will **not always chide**: neither will He keep His anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Psalm 103:8-10).*

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations** shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2).*

*“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And **all flesh** shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:5-6).*

*“That was the true Light [Jesus Christ], which lighteth **every man** that cometh into the world” (John 1:9).*

*“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the **sin of the world**” (John 1:29).*

*“... This is indeed the Christ, **the Saviour of the world**” (John 4:42).*

*“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto Me” (John 12:32).*

*“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of **restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21).*

*“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon **all men** to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of One the free gift came **upon all men** unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:17-19).*

*“For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have **mercy upon all**. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are **all things**: to whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Romans 11:30-36).*

*“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam **all die**, even so in Christ shall **all be made alive**. But **every man** in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming. Then cometh*

*the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put **all things** under Him, that God may be **all in all**" (I Corinthians 15:21-28).*

*"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for **all**, then were all dead ... To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world** unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:14, 19).*

*"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one **all things** in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him" (Ephesians 1:10).*

*"And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile **all things** unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:20).*

*"Who gave Himself a **ransom for all**, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy 2:6).*

*"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, Who is the **Saviour of all men**, specially of those that believe" (I Timothy 4:10).*

*"And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the **whole world**" (I John 2:2).*

*"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are **passed away**" (Revelation 21:4).*

Even Sodom, the great example of God's wrath and judgement, will not be exempt from the restoration of God's Love.

"And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters. Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways. As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. ... When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them: ... When thy sisters, Sodom

and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate” (Ezekiel 16:46-48, 53, 55).

Praise the Lord! He is the Lord of both the dead and the living.

“For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living” (Romans 14:9).

It is God’s will that *all* men are saved:

“Who will have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and One mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a **ransom for all**, to be testified in due time” (I Timothy 2:4-6).

God accomplishes *all* that He wills to do:

“But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? and what His soul desireth, even that He doeth” (Job 23:13).

“For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places” (Psalms 135:5-6).

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and **I will do all My pleasure**” (Isaiah 46:10).

“In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him **who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will**” (Ephesians 1:11).

The Lord Jesus Christ taught His followers to love their enemies. He revealed that this was the very nature of the Father:

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:44-48).

God is love:

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God

toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (I John 4:8-10).

“How excellent is Thy lovingkindness” (Psalm 36:7a).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins ...” (Ephesians 2:4-5).

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared” (Titus 3:4).

“God is love ...” (I John 4:16a).

We have the assurance of God that love never fails:

“Charity never faileth” (I Corinthians 13:8).

To fail is the translation of *ekpipto* (ek-pip'-to) [Greek #1601], from G1537 and G4098; to drop away; specially, be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, become inefficient. It is also translated as – “be cast,” “fall” (away, off), and “take none effect.”

All creation shall be freed from the bondage of vanity and corruption:

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope, because **the creature** itself also **shall be delivered** from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that **the whole creation** groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:19-22).

All of the Lord's works shall praise Him, and He will raise up all who are bowed down:

“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to **all**: and His tender mercies are over **all** His works. **All Thy works** shall praise Thee, O LORD; and Thy saints shall bless Thee ... The LORD upholdeth **all** that fall, and raiseth up **all** those that be bowed down” (Psalms 145:8-10, 14).

All shall bow down:

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, **all** the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness,

and shall not return, That unto me **every** knee shall bow, **every** tongue shall swear” (Isaiah 45:22-23).

“That at the name of Jesus **every** knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that **every** tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory** of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

This confession is the work of the Holy Spirit:

“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that **no man** can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” (I Corinthians 12:3).

Therefore, every creature will praise the Lord:

“And **every creature** which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and **all** that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:13).

“The Love of God”

The Love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell

The guilty pair, bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade

To write the Love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Oh Love of God, How rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forever more endure
The saint's and angel's song.

~ Frederick M. Lehman, 1917

“The only victory love can enjoy is the day when its offer of love is answered by the return of love.
The only possible final triumph is a universe loved by God and in love with God.”¹

1. *William Barclay: A Spiritual Autobiography*, 1977, William Barclay (1907-1978), page 67.

Taken from chapter 1 of *The Salvation of All: Creation's Final Destination* (A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation). Available from StudyShelf.com for \$16.⁹⁵ (+\$3.⁷⁵ s&h).

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