

# Salvation

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What do we really mean by the term 'salvation' or 'saved'? In the New Testament we see the concept mentioned a number of times but do we really understand the concept?

I am about to quote some verses, point out something obvious from each one and then ask the obvious question which arises. That should reveal whether we understand the concept or not.

**Ephesians 2:5**

**5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), [*Have been saved – past tense*]

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

**18** For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
*[are being saved – present tense]*

**2 Corinthians 2:15**

**15** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; [*are being saved – present tense*]

**1 Corinthians 3:15**

**15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. [*will be saved – future tense*]

Here we have verses saying that salvation belongs to all three tenses. How can this be? Have we been saved or will we be saved at some time in the future? Is salvation a present ongoing process?

We have an apparent conflict. Can all the verses be correct? Yes they are. Of course they must be. Can you explain how?

**Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may **boast**.

**Phil 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling;