



Article Title— "Getting Saved" —the history of it

Article Category— Church History

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I was studying the New Testament several months ago, searching for more information on what it means to be truly saved when something about the "getting 'saved'" thing hit me like a ton of bricks! Wisdom dictated that I pursue a scholarly approach (at least loosely) in finding credible answers to my questions. Here's the essence of my initial sequence...

**Premise—**

It appears that nobody ever "got saved" in the First Century. Instead, after they had heard and believed the message of the Gospel, they confessed their sinful lifestyles and then repented of them. To "confess" is to verbally admit that one is guilty of wrongdoing. To "repent" is to resolve to discontinue a sinful lifestyle and replace it with a righteous one.

**My Initial Theory—**

"Saved" is a future perfect condition—not an event or even a series of events. The pervasive "getting saved" thing was likely invented in the mid-Nineteenth Century by evangelical preachers who needed a marketable catch phrase with which to captivate the hearts and minds of the uninformed masses.

When I started this process, our **Link1** Bible Research Team had already published its scholarly research paper entitled "Salvation Scriptures Objectively Analyzed." (You may want to get your own personal copy of that: [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).) That rendered the first sentence of my initial theory "a given," but I needed to either confirm or refute the second presumption. Here are some of the scriptural rationale I explored—

- > Jesus made it really, really clear that only those who endure to the end will be saved. —Matthew 24:10-13 and Mark 13:13  
The context suggests that He was referring to the end of The Great Tribulation or the end of each believer's natural life, whichever comes first.
- > "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name." —John 1:12
- > "And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed." —Romans 13:11
- > "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." —1 Thessalonians 5:8
- > "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." —1 Timothy 4:16  
Wouldn't most believers think young pastor Timothy was already "saved?" Hmmm...
- > "For we are made partakers of Christ, IF we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end" —Hebrews 3:14
- > "...kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." —1 Peter 1:5
- > "Receiving the end of your faith, [even] the salvation of [your] souls. —1 Peter 1:9
- > "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" —1 Peter 1:13  
This appears to fly in the face of the Darby-Schofield "dispensationalists" claim that we live, now, in "the dispensation of grace."
- > "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning [here] in fear" —1 Peter 1:17  
This may refer to fear that one may NOT qualify to receive salvation upon the revelation of Jesus Christ. (See Philippians 2:12,13.)

In "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19,20), Jesus said nothing at all about "getting people 'saved'." There, He told us to share the Gospel message and then to make disciples of all those who believe it. Instead, the visible church has made lots and lots of Believers but very few Disciples. So who's making Disciples? And which part of Christ's assignment to The Church did He intend as a "special calling" for paid professional christians? [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_7c325d6022ec4f43a8fe79a07c770fc9.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_7c325d6022ec4f43a8fe79a07c770fc9.pdf)

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



You may or may not know that nobody can make Disciples from a pulpit or a podium...or even in a classroom. That'd be like trying to "teach" a roomful of young kids how to ride their first bikes! That – like the making of disciples – is a COACHING assignment. So where are the coaches? And who's teaching the coaches how to coach? Once you've become familiar with our Online Bible Study series, you'll be able to use it as an effective tool for coaching Believers. No, you won't have to organize a formal Bible Study group to accomplish that: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." —Jesus, at Matthew 18:20

For me, it's really easy to envision the visible church as a magnificent pro football stadium: Paying fans fill the bleachers. Millions of others enjoy the televised games. Professional cheerleaders provide the entertainment. Professional players strut onto the playing fields and pretend to 'whup thu devuhl' out of 'the competition.' All go back home after a nice meal and a few armchair quarterback stories...having fulfilled (until next week's pompous parade, at least) their responsibility to support "the team."

Nothing I could find in the annals of church history refuted any part of my original theory. I think this image effectively communicates the essence of my final conclusion. Hope it'll make good sense to you, too...

# the history of "GETTING SAVED"

Search as long and as hard as you will and you won't find any evidence that people in the 1st-Century who heard the Gospel message "got 'saved'" when they believed...not even so much as an implication of that.

That "Getting 'Saved'" notion was first introduced by 19th-Century evangelists who also invented the revivalist "altar calls" rage. Salesmen at heart, they apparently felt the need for a definitive tool with which to "close the sale."

1st-Century hearers REPENTED when they believed.

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—T. C. Newsome

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).

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