

4. WHAT IS SALVATION?

1 John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is one of the most important promises of Scripture; it is the promise that gives us freedom and hope for the future. God is faithful and daily invites us to find new life in response to that faithfulness.

It sounds too good to be true. It sounds too easy. Even though it may seem too good for words, or completely different from anything you have ever experienced before, it is the truth of God. This is the beauty and mystery of grace—receiving a forgiveness that we don't deserve!

Sometimes it seems like the Christian life is all about being saved and then helping other people get saved. But when we go a little deeper, we discover that being "saved" means that we are saved not only from something—our sins—but also for something.

Receiving salvation through Jesus Christ isn't the end of the process of being saved. We then begin a lifelong process of being continually shaped into the person that God intends us to be, which means becoming more and more like Christ—something we do in grateful thanksgiving for our salvation.

Salvation is the free gift that God offers to us. Our lives, lived in a manner that pleases God, are our offerings of thanksgiving back to God.