

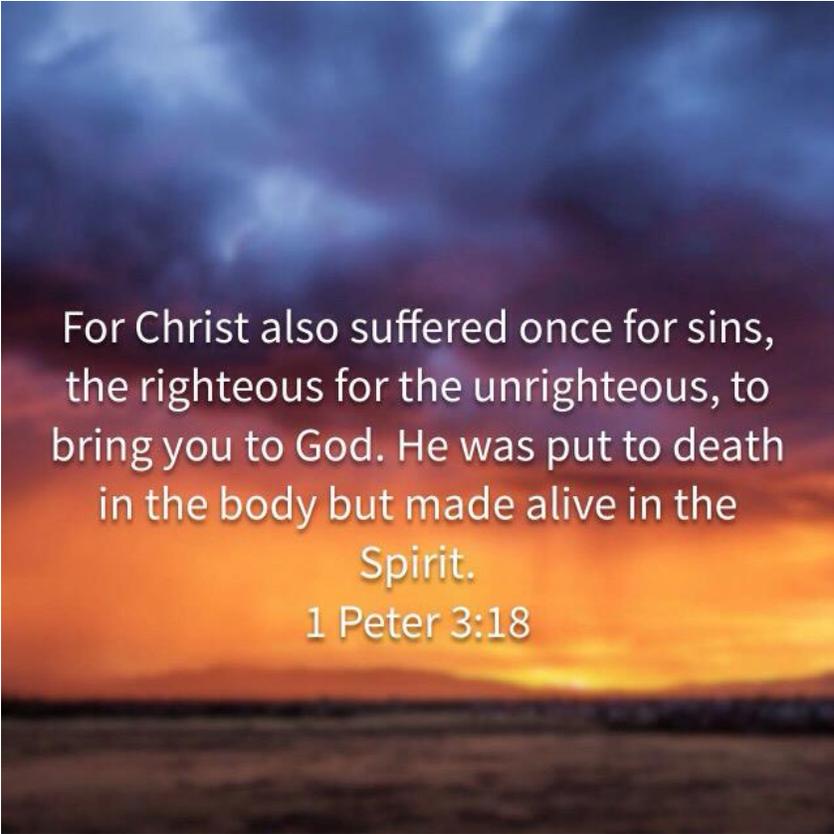
CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKFIELD, IL

Righteous for the Unrighteous

Salvation

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For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous, to
bring you to God. He was put to death
in the body but made alive in the
Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

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Sermon Thesis:

Jesus death on the cross was sufficient for salvation.

Introduction:

Salvation was a task prepared by God from the beginning.

Genesis 3:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

It is a task that as of right now is completed or not. This work/task has been taken on by many people or by one individual or thing. Scripture records only one has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God. Salvation is a predestined condition chosen through a predestined Savior who scripture records as Jesus the Christ. The Gospel is God's love story to mankind. It is the good news that one has been found to achieve the Father's will. Therefore man is in position to have their sins forgiven and attain Heaven as their destiny.

Let's take a look at the completed work of our Savior Jesus the righteous for the unrighteous...

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Sermon Outline:

- I. The work given to Jesus to do is either finished and complete or unfinished and incomplete.
 - A. Jesus knew what was required of Him and spoke of its completion.

John 17:1–4 (NIV) — **1** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

- B. Our Savior speaks about His task and its pending completion.

- II. The work of Salvation has not been taken on by anyone else.

- A. Salvation is not completed by anyone else.
 - B. To refuse Jesus completed work is to refuse your salvation.

Acts 4:10–12 (NIV) — **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

- C. The Bible claims that no one has taken on the task or completed the work of saving men from their sins.

- III. The Father knew what He would do from the beginning to save mankind.

- A. The Father knowing what He would do, now that work becomes His will.
 1. Anyone wanting to save us from our sins would have to do the Father’s will.
 2. If the Father’s Will is not done then salvation is not available.

Galatians 1:3–4 (NIV) — **3** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

- B. Jesus accepted the work and did the Father’s will.

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- C. Doing the Father's will means He finished what was required that we might be saved.
- D. Man's salvation requires someone to act, to work, to do.
- E. That salvation came by the acts, the Christ would do.

IV. God predestined the saved to come into salvation by the completed work of King Jesus the Christ.

- A. God simply decided ahead of time how man will be saved and until that which He decided is done, there is no salvation.
 - 1. Clearly salvation, not people have been predestined.
 - 2. People are not designated for salvation or condemnation they must choose their destiny.

Ephesians 1:5–10 (NIV) — **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—**6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9** he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

- B. The forgiveness of sins is necessary for salvation to be realized.
 - 1. God's predestined will achieves the forgiveness of sins, once His will is done.
 - 2. There is no forgiveness of sins if His will is not done.

V. One person has completed what is required of God's will.

- A. Who is that person?
 - 1. It is not Muhammad he is not the mediator between man and God
 - 2. It is not Buddah it is not the mediator between man and God
 - 3. It is not Hare Krishna it is not the mediator between man and God
 - 4. It is not yourself, you cannot mediate for self to God

1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NIV) — **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

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Hebrews 10:10 (NIV) — 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

B. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

VI. The Gospel is the record of the completed work of Jesus for our salvation.

A. Salvation is not available because of something we did.

B. Scripture records the righteous acts that Jesus has done for us.

2 Timothy 1:9–10 (NIV) — 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

C. So complete was His work that the sting of death has been removed for those who obey His Gospel.

VII. We see the great love of our God in the work of His salvation.

A. Still opposed to Him the acts of righteousness were completed on our behalf.

B. **1 John 4:9–10 (NIV) — 9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

C. Our sins can be atoned because the work necessary for salvation has been done.

D. Have you taken advantage of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus?

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Conclusion:

For those who take advantage of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus they are numbered with a number that cannot be numbered.

Revelation 7:9–10 (NIV) — **9** After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. **10** And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Don't you want to be in that number?

Just as Jesus had requirements to achieve our salvation, you and I have requirements to gain salvation.

- These requirements are not works, they are confirmation of the work already done and completed by Jesus the Christ.
- These requirements are obedience to the one who offers salvation.
- These requirements are doing the will of the Father.

Matthew 7:21–23 (NIV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Here is the Lord's invitation and requirements to take hold of salvation...

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Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV) HEAR

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) BELIEVE

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV) REPENT

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 17:30 (NIV) REPENT

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 26:20 (NIV) REPENT

²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV) CONFESS

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV) CONFESS

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NIV) CONFESS

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Acts 2:38 (NIV) BAPTISM

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:3–4 (NIV) BAPTISM

³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

1 Peter 3:21 (NIV) BAPTISM

²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 2:10 (NIV) FAITHFUL; STEADFAST

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.