

HOW ARE YOU SAVED? WHAT IS SALVATION?

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Last week we considered the Catholic response to the question “are you saved” or “ have you been saved?”

Response: Salvation is not the result of a one time statement and profession of faith in Christ, but an ongoing conversion which is lived out every day with God’s help (prayer, sacramental life, etc.).

After committing the first sin of “rebellion” against God (Genesis 3), Adam, the first created Man, lost the intimate relationship he had enjoyed with his Creator and Father not only for himself, but also for the generations that would come from him!

But God, in his mercy and love, promised SALVATION that would come about at the proper time through the “incarnation” of His eternal Word, the second Person of the Divine Trinity.

In the Old Testament we see how God comes to meet Man and gradually reveals Himself through Covenants with Patriarchs like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses. Ultimately God reveals Himself fully and completely in Jesus, the promised Saviour (Catechism of the Catholic Church #50-65).

In the New Testament, we read in the Letter to the Hebrews: “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son” (Heb. 1:1-2). In Christ, his Son, the Father-God has said everything. There will be no other Revelation. (CCC 65-66).

Jesus has spoken all we need to know in order to be saved: “to all who received Him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God” (John 1:12). SALVATION is Knowing that we are CHILDREN OF GOD, members of God’s Family.

In his prayer to the Father Jesus prays thus: “THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE (salvation), that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

So... do this every day: pray the Jesus prayer (LORD JESUS, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER); read one chapter from the Gospels; receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist regularly. (From a Pastoral Letter by Cardinal Thomas Collins - 2021).