



How to be Saved from Everything!

Stephen E Rowe

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Acknowledgements

All ideas in this work are the product of many years of ministry and the accumulated influence of those who went before.

"There is nothing new under the sun..." Ecclesiastes 1:9

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Welcome to this ebook

The greatest thing any individual can do is to accept God's free offer of salvation. When they do, they enter eternal life, and are made right with God.

In this book, you will discover that God is as close as a word, and as near as your heart. You can be saved from the very things that make life difficult, and enter a wonderful, victorious new life of faith.

I hope you will enjoy reading this book, and encourage you to take the steps indicated at the end that will help you find your true self.

**This is the day the Lord has made. We shall
rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalms 118:24

The offer

Did you know that God has offered a free gift of salvation to everyone who can believe?

Free means we don't have to pay for it, work for it, or even deserve it. It's a gift from God, offered to all who can believe. Now, that is good news. So what do we have to believe?

Why we need salvation

God's best for us is to be able to walk in love with Him and with every other person on earth. Jesus called this His New Commandment. It was a commandment of love.

Originally, people lived in this ultimate atmosphere of love and perfection in God's creation. This was short-circuited right at the beginning, when people fell into a sad, self-interested rebellion against God's will.

When, in turn, we came into this world, we carried an inherited state that caused us to be subject to a condition called sin, which means falling short of God's intended best for us, and unwittingly entered that rebellion. We became what the Bible calls the sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Mostly, unless we consciously defied God, we did not notice this state, which we'll call the sin nature, because we were born into it, like creatures in captivity, out of their natural habitat, subject to an unnatural environment. This nature betrayed us sooner or later, causing us to fall short of God's glory, unable to live that perfect love life.

We can only fully love God if we also love His creation, and we cannot love His creatures if we do not love Him. They go hand in hand. This includes loving our neighbour as we love ourselves.

The love we're addressing here is called *agapé* in the Greek. It comes from God because God is Love. This love is unconditional. It is not like simple brotherly love, or even intimate love. It is a new word, *agapé*,

and a new concept in the New Testament. It is a love that endures all things, and thinks the best of all people, summed up beautifully by the Apostle Paul.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Love like this

If the whole of humankind was able to love like this we would never have the hardships we see in the world today. We would all walk in love the way God intended, and follow His plan for us, under His leadership and guardianship. His protection and guidance would satisfy our lives completely. See how the Apostle John describes the love walk and you will know exactly God's plan for humankind.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 JOHN 4:7-11

Here, Jesus is called 'the propitiation for our sins.' The propitiation refers to the great exchange, when Jesus took our place on the cross, the place of cursing. He loved us so much that He paid the price on our behalf. To love as deep as death that leads to new life is *agapé* love in action.

If we could enter into this form of love there would be no wars, no poverty, no breakdown of society. God's preservation and provision would be all-encompassing. Love would prevail, through Him and in

us. We would prefer one another, support each other, strengthen all parts of the body corporate.

Evil would cease. Corruption would end. There would also be no sickness or disease, no oppression or inequity. We would live in love, peace and prosperity, just as Adam and Eve did briefly in Paradise before the fall. Isn't that most peoples' dream?

The good news is that this kind of love is available to us, and we can enter into it simply through faith that brings a change of heart and destiny.

The love laws

God-generated love is the great key to a rational, peaceful society. Sadly, the nature of sin in each of us rebels at times against the love commands of God, and we find ourselves working against God's will. It's inherent in everyone, so we are not alone in this (Romans 3:23).

God introduced laws that would have alleviated the problem. We could call them the love laws, which are to love God with all our being and with everything we have, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, but even His chosen people, Israel, were incapable of fulfilling His will in this regard.

That sin nature consistently betrayed them, even after a great repentance and God's forgiveness re-accepting them into the fold. He was unable to find at least one company of people able to demonstrate that it was possible to accomplish His aims, even within a defined structure called the Mosaic Law, which was based on the same principles of loving God and loving our neighbour.

This didn't remove the sin nature from them, however, so, as God anticipated, Israel moved in and out of obedience to His love command to such an extent that it became apparent that this nature within us all was incapable of change without a great and substantial intervention.

So, right from the beginning, God had a plan of redemption that would bring us back into His will. He would send His Word into the earth as

the Son of God and son of man to fulfil His will and reclaim the ground lost through the fall.

What was the fall?

The original man, Adam, yielded to temptation in God's perfect Garden, called Paradise, when he ate forbidden fruit from God's personal tree, called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. His eyes were opened to things only God should see and know. There was only one law in the Garden: Do not eat of the fruit of God's personal tree.

This whole situation was manipulated by a fallen angel known as Lucifer, also referred to as Satan, or the devil. These are ancient terms from the Chaldean and Greek that simply mean the Opposer and the Accuser. He opposes God and his creation, and he accuses God's people.

Satan, the Opposer, was a fallen spirit who sought to usurp God's authority and bring mankind over to his own side as his slaves. He had been a glorious covering angel for Paradise, but pride caused him to seek God's throne and kingdom by bringing people over to his side in opposition to God.

He did this through temptation to sin—in Adam's case, by rebelling against God's explicit instruction to resist eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Right back in antiquity these spiritual forces enticed men to reject God's will and instructions for a fruitful, successful, peaceful life, and enter into what would become hardship, strife, envy and shame. Temptation was the lure, succumbing to sin the result. The sin nature of man was conceived.

Temptation draws us in

What part does temptation have in the sin problem? James the Apostle explains the process for us.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

JAMES 1:14-15

These desires are only temptations so long as they are not triggered, or not acted upon. Once we succumb to them we begin the journey into the law of sin and death.

So began the fall, since when all people born into this world entered with the Adamic nature, the spiritual DNA of sin and rebellion against God. Thus, we are called sinners, which is not a nice term, nor one that is in common use in the English language, but it basically means we are unable to love God or people in the ways in which we should. As soon as we break God's code of ethics, we are in sin.

For instance, if we covet another person's goods, we sin; if we steal from them, we sin; if we commit adultery with another person's spouse, we sin; if we murder someone, we sin; if we refuse to acknowledge God, we sin. Jesus took it even further. He said that if we even think about doing these things and carry them through in our minds we sin.

It should be stressed that temptation isn't sin. It is the pressure to sin, or the lust or desire to perform an act that is against God's written code of conduct. It's when we succumb to temptation that we sin. We have to do all we can to resist the temptation to sin, but, when we are subject to the sin nature it is almost impossible to resist temptation and, yes, we fall again. Something needs to change.

The penalty for sin

The big problem with missing God's will or falling short of His code of ethics is that the penalty for sin is death, according to scripture. We probably have a different understanding of death to that displayed in God's Word. For most people death is the end of natural life, which is true. Biblically, there is more to it, and death also means separation from God.

That is why we become subject to the corruption that is in the world through the fall, including sickness, disease, poverty, lack, and all of the dreadful things that happen to everyday people.

If we die in sin it's even worse because that separation will be eternal. We were already separated when we first sinned against God. We died spiritually.

You see, our connection with God is spiritual. God is a Spirit, and those who come to Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

How to be saved from everything

Now, we already read that God, the Father, sent God, the Son, Jesus, into the world to give His life so that the price for our sin was paid in full. This seems extreme, but it was the only way out for us. We needed a substitute or we would have to pay the price, which would mean eternal separation from God the Father.

God sent His Word into the world to take our place. The Word was made flesh and we know Him as Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

JOHN 1:1

Here we see the deity and position of the Living Word.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

The Word of God came into the world as the son of man, who is the Son of God. Many things happened under His ministry, including miracles and deliverance from torment, but His main focus was to surrender His life so that we could be made free.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but

made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

The cross was considered a place of cursing. The curse of the law was death. The curse, for us, was sin that dealt death our way. He took our curse.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

GALATIANS 3:13-14

Jesus took our curse on Himself on our behalf. In so doing He redeemed us from that curse. All we have to do in return is accept all that He has done for us. When He hung on the tree—also called the cross—He was hanging there for you and I—for the whole world—so that sin would be paid for by His one sacrifice. Then we would come into the blessing of Abraham—the promise of the Spirit.

The blessing of Abraham

There are two key people groups mentioned in scripture: Jews and Gentiles, sometimes identified as Jews and Greeks. The terms 'Gentile' or 'Greek' in this instance merely means the rest of the world other than Israel. The 'Goyim' or nations.

The blessing of Abraham was given to all who can believe the Word of God, as Abraham did. He was a Gentile, but His descendants became the tribes of Israel, God's chosen nation, through whom the Seed would come, that Seed being Jesus, the Word of God made flesh.

The promise to Abraham was that God would bless and multiply his Seed. Now we have just read that this blessing would come upon the Gentiles—the nations—through Jesus, who is the Seed referred to in

the prophecy. Then all who receive Jesus as Lord would also enter the blessing.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

GALATIANS 3:26-29

Faith in Jesus

Here we see that we become the sons and daughters of God through faith in Jesus Christ. This is when we come into the blessing. What is the blessing? We will be made new. We will be born again—born of God as a brand new creation in Christ. Old things would pass away, and all things made new.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

That old sin nature is removed from our lives. We are no longer subject to its whims and provocations. We have power over temptation.

The Promise of the Spirit

We mentioned earlier the new birth—being born again. This is the promise of the Spirit. When we are born again, we are born of the Spirit. We receive the Spirit of Christ into our lives and we are made alive spiritually, where once we were dead in our sins. Yes, Jesus literally comes into our lives through His Spirit. Love comes alive in us—His love, the kind of love that ushered us into the free gift of salvation.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...

EPHESIANS 2:1

We were not physically dead, obviously, but spiritually dead. Sin killed our spirit. It separated us from God. When we receive Christ our spirit revives—it comes alive in Him. We are reunited with the very presence of God through His Spirit, who comes to live with us, and in us.

The Holy Spirit with us and in us is called the guarantee of salvation. When the great day of judgment comes, when God judges the living and the dead, we will be assessed according to whether we have the guarantee or not. If we do we will already have passed the examination. The guarantee will be the mark that clears us of all blame.

When you are born again you will know in your inner being that you are saved. This is the guarantee confirming salvation, that you have been changed, and that God has brought you back into His favour. This divine favour is called grace, and it is by His grace that we are saved through faith in Jesus.

Salvation by grace

We have said that salvation is a free gift. It is offered by God through His grace, which is God's favour—grace that we did not deserve, but He offers it anyway, in spite of our sinful nature. It is God's get out of jail card. It is our opportunity to enter a life free from guilt and shame. It is the only way back into His presence, into the liberty of the Spirit of Life.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Notice that you cannot pay for this gift in any way. As we have seen, Jesus has already paid that fee, He has paid the ransom price that death held over us. You cannot pay for something that is already paid for.

We are bought with His blood at the cross. Scripture tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin (Hebrews

9:22). Remission is a cancellation of debt. Jesus' blood was shed on our behalf, cancelling our debt, and it is by His blood that we are saved.

Under the Old Agreement, or Covenant, with Israel, sin was atoned for through the blood of animals, and blood had to be regularly shed to cover the sins of the nation. It was just a covering, not a complete removal of sin.

Cleared of guilt

Under the New Covenant in Christ, all sin has been paid for. That is why it is called a better covenant.

[Jesus] has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

HEBREWS 8:6

It is not simply a covering, but a complete removal of all sin through the blood of Jesus. He literally wiped the slate clean for everyone who believes in His sacrificial commitment to the cross.

When you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, all sins of the past are wiped away. You have entered a brand new state. Your account is cleared. You stand guilt-free and shame-free before God and He sees you in the same way He looks upon His Son Jesus who lived a sin-free life. His innocence becomes yours.

That doesn't mean we'll never be tempted to sin again, or that we won't succumb on occasion. It doesn't mean that we will not be held accountable by society or by civil authorities for misdemeanours committed before we were saved. That price will still have to be paid because we owe it to society, not to God. Spiritually, though, we will be clean before God, and able to put things right with people.

We will also at times wrestle with our own flesh, meaning our human desires, especially those that are potentially disruptive to others, as long as we walk the earth. Those temptations will still come. But we can deal with them, now.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14

The difference is that we will be empowered to overcome those times when we are tempted. The sin nature has been replaced by the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit in unison with our regenerated spirit.

Reigning in life

We are now under the regime of grace, and we have the God-given ability to resist temptation to sin. That is the difference. We are now in control of our desires. We can filter them through the Word and Spirit to see whether they are godly or spiritually harmful. We are equipped to reign over our own lives in His name.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 5:17

Death reigned through Adam's sin, and through the fall of man. Death was overcome by the sinless Jesus Christ for those who believe. Now we are empowered to reign in life through faith in Him.

If we fall again, we can go to the Father and confess our sins and be forgiven, once again presented with a clean slate.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

The way in

There is no other way to salvation but through Jesus. He is the way to God the Father. He is called the Door. We must go through Him.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

There may be thousands of religions, but there is only one way to salvation. The way in is through hearing the gospel, which is the good

news that Jesus has made the way clear to the Father through salvation.

Everything in the kingdom of God happens through faith. God requires no more no less. Faith leads to other aspects, such as worship and fellowship, but there are three eternal things that we enter into: faith, hope and love.

Salvation is near

As we have seen faith is based on love. Hope is the anchor that steadies our lives. Faith comes by hearing the Word of truth—the gospel.

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ROMANS 10:8-10

Notice how near that word of faith is. In our mouth and in our heart. When we hear the message of hope, something stirs in our heart, and we are given the opportunity to believe what is preached, or to reject it.

God is not distant, nor is His Word far away. It is right here with us as we read or hear the truth about how we can be saved.

Salvation is in our heart and on our lips. It comes to us by saying with our mouth what we know to be true in our heart. Our mind may be doing summersaults and wondering what is happening, when all the time our heart is saying, “This is true, believe it, receive it.”

When the message of faith is being preached the Holy Spirit is present to confirm with our hearts what is being said. Those of us who yield to the leading of the Spirit and the confirmation in our heart need now only to speak it out before witnesses—one or two believers, or before God.

Scripture tells us that 'Today' is the day of our salvation. If you have understood this message and acknowledge your need of a change of heart; if you sense a stirring in your heart that says that what you've read is real and true and substantial; if you would like to respond today, right now, you can pray the following prayer and ask Jesus to come into your life and make the changes that become salvation forever.

It's as simple as that. The following page will lead you into a prayer of faith that asks Jesus into your life. God hears our prayers, and you can make it as personal between you and God as you like.

Are you ready?

If you're ready to say these words to God and mean them with all your heart:

Dear God, I come to You as a person who needs salvation. I acknowledge that I have sinned before You up until this day. I would like to be cleansed of all unrighteousness. I have heard the Word of the gospel that tells me that Jesus died, was buried and was raised. He paid the price of my sin. He died and was buried in my place. He was raised so that I could be saved. I believe in Jesus, in His sacrifice, and in His resurrection. I acknowledge that Jesus is Lord, and I make Him the Lord of my life. Change me, deliver me, set me free from sin. Thank you for saving me. I believe I am born again, born of God. I am saved.

Next steps

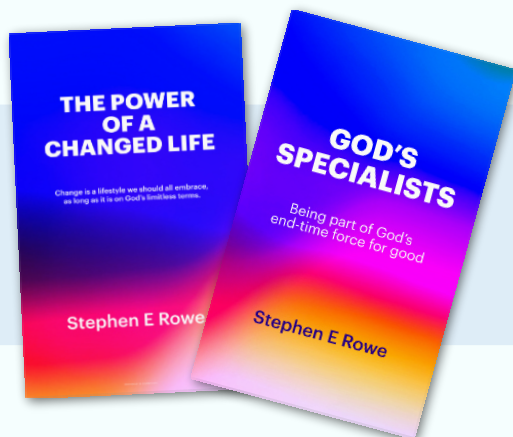
This is just the beginning of a wonderful odyssey.

If you prayed this prayer in faith, you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Now you need to find some other believers nearby to let them know what has happened to you, and to take the next steps into a community of believers.

They will help you with your understanding of what has taken place. This is so important. You should find a local evangelical church where you can be baptised in water, taught the Word of God, and become an effective messenger of hope in your own right.

Also, please write to me via the website steverowe.co and let me know that you have responded to this message so I can help you with your new and exciting journey of faith.

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