

# SALVATION -- and -- DISCIPLESHIP

Some form of the word "Salvation" appears in the Bible about 160 times -- some form of the word "Discipleship" appears about 260 times -- thus we see that there is about 100 times difference in the two words as found in the Bible.

SALVATION means -- Spiritual rescue from the consequences of sin.

DISCIPLESHIP means -- To be a true follower of Jesus Christ.

We can immediately conclude that Salvation is something that God gives to us because of His Great Love -- and Discipleship is something that we give to Him because of our Love for Him.

We can also immediately conclude that Salvation cost God a tremendous price -- the death of His only Son on the Cross of Calvary -- and Discipleship will cost us our time and total devotion to Him.

Therefore, let's think more deeply on each of these words --

Salvation was purchased for us by God to set us free from the penalty of sin, "*For ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God*" (Romans 3:23) and, "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23).

Whereas to be a Disciple is to be a servant of the Lord as Jesus said, "*If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed*" (John 8:31) and He also said, "*Whoever does not bear his Cross and come after Me cannot be My Disciple*" (Luke 14:27).

Salvation is to be Saved from the fires of hell, to be given the Power to overcome temptation, and to be assured of a place in Heaven -- this all takes place when we are Born Again as Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3.

Discipleship is when the Born Again Christian surrenders to the Will of God for service in reaching the lost. Disciples in the Bible came from all walks of life, fishermen, tax collectors, uneducated and professionals -- yet they all accepted the call of Jesus to join Him in spreading the Good News wherever they went.

Both Salvation and Discipleship require turning your back on the sinful things of the world and accepting God's Power to live a proper God honoring life. This can only be accomplished by drenching ourselves in the Word of God, fellowshiping with other Christians, attending regular Church Services, reading and seriously studying the Bible, and financially supporting the spread of the Gospel.

To be a Disciple of Jesus Christ today is to surrender your will to God -- to be available to Him for whatever He directs you to do in this life. It may be full-time commitment to go into the Ministry or Missionary service -- or -- it could be to simply put God first in your life and occupation and buy up every opportunity to speak out for Him.

There are Disciples in all walks of life today -- Christian businessmen, those who take every opportunity to share a word of kindness and/or encouragement. In other words, to be readily available whenever the Lord gives an opportunity to share what He has done in your life, how He has met your need, and has given you New Life in Christ.

Think seriously on this -- If you have been Saved by the Love and Sacrifice of Jesus Christ you must take every opportunity to share this with others as He opens doors for you -- it's as simple as that.

Salvation is God's Free Gift to you -- Discipleship is your Freewill Gift to Him!

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*for more information contact Pastor Bruce R. Burke --*

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