

experienced, for he knew that all of God's anger and wrath had fallen on Christ, and that there was no more condemnation for himself.

John 3:36 says: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

What does it mean to be "saved" in the specific sense of Romans 1:16? It means to be delivered from sin and its consequences and to God's righteousness and its benefits.

Who needs to be saved? All human beings, who are active opposers of the truth of God and active transgressors of the law of God. Does this include all human beings? In Romans 3:9-10 Paul writes: "both Jews and Greeks are all under sin"; and "There is none righteous, not even one."

Why do we need to be saved? Let me simply mention five reasons:

*Overhead*

(1) We need to be saved because we are spiritually dead and can't make ourselves spiritually alive. Only God by His Spirit can make us spiritually alive.

(2) We need to be saved because we are morally corrupt and can't free ourselves from our inner compulsion to sin. Only God can take away what Charles Wesley called "our bent to sinning."

*Overhead*

(3) We need to be saved because we stand guilty before a righteous God, and can't get rid of our guilt by ignoring it, denying it, living an upright life, doing good deeds, atoning for it by suffering, or being absolved of it by another human being. Only God can take away our guilt.

(4) We need to be saved because we have committed sins, and need to be forgiven. Only God can forgive sins.

*Overhead*

(5) We need to be saved because we need God as our only worthy object of worship, as the One in whom alone we can discover true meaning in life, as the One who deserves our profound gratitude, as the One who is our ever-present help in trouble, and as the One who alone can sustain us as we come face to face with our mortality and death.

Let me ask you: Have you been delivered from sin and to God's righteousness? Are you saved? Are you trusting in Christ and His saving work? Have you realized your need of God?