

Why is this significant? Wasn't Peter, James and John, and those who followed them saved the same way as Paul, into the same spiritual body as Paul? It is often contended that they were because of Peter's declaration during the famous convocation in Jerusalem with Paul, in Acts 15:

Acts 15:7-11

“.....Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

3

The last three words of the last verse is the one in which the contention is made that everybody is saved the same way, and into the same entity. But when you qualify this over and against Peter's words in his first epistle to “the strangers (Israelites) , scattered throughout those Gentile provinces he lists in Asia minor, in his salutation, you see that it can't be so:

1 Peter 1:6-10

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 10 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 13

4

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

Salvation comes to them at the appearing of Jesus Christ, and is the culmination of a faithfully lived life; this is made perfectly clear from the above passage. In other words, their “hope” is salvation. Question: Is salvation the “hope” of the body of Christ? NO! If you are a member of the body of Christ, your hope is redemption, not salvation, because your life of faith *began/started* with salvation. The moment you first “trusted in Christ” and what he did for you at Calvary, died for your sins, you are saved and sealed “unto the day of redemption,” the day that the Lord himself “shall descend from heaven,” catch you out of here, change your “vile body,” and fashion it “liken to his glorious body.”

5

How could this be more different? Both groups, those saints looking to enter into the prophesied kingdom to come, and us saints in the body of Christ are both members of God's family, but we are in different divisions of it, with different promises, and different marching orders (doctrine). When Paul instructs us to rightly divide the word of truth, first and foremost, he is instructing us not to blend these groups, their promises or their doctrine, because they ain't the same.

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