



Salvation Stories

SALVATION IS A "BEFORE AND AFTER" EVENT!

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

One's moment of Salvation was described by Jesus in John 3:3 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Natural birth happens in a moment of time. The hour and date of that event is duly noted and recorded by the health professional in attendance. The newborn baby is brought into an entirely new place of existence and unhesitatingly cries out as the "atmosphere" of his new place of existence fills his lungs.

Just as being born naturally into this world, the event of being born into God's supernatural family happens in a moment of time, where the Holy Spirit of God fills the entire soul and spirit of the "new-born" one causing that "new-born one" to cry out, NOT in pain and fear but rather in joy and peace.

This "born again event" is aptly called a "before and after event" which describes a total and complete change of existence in a person. I Corinthians 5:17 explains this well: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." At that born again point, one realizes they passed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. This event is now settled with the "adoption proof" of having being made forever a child of God as revealed in Romans 8 and Ephesians 5:8-10.

Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

In May 1988 at age 36, while I was on my knees crying out to God in our living room in Ft. Worth Texas, I was “born again” and the joy of my salvation flooded my whole soul and spirit with joy and peace. It was at that moment that I fully realized that I had passed from “death into eternal life” with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Salvation



I had been a diligent, daily reader of the Bible since my earliest childhood. My family was completely committed to a religious system where much time each week was devoted to religious meetings, all of which I thoroughly enjoyed. We had the privilege of morning and evening family devotions discussing the Bible. Sadly, the leadership of the religious system had fallen into the grave error of teaching “Jesus Christ PLUS our Religious System” as the true requirement to reach heaven at last. It was also taught that “one needed to remain a true follower” of this man made organization to be saved. Salvation is NOT Christ PLUS ANYTHING ELSE! Salvation is Christ Alone, by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone!

The truth of this damning error had been growing within me for many months. On that fateful day in May 1988 my cry was this: “Lord Jesus, if I could have read the Bible so diligently for this many years and fully given myself to a false religious system of “works-to-gain-salvation” error, how could I ever be assured that I was not simply being deceived again as I tried a different religious denomination?”

The answer which came is still vividly clear in my mind to this very hour. I was compelled to turn my open Bible to read Romans 3:1 Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First, that they were entrusted with the actual words of God.

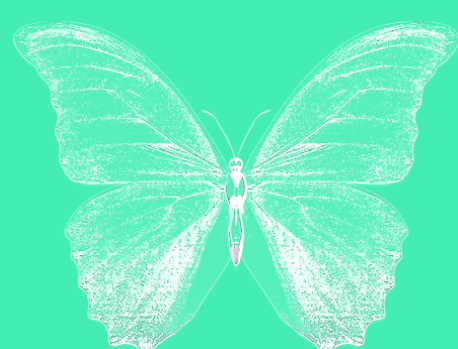
Then I was moved to read John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

At that moment, I fully realized that my salvation was based entirely on the finished work of Jesus Christ and the infallible, trustworthiness of the inspired words of God recorded in the Bible which I had come to know very well. My past "head knowledge" was transformed into life-changing "heart knowledge."

Oh, it was at that moment that the sun ["Son"] broke through the dark clouds hanging over me. I realized that I was a "new creature" and that all the joy I had in reading the Bible from earliest childhood was NOT wasted but simply was now going to be well used. From that new-birth point, I was flooded with the compulsion to "Tell Somebody", yes, to "Tell Everybody" The Greatest Love Story Ever Told by using the Bible alone.

One's salvation story undergirds one's entire life. So it was very easy for me to choose the name of our website: WasItForMe.com. With this site and resources included herein, we determined to simply use the Scriptures to Tell Everybody the answer to the question: Was it for me?. Today and Forever we thrillingly declare to everybody we can all over the world: Yes, it was for you the Savior died!

Jon Hileman



P.S. Just as I am thrilled to tell My Story to everyone possible, it would be equally thrilling to “hear your Story”. Please write it down and send it to us. We will place it on this “roll call” of the children of God in our generation and watch how God will use Your Story and You to Tell the Greatest Love Story Ever Told!

“While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying,

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

Matthew 17:5

(“My Story” and my new life focus was captured well by this old hymn.)

Was It For Me?

. . Yes, all for me!

It was for me, YES, all for me! O love of God, so great so free!
O wondrous love, O marvelous grace, He died for me, He took my place!

(Philippians 2:5)

Was it for me, for me alone, The Savior left His glorious throne,
The dazzling splendors of the sky? Was it for me He came to die?

(Luke 2:13)

Was it for me sweet angel strains Came floating o’er Judea’s plains,
That starlit night so long ago? Was it for me God planned it so?

(Matthew 11:28)

Was it for me the Savior said, “Pillow thy weary, aching head,
Trustingly on thy Savior’s breast?” Was it for me? Can I thus rest?

(Luke 22:42-44)

Was it for me He wept and prayed,
My load of sin before Him laid That night within Gethsemane? Was it for me, that agony?

(John 19:30 / John 19:34)

Was it for me He bowed His head Upon the cross, and freely shed His precious blood—
that crimson tide? Was it for me the Savior died?

John M. Whyte (1850-1927)