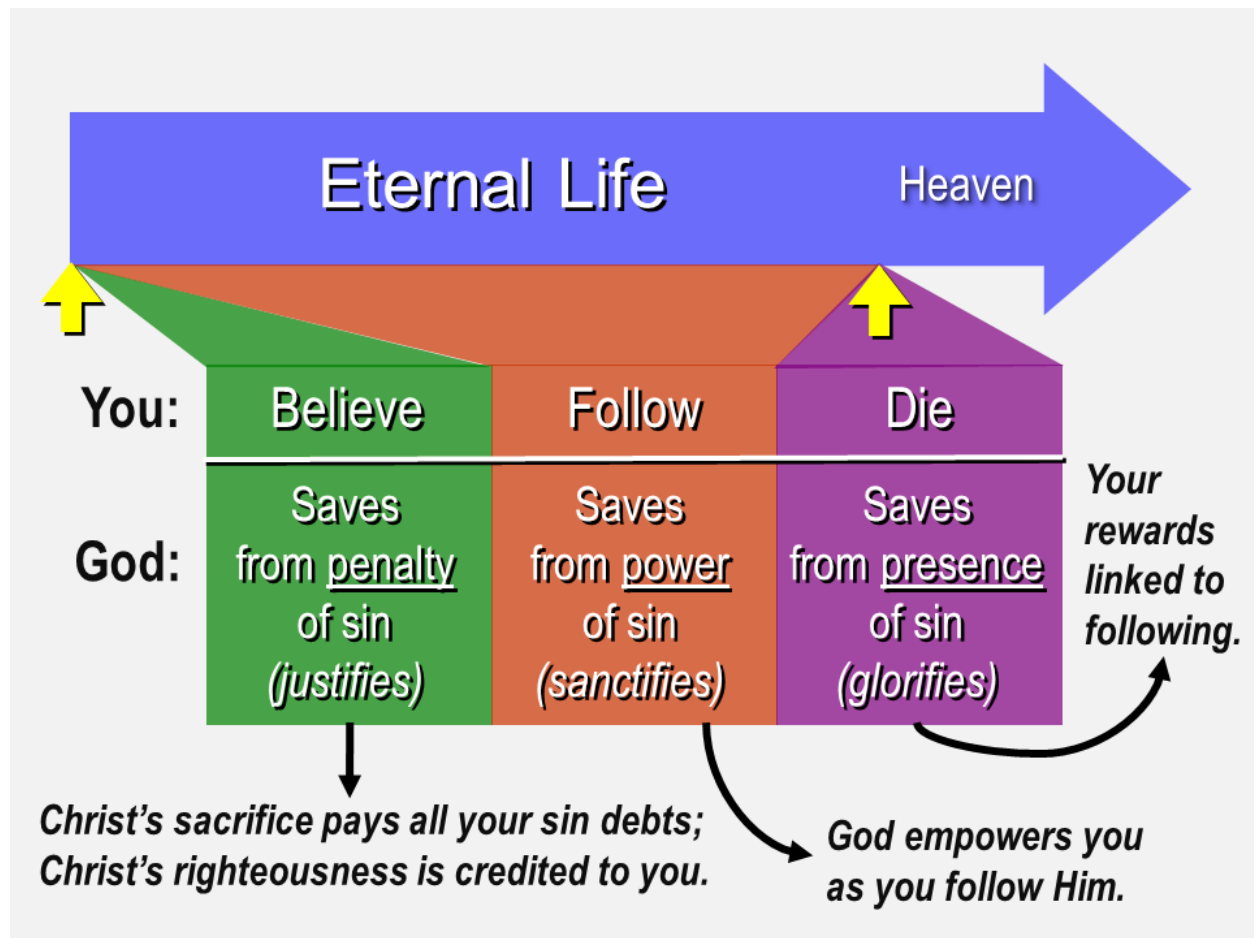


Any time we encounter the word, “saved” in the Bible, we need to ask ourselves the question, “saved from what?” In the Bible, there are people saved from hell. There are also people saved from enemies, saved from physical harm, saved from illness, and saved from the damaging consequences of sin in this life. These are all forms of salvation in the Bible.

Let me try to explain the relationship between eternal life and salvation in the Bible, using a diagram.



The big blue arrow at the top represents eternal life. Eternal life or everlasting life is being adopted in God’s forever family.

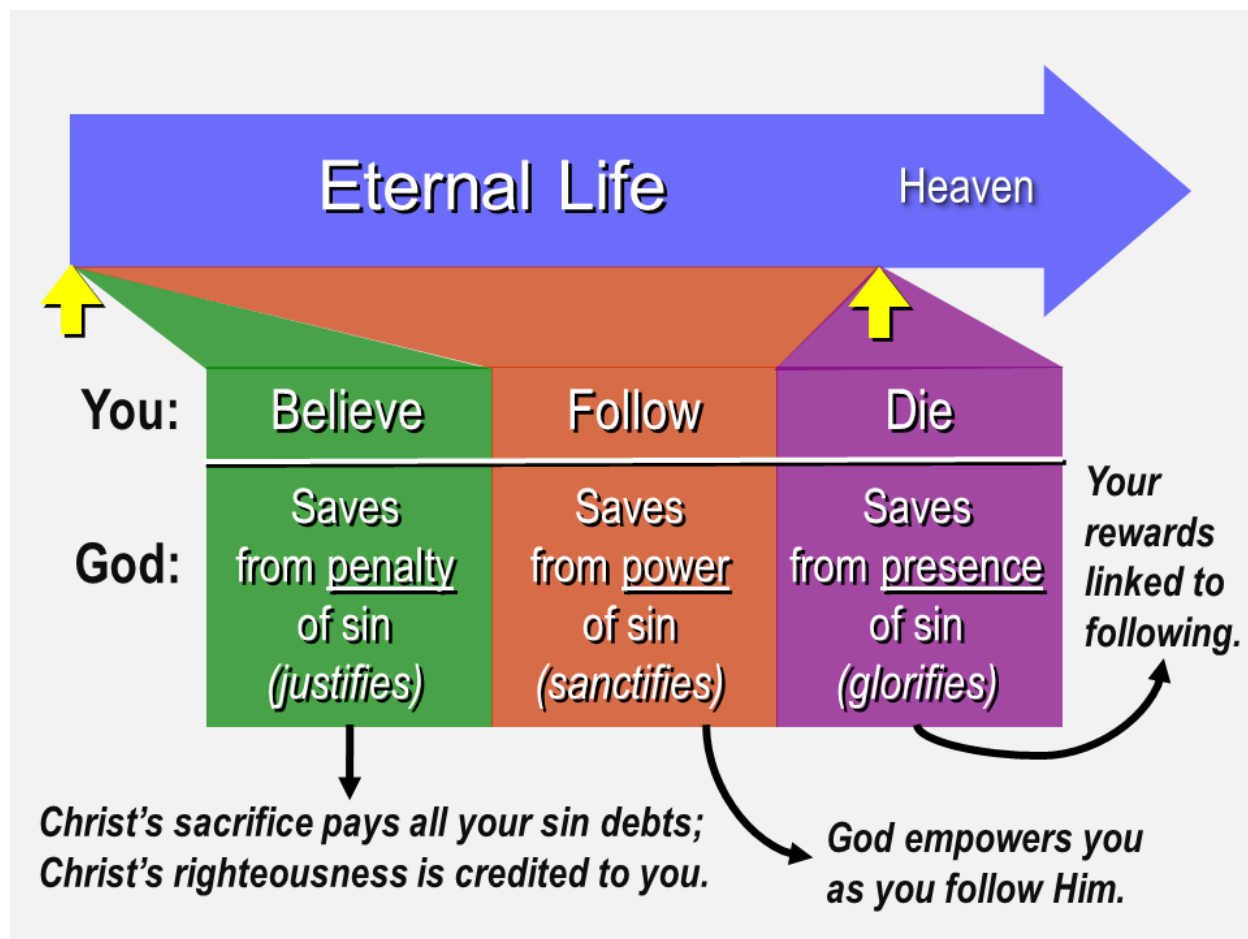
According to the Gospel of John, eternal life has a beginning. It begins when you believe in Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, you are immediately and permanently adopted into God’s forever family. Receiving eternal life happens at a specific point in

time, at the moment you believe. In John 6:47, Jesus says, "Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life" (NKJV).

Eternal life is also ongoing. It's something that every believer has right now. While eternal life is a gift received at a point in time, living the eternal life is a process of following Jesus. As the believer follows the Lord and grows in his dependence on God, he experiences this eternal life more and more abundantly. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (NKJV).

Eternal life continues even after we die physically. When believers die, we go to the presence of the Lord in heaven, and there, we will experience this eternal life more abundantly than we can imagine!

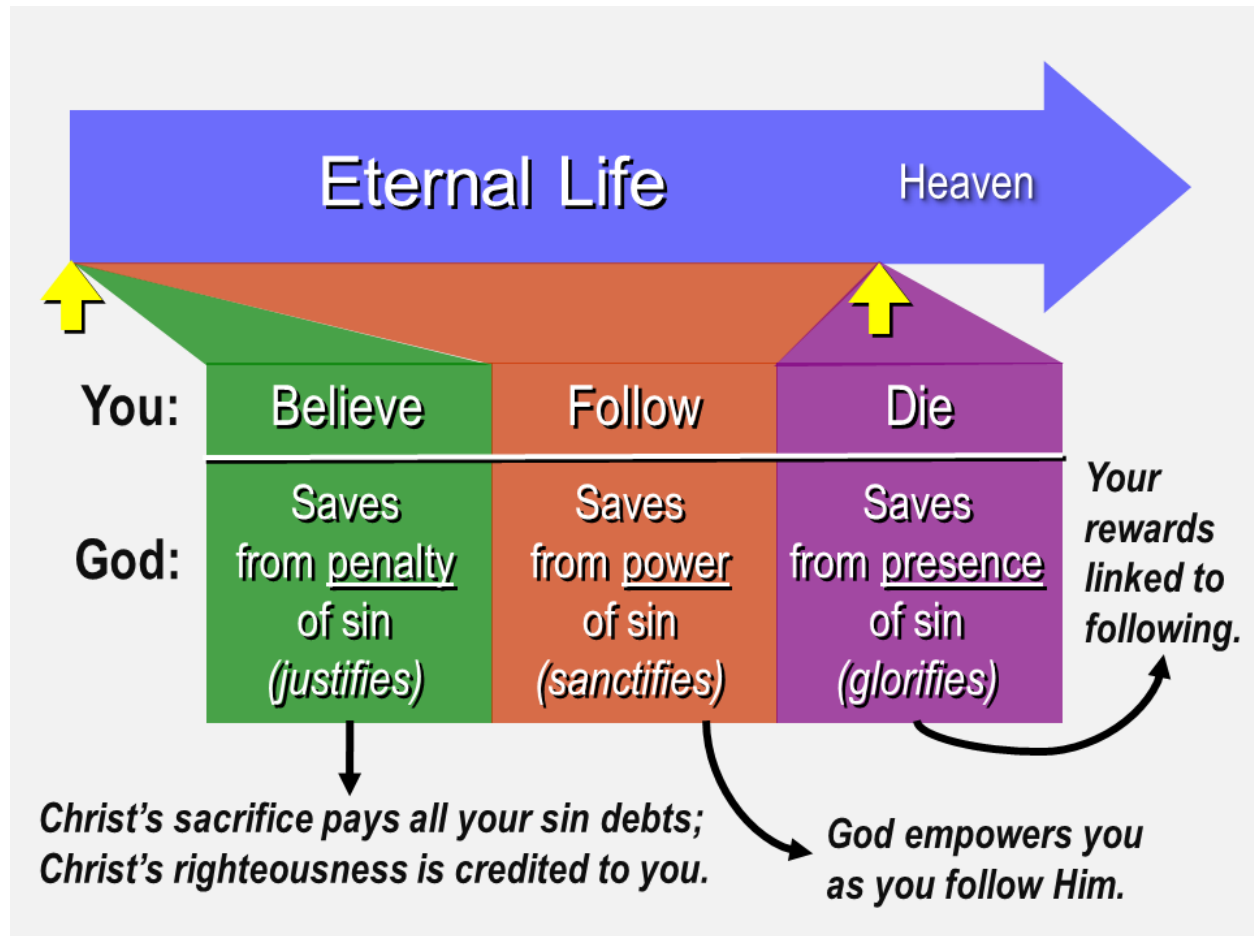
Now, let's consider how salvation relates to eternal life, represented by the sections below the big blue eternal life arrow.



The first kind of salvation is represented by the green section to the left. The moment you believe, the moment you receive eternal life, God saves you once and for all from the penalty of sin. God saves you from hell. He forgives you and adopts you as His child; you are no longer condemned as a spiritual orphan. The big theological word for being saved from the penalty of sin is justification. God justifies you. That means He declares you righteous. Christ's sacrifice pays all your debts, and Christ's righteousness is credited to you. This kind of salvation is called justification salvation. Our part is to believe in Jesus. God's part is to save us from the penalty of our sins.

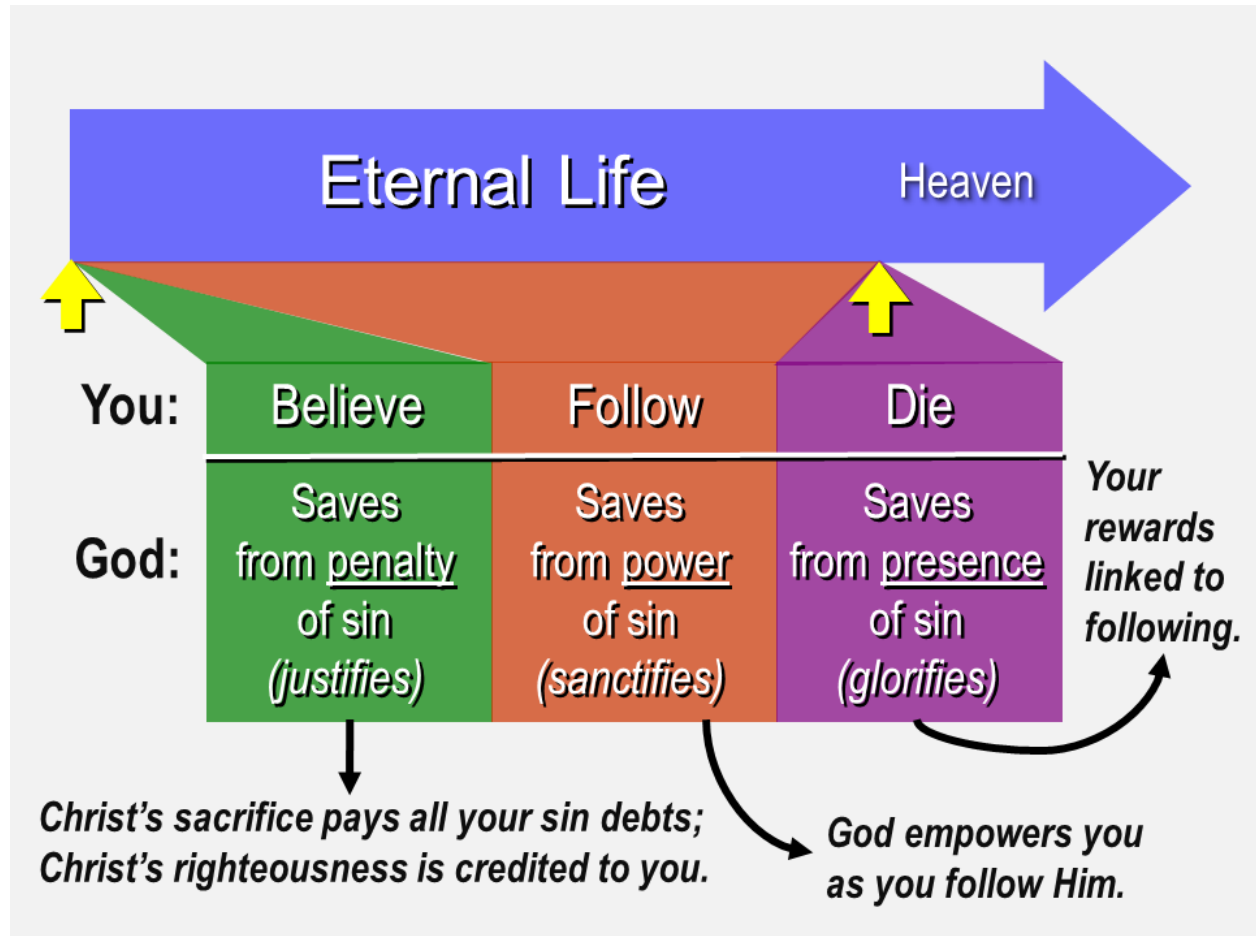
But there's a second kind of salvation, represented by the orange section in the middle. As you live out this eternal life by following Jesus, God also saves you from the power of sin as you, moment by moment, decide to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Unlike being saved from the penalty of sin, which

happens at a point in time and cannot be lost, being saved from the power of sin is a life-long process in which the believer can experience gain or loss, depending on whether or not you trust and obey God.



As you trust and obey God, you can be saved from a lot of trouble that sin causes. You can be saved from bondage to compulsive sin. You can be saved from your enemies. You can be saved from being out of fellowship with God. Your physical life can even be saved. These are all ways in which God saves us from the power of sin if we'll follow Him. He empowers us as we follow. So, eternal life can be viewed as the gift that keeps on saving. The big theological word for being saved from the power of sin is sanctification. God sanctifies us. Sanctification salvation is the second kind of salvation. Our part in this as believers is to obediently follow. God's part is to save us from the power of sin in our lives.

Finally, there is a third kind of salvation, represented by the purple section to the right. After this life on earth, God ultimately saves the believer from the very presence of sin in heaven. There will be no more sin when we are with the Lord, only the enjoyment of the Lord and His rewards for us. Our rewards are linked to the extent to which we followed the Lord on earth. The big theological word for this is glorification. God will glorify us. This third kind of salvation is called glorification salvation.



Any time we encounter the word, "saved" in the Bible, we need to ask ourselves the question, "saved from what?" What kind of salvation is in view? Justification, sanctification, or glorification?