

Beit Emet Yisra'el Messianic Congregations

Critical Issues Studies

Volume 1 No. 1

Yeshu'ah (salvation) and Talmidim (disciples)

Critical Issues Studies are structured to be the basis of an ongoing study in an area of congregational life that is crucial to how we walk out our faith. In this instance, a question that is frequently asked of our fellowship is our position regarding salvation. This usually comes in the context of accusations that we are attempting to earn salvation. Beit Emet teaches that Salvation is a free gift of God while Discipleship is a working out of that salvation. The answer to confusion regarding this issue is found in the doctrine of salvation and the doctrine of sanctification which is the outcome of discipleship. Simply summarized, salvation is a free gift while discipleship is an ongoing process that is the result of a relationship that begins with salvation. (Disciple = Greek *mathetes* and Hebrew *talmid*).

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Salvation is found in the recognition of Yeshua as the Messiah (Luke 2:30).	Discipleship is formed in the realization of Yeshua as our goal (Gal 4:19)
Salvation is an invitation to "come to Me" (John 6:37; Matthew 11:28).	Discipleship is an invitation to "come follow Me" (Matt. 19:21; Luke 9:23).
Salvation is believing on Yeshua the Messiah (Acts 16:30-31).	Discipleship is choosing to follow Yeshua the Messiah (Matt. 4:18-22), learning from Him (Matt. 11:29) and living like Him (Luke 6:40).
Salvation is coming to Messiah to find rest from the burden of sin (Matt. 11:28).	Discipleship is continuing with Messiah by taking His yoke of discipleship in order to learn from Him (Matt. 11:29).
Salvation is not a process, those who trusted Messiah were added daily, not over a period of time (Acts 2:47).	Discipleship is a life-long process that demands ongoing efforts (John 8:31; Matthew 28:19-20).
Salvation involves trusting in the work of Messiah (Eph. 1:13).	Discipleship involves training in the way of Messiah (Matt. 28:19-20).
Salvation involves receiving Elohim's free gift (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9).	Discipleship involves receiving Elohim's instruction through his emissaries (Acts 2:42).

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Salvation is the free gift of Elohim (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 55:1) that is paid through an incredible cost (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:20) but not by the individual.	Discipleship is costly to the talmid and the cost must be counted (Luke 14:25-33).
Salvation requires obedience to the command to believe (1 John 3:23a; John 3:36).	Discipleship requires obedience to all of Scripture's commands (1 John 5:1-3).
Salvation involves a faith response to the message of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18; 15:1-4).	Discipleship involves carrying one's own cross daily (Luke 9:23).
Salvation involves recognition of Elohim's love towards us expressed while we were His enemies (Rom. 5:8).	Discipleship involves recognition of our love towards Elohim by obeying Him (1 John 5:3).
Salvation comes through a recognition of our guilt measured against our violation of the Torah (Rom. 3:20).	Discipleship comes as a recognition of our growth as measured against our obedience to the Torah (Matt. 5:17-19).

Much more could be written on this topic, however an important distinction between salvation and discipleship lies in the purpose of each. Salvation results in our justification: our legal standing of forgiveness before Elohim. This act is described by the Greek word *dikaow* which means to render just or innocent, to absolve or acquit from guilt or punishment. Discipleship relates to our being set apart experientially for service to Elohim through obedience to His word, including the foundation of Torah, His teaching and instruction about life. Salvation sets us apart to Elohim positionally for His purposes. Discipleship and its outcome, sanctification, sets us apart practically for Elohim's purposes as we walk out the faith that we claim. Obedience to Torah is the every good work by which we become equipped (1 Tim. 3:16-17 all Scripture being the Hebrew Scriptures when this text was written) prepared before hand that we might walk in them (Eph. 2:10). Our goal in Discipleship is to become like our Messiah!

But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim has been perfected¹ in him. By this we know that we are in Him. The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked. 1 John 2:5-6

Beit Emet Yisra'el's mission is to make disciples with the power and love of a first century faith.

This was taken from Steve Gilbertson, Congregational Leader of Yeshua Light of the World Sabbath Fellowship Colorado Springs, CO which has closed its doors.