

"What do you mean I am not saved yet? When I believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, God wonderfully saved me (*Acts 16:31; 1 Cor. 1:21*). At that very moment God forgave me all trespasses (*Col. 2:13*); I was justified freely by His grace (*Rom. 3:24*); I was redeemed by His precious blood (*1 Pet. 1:18-19*); I received God's free gift of eternal life (*Rom. 6:23; John 6:47*); I passed from death unto life (*John 5:24*); I was born into God's family (*John 1:12-13*). How dare you say I am not saved yet!"

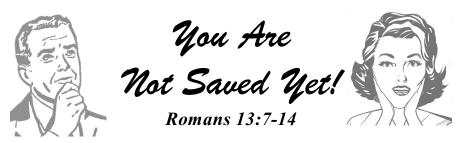
While we thank God without ceasing that all these things are absolutely true, yet the Bible speaks of a salvation that has not happened yet, but *which is going to happen very soon*: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (*Rom. 13:11*).

It's near, but it is not yet here. The God who began a great work in us has not completed it but soon will (*Phil. 1:6*). He is not finished with us yet! In our uncompleted state we still  $\sin (1 \text{ John } 2:1)$ ; we still struggle with temptations (*James 1:13-14*); we still must endure fiery trials (*1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 4:12*); we still suffer bodily ills and afflictions (*2 Cor. 12:7-9*); we still live in a Satanic world, wrestling against wicked powers (*Eph. 6:12*); we still live in a sin-cursed world (*Rom. 8:22*); we are still subject to disease, bodily deterioration and death (*1 Cor. 15:26*).

Praise God, the day of our deliverance is coming, and our future salvation is guaranteed: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith **unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**" (*1 Pet. 1:5*).

Are you joyfully anticipating your glorification and completed salvation (*Rom. 8:30*)?

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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