

“According to the Bible, Who Is the Savior?”

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By Dave Havar

BIG SANDY, Texas—It is interesting to watch people discover a perceived “problem” in their Bible study that really doesn’t exist for many other people.

Sometimes the problem can be amusing, but at other times it can be annoying. I suppose much of our reaction (amused or annoyed) depends upon the dogmatism and tone exhibited by the person exposing the perceived problem.

At various times through the years I have witnessed people argue about the question: According to the Bible, who is the Savior?

Out of balance

History reveals that people often fall into a ditch when they veer away from the safety of the obvious path.

■ Haven’t you seen religious people who correctly see the importance of the Father but overlook the role of the Son?

Some sincere people have used hymnals in their worship service that featured many wonderful parts of the Bible (including the beautiful psalms) but ignored songs about Jesus Christ.

■ Haven’t you seen religious people who correctly see the importance of the Son but overlook the role of the Father?

Some sincere people will say the name of Jesus repetitively in their worship service but overlook the role of the Father.

While I realize that the question mentioned in this article does not pose a problem to many of you, allow me to point out the scriptures some people quote to present their apparent dilemma.

Father is Savior

Here are some of the scriptures that say that God is the Savior.

■ 1 Timothy 2:3—“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.”

- 1 Timothy 4:10—"For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."
- Jude 25—"To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

Son is Savior

Here are some of the scriptures that say that the Son is the Savior.

- John 4:42—"Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.' "
- Philippians 3:20—"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- Titus 1:4—"To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."
- 2 Peter 1:11—"For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
- 2 Peter 2:20—"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning."
- 2 Peter 3:18—"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

Honor the Son

Here are some scriptures that show the importance of honoring the Son.

- John 5:23—"All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."
- 1 John 2:22-23—"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also."
- Philippians 2:10-11—"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Predominant role

Here are some scriptures that show who has the predominant role.

- John 4:34—"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.' "
- John 5:30—"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

- John 8:28-29—"Then Jesus said to them, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.' "
- 1 Timothy 2:5-6—"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
- Hebrews 8:1—"Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."
- Revelation 3:21—"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."
- 1 Corinthians 15:24-28—"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death . . . Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

Father through the Son

Here are some scriptures that show how the Father is the Savior through the Son.

- Acts 5:29-31—"Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.' "
- Titus 3:4-6—"The kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, [which] He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."
- 1 John 4:14—"We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."

And therefore

Since I believe information for Christian living is more important than Bible study merely for knowledge, notice some instructions from the apostle Paul and from the Son of God.

- Ephesians 3:9—God created all things through Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 3:11—God accomplished an eternal purpose through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Ephesians 3:14-15—For these reasons, Paul bowed his knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—for whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.
- Ephesians 3:16—That the Father would strengthen us in the inner man (through His Spirit).
- Ephesians 3:17—That Christ might dwell in our hearts and that we might be rooted and grounded in love.

- Ephesians 3:18-19—That we might be able to comprehend the width, length, depth and height of the love of Christ (which passes knowledge)—that we might be filled with all the fullness of God.
- Matthew 5:14-16—You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.