



Original Article

## Faith or Works, Which One Saves?: Study of Salvation According to Biblical, A Critical of Progressive Christian Views

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**Abstract.** Faith or works, which one saves? This question causes many interpretations from various circles. This research concluded that Progressive Christian Understanding of Salvation is far deviate from biblical. The method used in this research is a qualitative method One of emerging view and phenomenal is a Progressive Christian view which assume that salvation can be obtained by doing good works even outside Christ. If it is happened because of good works, human can do his own effort to get his salvation. However, when human fell into the sin, he tried to strive for his own salvation from the power of death but it was in vain. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ at cross is the only way for human to be safe, redeemed from his sins and got happiness. This research aims to explore about biblical study of salvation. The main source of this research is bible, and also some books, journals, research results related to salvation study, and Progressive Christian church's view of salvation.

**Keywords:** Salvation, Faith, Works, Biblical, Progressive Christian.

### 1. Introduction

One of interesting discussion topic and viral both on social media and seminars is about salvation. This topic becomes interesting to discuss again when the view from community who called themselves as Progressive Christian emerges. Progressive Christian emphasizes that salvation is not only in Jesus Christ [1]. Human can be safe through his good works. Salvation or often called as Soteriology biblical talks about the work of Jesus Christ for human salvation personally based on the bible texts, especially in New Testament. Salvation is an important concept in Christian theology of study. The term "*salvation*" comes from Greek "*sotēria*" (σωτηρια) which means safety. In etymology the word comes from two words namely *soter* (σωτηρ) which means saviour and *logia* (λογία) is words. According to Joel R Beeke and Paul M Smalley that soteriology is the doctrine of salvation (Greek soteria), the application of redemption by the Holy Spirit for the conversion, growth, and glorification of God's people [1]. Henry C. Theissen said that Soteriology discussed about awarding salvation through Christ and the implementation of salvation through Holy Spirit [2]. Thus, soteriology doctrine is teaching about human salvation, which makes them free of wrath and God's punishment from sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Lately, the concept of salvation on Progressive Christian perspective becomes a hot topic that being discussed by Christian people from many circles both in seminars and especially in social media. As it emphasized that Jesus Christ is not only the way to get salvation but it also believes that doing good works can be the way to get salvation, where the good works has different portion for every individual. This movement focused on acceptance of human diversity, emphasized on social justice and caring towards poor people and environment as well. Progressive Christian movement has deep conviction towards the instruction to love each other (John 15:17) as Jesus asked to do. However, this movement has ignored historicity and factuality soteriology biblical.

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In this article, the writer exposes about concept study of salvation on biblical in order to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. Teaching about salvation is very important for believers. If the doctrine of salvation can't be understood clearly, it will increase "*false gospel or misleading*" widespread. This study comes as negation and resistance towards Progressive Christian view.

## 2. Methods

The method used in this study is qualitative research method [3]. The researcher conducted a literature study, namely scientific research work that critically and deeply examines relevant library materials in the form books, journals and also the results of seminars that discuss salvation (soteriology) and also the view of figures regarding Progressive Christian which are currently being discussed both among Christian themselves and outside Christianity. By using this approach, writer can explore main discussion idea of research study and analyses theories and concepts as main resource in books, encyclopedia, journals, and bulletin research [4]. Moreover, study of literature or library research tends to discussion of theory and concepts used by the writer for analysing including interpret data [5].

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Salvation according To Progressive Christianity

The term of Progressive Christian goes viral lately and become the main topic of discussing in various meeting of theology, such as at campus and public meeting. Progressive Christian appears as the response of social culture change, and the thought of modern society. This movement carries the spirit of inclusivity, social justice and contextual theology interpretation in order to find the relevance of Christian teaching from different ages. Philip Suciadi and Juanda said that Progressive Christian tried to interpret the Christian teaching from dynamic point of view, open towards interfaith dialogue, and sensitive to social issues such as human rights, environment, gender and economy justice [6].

George Yansei explained about Progressive Christian understanding of salvation. This understanding is very contradictory to Christianity teaching as written in bible, such as: 1. Inclusivity of salvation: progressive christian emphasizes that there is righteousness and salvation outside Jesus Christ. 2. Interpretation of liberal theology: Progressive Christian adopted more liberal understanding of biblical teaching, compromised or rather rejected some teaching which has contradictory to modern teachings. 3. Rejection to traditional teaching: some of Progressive Christian group rejected traditional teaching: some of Progressive Christian group rejected traditional teaching of salvation, such as original sin, necessity and redemption through Jesus Christ or exclusive understanding about heaven and hell. 4. Focus on Social Justice: One of the characteristics of Progressive Christian movement is more concern to social justice than personal salvation from sin. So, if it more focused on social justice and reduce or even replace the importance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it makes contradictory to bible teaching.

The Progressive Christian believers tend to emphasize their understanding on social, political and ecological aspect in human deliberation. Salvation is viewed as a recovery from broken relation between human, nature, and God which more concern with the way to overcome social injustice, inequality and oppression problem. This reflects their commitment towards social justice and universal goodness views such as love, peace, and justice. However, the definition of salvation in Progressive Christian

caused controversial and often contradictory with what is written in Bible which emphasized exclusivity of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

### 3.2 Bible Study of Salvation

The story of human salvation can be found in Old Testament and New Testament. The book of Genesis gives us understanding about the history of human being as God's most glorious creation. Human was created according to image and likeness of God for his great plan (Genesis 1-2) Human has been given power to preserve nature and be God's representative above universe. God created man and woman to build relationship one each other. Moreover, human can develop fellowship with God, The Great Creator. Salvation is needed by human very much. There are 3 (three) spiritual facts as reason why human need salvation:

#### 3.2.1 All Humans Have Sin and Deserve to be Punished because of their Sin

Book of Genesis chapter 3 explained an important story of the fell of human into sin for the first time. That chapter explained about violations committed by human, so that they expelled from the garden of Eden. The story started from the prohibition that God gave to Adam and Eve as they were the first human. God confirms that Adam and Eve could eat any fruit from the tree in the Garden of Eden, except fruit of knowledge about good and evil which lied in the middle of the garden. Knowing about the prohibition, the cunning snake tried to persuade Eve to eat that fruit. It finally success deceived Eve, she ate the fruit of knowledge and also invited Adam to eat that fruit together. The fruit that God asked them to not eat and even touch it. This violation became the first sin committed by humans.

After eating that fruit, Adam and Eve hid and covered themselves with leaves. God came towards and asked them regarding the fruit of knowledge. Adam admitted that he has eaten the fruit of knowledge about good and evil because of Eve's invitation. While Eve said that She has seduced by the snake to eat the fruit. After the fell of sin, God punished Adam and Eve; they expelled out from the Garden of Eden. God also made it happen hostility between woman and snake. Even snake was cursed, so it needs to go on its belly. While Eve and her descendants punished by multiply their pain in childbearing. Then Adam was punished with take a hard time sucks look for sustenance. This expulsion and punishment became the beginning story of human life.

Humans were created to be very noble and as the image of God, have separated as the consequence of their disobedient towards God. This is happened because human fell in temptation to be similar with God by knowing good and evil. This temptation shown that human want to be the master of his own life and destiny. The attitude of rebellion towards God is the origin of sin that shown contrary of human being as a creation which want to be a creator [7].

When Adam against the God's law in the garden of Eden, he directly lost his holiness and justice divine like its nature when was created. This caused God's wrath and death. Moreover, Adam fell into the power of devil which brought bad consequence and destruction for Adam's soul and body. All men already lost holiness because of Adam's mortal sin (Rome 5:12; Cor.15:22) and were not holy clean. As the apostle Paul said that man become disobedient children and bring the wrath of God, became slaves of sin (Rom. 5:21) and fell into the hand of Satan and caused death. This condition is not only for those who have not believe, but related with those who live in the Law of Moses because Torah cannot save them from its condition. Human freedom was not destroyed by the consequence of original sin indeed, but it makes it weak or even lose its power. So, it can

be concluded that the condition of human when creation was glorious as the image of God, but human preferred to be the slave of sin.

All men have fell of sin, weak and even damage because of human first sin of Adam, therefore they cannot reach eternal life. Man in his human nature is not capable to save himself on his mistake, though how hard he has trying. Because of the sin that he has done is rebellion and disobedience towards God which His goodness is unlimited [8]. In the beginning, the relation between man and God was harmonious before the fall of man into the sin. A sin is violation to God's law (1 John 3:4). Disobedience of human to what has been forbidden by God created total destruction of human himself and death of spiritual as well (Gen. 6:5; Psalm 14:3; Rm. 7:14-20; Ef. 4:17-19) [9].

Total damage of human himself can be seen from some aspect namely: *First*, the damage of relation between human and God. Human took himself away from the fellowship with God, he doesn't have willingness to meet God (Gen. 3:12-13). Sinful man didn't want to confess honestly and took responsible of his action (Gen. 3:12-13). Man hates God (Ex. 20:5; Deut. 7:10), and God hates sinner instead (Yer. 12:18; Hos. 9:15, cf Ps. 5:5, 11:5). God punishes the sinner (Is. 1:24, 6:12,63:4; Jer. 46:10; Ezek. 25:14). Human has total death, they are physical death (Gen. 2:17, 3:19; Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27) and spiritual death (Rm. 3:23, 6:23) and threatened to eternal death (Mat. 25:41-46, Rev. 20:13-14, cf. Rev. 19-20). Death is new thing that emerged when human fell into sin.

*Second*, the damage of relation between human and his fellow. The fall man into the sin also results damage between human fellow. After eating the fruit of the tree, relationship between human fellow wasn't harmonious anymore. Adam and Eve accused and blamed each other (Gen. 3:12-13). After that, crime continuously happened to human life in the world, so the relation of human fellow be corrupted by many crimes. Cain killed Abel, his younger brother, because Abel's offering is more pleasing God (Gen. 4:1-16). Since that moment, human became more careful of their relationship one and another [10].

An Indonesian proverb said "*Tak kenal maka tak sayang*" which means if you don't know people well it makes difficult for you to love him. This proverb seems got a half truth. The truth that makes it completed is if you don't know others, you won't hate him. In reality, most of the people who quarrel, hate each other, make disappointed, and even kill is the people who have known each other, and even have close emotional relationship or family relationship. Sinful man became the high egocentric creature, more obey his own lust, tends to harm and injure each other as their effort to survive or to get pleasure. That's why its is very difficult for human to allied with other fellow. This situation caused by the damage of human relation to God, so that they didn't know what is God's willing and which is not.

*Third*, the damage relation with environment. In the beginning God created human and other creatures at universe in harmony and perfect. Bible noted,

*"that God saw everything He made was really verry good"* (Gen. 1:13).

Human needs nature for actualize himself and nature needs human to take care, maintain and organize it. Human and nature has strong and close interdependence relationship. However, sin causes humans become not capable to maintain and manage nature precisely, and even damage it because of their greed [11]. The technology made by human tends to damage nature, so that the world now haunted by life environmental crisis such as the leak of ozone layer, flood caused by illegal logging, trash pollutant and so on, which finally caused various disease, misery and even extinction of creature life, crisis of clean water and another natural resources.

Main problem is not because the essence of nature is bad, but because of human caused the nature isn't harmonious and balanced anymore. The task to manage and maintain earth has given by God on human shoulders (Gen. 1:28; 2:15). However, the environmental crisis created by human and brings threat for humans themselves. The earth, nowadays is being delivered into destruction and extinction by human action.

*Fourth*, Humans are closed to suffering. The time when human fell into sin, God said,

*"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, ....cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life, ...by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* (Gen. 3:16-19).

Suffering in this case started since human fell into the sin, God allows human to have suffering, so suffering becomes familiar with human in his lifetime. *Fifth*, the consequences of sin on sinners themselves. By the total damage of human nature, makes all potential that exist within human used opposites with God's plan or His standard. In addition, the intention of the word 'total' here means all human, without exception have fallen into sin. (rm. 3:10, 23). So, the men have been enslaved by sin. This means that human continuously committing the same sin (Gen. 12:10-20, cf. 20:1-18). Sin enslaves individuals (John 8:34; Rom. 6:17a). Individually, every people have the nature of sin in himself. Every aspect in his life has already been polluted, whether his mind (2 Cor. 4:3-4), his conscience (1Tim. 4:2), his will (Rom. 1:28-32, Eph. 2:1-2) his heart (Eph. 4:17-18) and his feeling (Eph. 4:19).

Man lose fellowship with God. He cannot approach the holy throne of God and distant from the standard of holiness in God's truth. The status is dead in spiritual and under the threat of God's wrath (Eph. 2:1-3, 5, 12) Man is living in the darkness, blind in spiritual, lost, rebellious (Is. 53:4-6; Eph. 5:8a; 1 Cor. 2:14). *Fifth*, human age becomes shorter, and experienced physical death (Gen. 3:19; Ps. 90:10; Prov. 10:27; Rom. 5:12; 6:23). Sin brings death and destruction. God has prepared punishment as a place remain human who are not come back to Him, that is hell. There is nobody can restore the status of human beings, except God himself who did it.

### 3.2.2 Human effort only to save himself from the punishment of sin.

Human always strive to get salvation through various way that he can do. For example, the rich young man who asked Jesus about what should he do to get eternal life (Mark. 10:17). The concept that young man had about salvation is based on human effort and works. This young man has already strived as hard as possible to do the whole law of Torah to get salvation (Mark 10:20), however he hasn't got guarantee of his salvation yet. The truth that this young man has is same with what the Torah experts and the Pharisees have (Mat. 5:20; Philp. 3:5-6). The weakness of this young man is depending his life on his wealth not on God. That's why he finally left Jesus because of all of his wealth that he cannot release.

Bible confirms that salvation is a gift or God's grace, it is not human's efforts. In Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "for by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast". Salvation is given free of charge, it doesn't mean that is cheap. But because it is very expensive and cannot be paid by anything, then it must be awarded [12]. Salvation of faith in Jesus is salvation that comes as grace and a representative of Jesus Christ's victory of death (1Cor. 15:55-57).

### 3.2.3 Faith or action?

The Idea of human salvation by faith is rooted in Jesus' preaching. For example, Jesus praised the faith of an officer, by confirming that he didn't find any faith like his in Israel (Matt. 8:5-13; Luke. 7:1-10). We saw the story of a sinner woman who entered to dinner with Jesus and Simon the Pharisee, an amazing reminder of faith which save human (Luk. 7:36-50). This woman is known by her sin, and expressed her sadness by tears which fell on Jesus' feet and wiped them away with her hair, then she kissed Jesus' feet and anointing them with oil fragrant. Jesus praised her love, which flew from forgiveness that received in free of charge. Therefore, this story ended by a statement

*"Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luk. 7:50).*

We got the dramatic indication through this story, that salvation is only achieved by faith, and this faith will bring peace. The story of Pharisee and tax collector also shows that forgiveness and justification are not given to such Pharisee who proud with his act of religious worship (Luke 18:9-14). On the contrary, Jesus stated the right person according to Him is the tax collector who realized that his hope is only by God's mercy. Jesus also taught that blessing is belonged to those who are poor in spirit (Matt. 5:3), it is belonged those who mourn of their sins (Matt. 5:4), belonged to those who are meek (Matt. 5:5) belonged to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6) Jesus's Supper with sinner and tax collector (Matt. 9:9-13) showed the same truth. This kind of dish in ancient world indicated social acceptance, and by eating with sinners and tax collector Jesus conveyed acceptance, forgiveness, and love to those who have repent from their sins.

The gospel of John emphasizes the importance of faith, using the verb believe (*pisteuō*) 98 (ninety eight) times to confirm the importance of faith. Faith is a strong belief in God, the owner of life. Faith also a totally surrender in God, and lifted this life as God's belonging. According to Sproul that believe in God is not the action without reasonable belief. But God has shown himself as worthy trusted person. He shown that he is faithful and deserved to get human trust [13]. At one point, the Jews asked what should they do for doing the work of God (John 6:28). Jesus answered that they have to "believe in Him whom he has sent" (John 6:29). Jesus emphasizes repeatedly that those who believe will have eternal life (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24). Somebody is saved not because he works for God but because he believes in God.

### 3.2.4 Faith and Works in the Epistles of Paul and James

Paul teaches that justification and Spirit accepted through faith and not because of works (Rm. 3:20, 28; Gal 2:16; 3:2, 5, 10). In Rome 3:28 it is said firmly that we are justified only "because of faith" and not because of action law. Some argue that "*the act of law*" refer to ceremonial law or legal boundary markers, however it is more reasonable to consider the action law refers to the whole law. In other words, justification doesn't come by doing law but through faith (Rm. 3:20, 28; Gal. 2:16; 3:2, 5, 10).

This understanding was also emphasized in Rome 4, which said that Abraham was not justified because of his action but because of his faith (Rm. 4:1-5). Justification cannot be obtained through action but only through faith. Action law cannot give justification because everyone without any exception is a sinner (Rm. 1:18-3:20; Gal. 3:10). The core of Paul's teaching is that Justification happened through faith and not because of action (Filp. 3:2-9; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 3:50).

At glance, James seems contradictory with theology justification of Paul. Paul confirmed that believers were justified because of their faith and not their works. While James said that human was justified because of his works, not only his faith (James 2:24).



However, to get the point of James' statement about this, we have to study whole letters of James not only some parts.

James confess that the recipient of his letter is the people who are

*"believe in Jesus Christ, our glorious God" (James 2:1).*

Have faith in Jesus means entrust himself to God through Jesus Christ who has dead crucified on the top of hill Golgotha. According to Warren Wiersbe, Faith is belief that the word of God is true, and believe that actions taken based on Words of God will carry blessing from God [14]. It means that faith is not only a statement that comes out from someone's mouth, but also a real action based on the words of God.

James in his letter explained that there are three kinds of faith. *First*, dead faith (James 2:14-17). James Adamson said that something dead cannot bear fruit or produce anything, so do the dead faith, it cannot do anything [15]. The man who has dead faith is someone who change his action or works by his words. That man already known and talked about God's words but his action himself are not suitable with what he had said. He knew that there is a poor man and very hungry. He should give the poor man some food but he didn't do anything but just say *"Please eat much, so you will be full"*.

This kind of death faith, the faith which only comes from his intellectual. *Second*, devils' faith (James 2:18-19). Satan believes that there is only one God and trembled. Satan also believes that Jesus is the Son of God, and recognized him as a Judge (Mark 5:1-3). The person who has devils' faith not only touched on his intellectual but also his emotion (devils shaking) but he doesn't have act of love, on the contrary he even rebel against God. *Third*, dynamic faith (James 2:20-26), this is the faith that brings salvation. Dynamic faith is based on the words of God. Dynamic faith comes from spiritual reborn through words of God (James 1:18) and it can be seen through his action according God's words. James using Abraham and Rahab as example of dynamic faith [16].

James conveys his idea about faith and works that written in James 2:14-26, many people think that Paul and James' views contradictory, they consider about James who lies his salvation on works or action, not because of faith. When James talked about works, he never related that works with doing Torah as requirement of salvation on Jews perspective. This works in this case is works that come from true faith. The key statement is on verse 24, "So you see, that man justified because his actions and not only because faith" (James 2:24). The phrase "only because faith", this shows that justification by faith doesn't against by James. This means that James and Paul have the same understanding towards faith, but James emphasizes that true faith is not only words that comes out from mouth but can be seen from its fruits namely good works as proof of his faith [17].

True faith comes with works, and that works as proof of his own faith. James connects true faith with practical example of daily life about how to act towards poor people. In James 2:15-16 it is said

*"ESV, if a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking a daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" (James 2:15-16).*

this is a statement to emphasize how important the work of faith is. Works of faith that stated by James is not an effort to obey the rules of Torah to get salvation, but the act of love to help others. As Lord Jesus said in His preaching that we have to love each other. Compare in John 13:34-35, lord Jesus said:

*“ESV, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one another.” (John 13:34-35).*

The people who believe in Jesus is called a disciple of Jesus. As a disciple, we are required to practice what Jesus’ preach is to love each other. So, the act of love as the proof that we are His disciples. Faith that followed by works to obey the God’s will is a dynamic faith, and James gives the example of this faith through the story from the figure in Old Testament is Abraham. In James 2:21 said,

*“ESV, Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up his son Issac on the altar? Abraham is a respected figure by Jews and they consider him as their father” (James 2:21).*

According to James, God justified Abraham when he believed in words of God, and he has proved it when God asked him to offer Issac, his lovely son on the mount of Moriah, and Abraham did it. What has Abraham did is an obedience of God’s will and it proves his faith towards God that he obeyed God’s will. The faith of Abraham cannot stand alone, but it collaborates with works. Towards faith as James stated as perfect faith is faith that completed with works (James 2:22).

Based on the discussion above, Paul and James are not contradictory. When Paul said that human will be justified by faith, and James said human is justified by his works, doesn’t mean contradictory. The difference between what Paul said and James said were clearly related directly to the original reader of their letters. Louis Berkhof said that James faced to face with the Antinomians, who claimed that they have faith, but their faith is just intellectual practice (James 2:19), and denied the importance of good works. In other side, Paul faced to face with legalist who tried to laid their justification based on the obedience towards law, doing all or at least some part of the law [18]. The legalist were Jews who were proud of law Torah, who do not put their faith based on God’s grace and the sacrifice of Jesus. In Jews’ concept, human is justified by doing the law of Torah. Without works by doing torah, there isn’t salvation. On the contrary of this understanding, Paul stated his doctrine of salvation that human is justified by faith, not because of his works doing law of Torah.

According to Paul, salvation is God’s grace through faith in Jesus who has died to justify all sinners, not because of doing Torah. So, human is justified by faith not because of his works doing law of Torah. James didn’t against justification through faith, but remind that somebody who admit that he has faith has to prove his faith through his works.

### 3.2.5 Jesus Christ is the Only Way of Salvation

That sin is reality that cannot avoided by human. This is related with Paul’s expression, which said that all humans have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rm. 3:23). Human are responsible of his work personally and cannot justify himself through many reasons and works. All of humans’ sins will cause terrible punishment for human. Therefore, human need to know the way out of their sins. This context cannot be done or attempted by human itself. It means, although human has done so much charity, good works, they cannot let human free from the consequence of sins, because essentially, human itself is still in the status of “sinners.” Human cannot avoid the consequence of sin only by doing religious practice or some effort to make closer to God.

We need to look some points regarding to the way out of sin, as explained below: *First*, only God can resolve sin (Isa. 53:5; Rom. 8:3). God took initiative to give a promise



that can recover the broken relationship between God and human, so human can still communicate to God (Gen. 3:15) God's ultimate work is as a way out of sins which called forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sins is the work of God that happened because of His grace. *Second*, confession of sin to God (1 John 1:9). Forgiveness of sins never-ever means God let humans fall into sin and directly forgive their sins anyway. But whoever come in front of The Crist Cross, he realized that God's grace is not cheap. Forgiveness of sins is happened because of God himself must punish the sin, therefore Jesus Christ must die for liberation man from sin.

*Third*, inside Christ by His blood, we got redemption (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14). Jesus Christ is the only one way of salvation. Jesus Christ is not one of salvation, but he is the only one of true salvation, that he has been appointed by God to die as the bearer of sin as written in Bible. In 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18 says,

*"ESV, He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By, his wounds you have been healed; For Christ also suffer once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..." (Peter 2:24; 3:18).*

in Romans 5:8-9 it also says,

*"ESV, But God shows His love for us in the while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8-9).*

Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Compare to John 14:6 said, Jesus said to him:

*"ESV, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).*

This is also emphasized in Acts 4:12,

*"ESV, and there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).*

God has set the road to salvation in Jesus Christ according to His power and sovereignty (Eph. 1:11). Stevri L. Lumintang say that salvation must be related to the person of Lord Jesus. Universality and Christ particularity are strongly held by adherents exclusivism, generally followed by the group of evangelical who claimed that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation. The implication is to admit there is no salvation outside Lord Jesus, and also reject another way of salvation except salvation through Jesus Christ [19].

Jesus Christ has delivered Himself crucified and die at cross as the way redemption of sinners. The word redeem originate from two basic words of Greek is *ex* means release; and *agorazo* means to buy (slaves) from the market. Redemption (*exagorazo*) demand a condition, which in the original words *luttro*, which means get liberation through payment a price [20]. Payment or the price to redeem the sinners from slavery and punishment for sin was not by perishable goods, neither with silver or gold, but by expensive blood, namely blood of Christ, which is not stained and not blemished (1 Peter 1:18-19; Titus 2:14) Redemption by Jesus Christ is applicable for everyone who believes and accept Him as his Lord and Savior. It has been emphasized in John 3:16 said "ESV, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, once again the way out of sin can only be received in faith of Jesus Christ who died to redeem us from punishment of our sin [21].

## 4. Conclusion

Christian Progressive' understanding about salvation is very contradictory with salvation principle in Bible. The believers indeed should live better than Pharisees in matter of religious, but still good works cannot save. Salvation is God's grace through Jesus Christ. Human cannot get salvation from his good works. Salvation only comes by faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is the core of all invisible things. Someone who has faith in Jesus Christ should be seen through his works. The only way to know that someone has faith is by demonstrating his works in his daily life. Therefore, how important true faith is which can be proven by works, so every believer are expected to proof his faith through love action to others and his faithfulness towards God.

## 5. Declaration

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**Did you use generative AI to write this manuscript?** - I do not use AI assistance in my manuscript.

**Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process** - During the preparation of this work the author did not use AI to write, edit, or other things related to the manuscript.

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