

SKYVIEW CHURCH

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET

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We all receive the notices in the mail that we have been pre-approved or pre-qualified. These notices are usually from a bank offering credit cards or from another lending institution offering to lend us money or refinance our mortgage.

"Pre-approved," or "pre-qualified" means that you have met certain criteria that the lending institution requires to grant a loan or to issue a credit card. It generally is an acknowledgement that you are credit-worthy and the lender has confidence that you are able to repay any money that is borrowed.

We have been "pre-approved" in another way. We have been pre-approved or pre-qualified to receive eternal salvation. This pre-approval is more valuable than any we might obtain from a financial institution. No one, on their own, is worthy of the salvation offered to mankind by Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, He pre-approved us to receive the benefits of His sacrifice. In Titus 2:11 this explained: ***"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."*** Everyone is pre-approved by God to receive salvation. In Titus 3:7 Paul wrote: ***"...having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."*** God in His mercy sent His Son to pre-qualify us to receive His inheritance.

Being "pre-approved" or "pre-qualified" by a lending institution does not mean we will receive the benefits offered by them. Many people, if they are like myself, will throw these notices into the trash without responding. What this means is my "pre-qualification" is worthless, meaningless and not profitable to me in any way. To benefit, we must do something. We have to complete an application and place our signature on a document promising that we will make the necessary repayments. If we do nothing, the "pre-approved" status will not apply to us.

Likewise our "pre-approved" status with God will not benefit us in anyway if we do not respond. There are things we must do to be accepted with God, just like we have to do certain things to be granted a bank's offerings. If we do not respond to God's offer, we will not receive the benefits of Jesus' sacrifice. Our response to God involves our faith in Him and our obedience to what He requires from us. We must, in faith, turn from our sins, confess His name, and put Him on in baptism (Mark 16:15,16, Luke 13:3, Galatians 3:27).

If we receive a "pre-approved" offer from a bank, they will expect us to be faithful in making the required repayments. This same is true with God's offer. We cannot accept a loan and then decide the repayment is too difficult and fail to make the payments. We cannot accept God's offer of salvation and then decide it is too hard to live in the way He expects us to.

We have all been "pre-qualified" by Christ's sacrifice. Have you responded to God's offer? Have you taken the necessary steps to guarantee your salvation? If not, you are urged to respond to this offer.