

Volume I

The Essentials



Salvation

We'd like to welcome you to the educational series "The Essentials". These series of study books are designed to equip the believers of Christ with the essentials to live the life the scripture say we should have. This series will also help us to understand and embrace our anointed call to change our view about ourselves and give ourselves to become ambassadors of change in world around us.

To properly understand the calling of Christ it is mandatory that we give ourselves to grasping some clarity related to His call. The central resource to discover what Christ has called us to is the Bible. In the pages of the bible we will discover that we have been made for a purpose. As a matter of fact "we have been made for this time and this time is made for us". Since so much of who we are and who we are to be is held within the sacred scripture, we must develop a new mind-set in seeking to learn about our Lord's plan for us.

We must embrace this reality: “Our assured purpose is rooted in the word of God. To understand our assignment and the father’s destined will for us, it is imperative that we engage the searching of the scriptures as a lifetime journey”. 1 John 3:2 ...it doth not appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear we shall be like him...

There are principle fundamentals that God has laded out for our benefit that will help us to understand that “there is nothing that has happened to us that God is not aware of and has made to work for us”. We discover these truths as we study our God and His ways.

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SALVATION

Introduction:

The first lesson in this series is about salvation. Salvation is the theme of the

Bible, it is expressed from Genesis to Revelation. Salvation is also one of the most misunderstood of all the doctrines of the Bible. It is as simple as it is complex, and we do not have to understand all of the aspects of salvation before we can receive it. So, in this lesson we will cover the basics of salvation by answering the five basic questions of: Who, what, where, when, and how; plus an added question of where. It assumed since you are in this class that have received God's salvation. This lesson will either confirm that you are saved or point out the need for salvation.

The What and Why of Salvation

First we will begin with the definition of the word "salvation":

The word "salvation" is the translation of the Greek word soteria which is derived from the word soter meaning "savior." The word "salvation" communicates the thought of deliverance, safety, preservation, soundness, restoration, and healing.¹

Salvation is a gift of God which provides man with eternal life and freedom from his former life of sin (Rom 6:23). Salvation is also a restoration of man into right relationship with God (Rom 5:1).

The underlying premise of salvation is that the chief enemy of mankind is sin. Sin, therefore, is the source of all hardship, distress and death. Sin is separation from God.

The “why” of salvation comes into play here. Sin means to fail morally, to miss God’s mark of perfection. Sin is most

¹ Lewis Sperry Chafer Systematic Theology, Abridged Edition, Vol. 2, John F. Walvoord, editor, Donald K. Campbell, Roy B. Zuck, consulting editors, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1988, p.21.

The barrier of sin is one of the reasons why God, in His sovereign love, gave His Son to

die on the cross for man's sin. There are three aspects which go to make up the barrier of sin:

Imputed Sin: Romans 5:12 teaches us the fact of imputed sin. Adam is the representative head of the human race and because of our natural relationship to him, his sin imputed, reckoned, to the entire human race. God views the human race as though we all sinned in Adam or with Adam. But in this we also see God's grace as Paul explains in Romans 5:12-18, for just as Adam's sin was imputed to every human being as a descendent of Adam because Adam's one act of sin, so Christ's righteousness is imputed to all who become children of God by faith in Christ because of His one act of righteousness (Romans 5:16-18).

Inherited Sin: the Bible teaches the fact that, as the posterity of Adam, every child is born with a sinful nature inherited from his parents. Many passages of Scripture refer to this principle. According to Ephesians 2:1-3, all are dead in sin and are "by nature the children of wrath." Other important verses

are: Genesis 5:3; Psalms 51:5, 58:3. The vital principle is that men do not sin and become sinners, rather they sin because they are sinners.

Individual or Personal Sin: This refers to the products of the sinful nature of inherited sin, the actual deeds or acts of sin which all men do because they are sinful (Rom 3:18,23).

often directed against God (Lk 15:18,21), but can also be directed against other people (Mt 18:15, 21; Lk 17:3,4) or even oneself (1 Cor 6:18). Even so, to sin against another person, especially a Christian, is to sin against God (1 Cor 8:12).

To sin against God has severe consequences—judgment and death (Rom 2:12). Yet this is exactly why God devised a plan for salvation.

Sin's entrance into mankind (the fall of man) was a specific historical event. Adam and Eve, who were real people (Mt 19:3-5), committed a particular sin (Gen 3). That sin affected all of mankind.

The Test (Genesis 2:15-17) Adam and Eve were clearly told the privileges of their home in the Garden of Eden and prohibition: they were not to eat of one certain tree. There was no other temptation in the garden. There was simple choice to obey or disobey God.

The Temptation (Genesis 3:1-5) Satan approached Eve, and questioned God's goodness ("Has God said, you shall not eat. . . " - 3:1).

The Sin (Genesis 3:6) When Eve had listened to the serpent and doubted God's words, she saw and desired the fruit and ate it. She then further Satan's temptation by giving Adam the fruit. He also listened, doubted, saw, desired and then ate. They sinned by choice. The rest of mankind is now sinful by nature and by choice.

Sin created a barrier between God and man, which hindered access to God. This is true for the unbeliever who can only come to God through Christ, who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12). It is also true for the believer in Christ. Even

though they are saved and have access to God in Christ, fellowship with God as His children is broken by known sin which must first be confessed so that fellowship can be restored and God can answer prayer (Ps 66:18).

Salvation can be looked at from two points of view, one negative and the other positive.

Negative (Christians are saved from):	Positive:
The wrath of God (Rom 5:9; I Thess 1:10)	Reestablishes fellowship with God (Lk 1:68, 69, 74, 75)
The guilt of sin (Mt 1:21; Lk 1:77; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; I Pet 1:18,19)	We are justified (Rom 5:1)
Condemnation (Jn 3:17)	We are adopted children of God (Gal 4:5; eph 1:5)
The power of darkness (Col 1:13)	We have communion with Christ in the Spirit (Rom 8:9, 10; Eph 1:13, 14)
The bondage of sin and its power (Lk 7:50; Rom 7:24, 25; Gal 5:16)	We have citizenship in Heaven—the Kingdom of God (Col 1:13)
Temptations (2 Pet 2:9)	We are restored to the image of God, i.e., reborn (Tit 3:5)
The Evil one and everything evil (Mt 6:13)	Our spirits, souls, and bodies are sanctified so we may walk in newness of life in fellowship with God (I Thess 5:23, 24; Tit 2:11-14)

	We will participate in the glorious resurrection (2 Tim 4:18; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
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Salvation in Christ has three observable phases (tenses) in the Bible. Understanding this truth can relieve a lot of tensions and enable the believer to relax in the Lord and His grace while simultaneously moving forward in spiritual growth.

Phase I. This is the past tense of salvation— saved from sin’s penalty. This aspect views the believer as delivered from sin’s penalty and spiritual death (Lk 7:50; 2 Cor 2:15; Eph 2:5, 8; Tit 3:5; Heb 7:25; 2 Tim 1:9)

Phase II. This is the present tense of salvation and has to do with the believer’s sanctification, or growing to maturity in Christ (Rom 6:1-23; 8:2; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 2:19-20; 5:1-26; Phil 1:19; 2:12-13; 2 Thess 2:13).

This phase of salvation in Christ is accomplished through The ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but is based upon the work of Christ and the believer’s union and co-identification with Christ in that work.

Phase III. This is the future tense of salvation which refers to the future deliverance all believers in Christ will experience through a glorified resurrected body. We will be saved into a full conformity to Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29; 13:11; 1 Pet 1:5; 1 Jn 3:2).

Review:

Salvation is a _____ of God which provides man with _____ and _____ from his former life of _____

To sin means to fail _____, to miss God's mark of perfection. Sin is most often directed against _____, but can also be directed against _____ or even _____.

Sin created a _____ between God and man, which hindered access to God. This is true for the _____ who can only come to God through Christ who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It is also true for the _____ in Christ. Even though they are saved and have access to God in Christ, fellowship with God as His children is broken by _____ which must

first be _____ so that fellowship can be restored and God can answer prayer.

Who needs Salvation?

The Bible plainly teaches that Christ's death and His work of redemption was not only sufficient for the entire world, but that He actually died for the sins of all the world. This belief does not mean universal salvation, but only that Christ's death paid the penalty for the sin of all the world and for all time. Christ's death was a work accomplished for the entire world (Jn 3:16; Heb 2:9), it provided redemption

(1 Tim 2:6), reconciliation (2 Cor 5:19), and propitiation (the appeasement or satisfaction of God's holiness) (1 Jn 2:2) for every person in the world.

Review:

The Bible plainly teaches that Christ's _____ and His work of _____ was not only sufficient for the entire _____, but that He actually _____ for the sins of all the world

**Christ's death provided _____,
_____, and _____ for every
person in the world.**

Where was Salvation obtained?

The last words uttered by the Savior just before He died on the cross were, "It is finished." He was not referring to the end of His life or ministry, but of His substitutionary sufferings on the cross which He would complete by His death which occurred immediately following His shout, "It is finished." He was declaring He had finished the special work of salvation which the Father had given Him to accomplish. It is called "the finished work of Christ" because there is nothing left to be done to provide man's salvation. God has done it all in the person and work of His Son and He raised Him from the dead as proof of that very fact. The work of God in Christ is a once-and-for-all work for God accomplished in total by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection on the third day.

Review:

The last words uttered by the Savior just before He died on the cross were,
“ _____ ”

The work of God in Christ is a _____ work for God accomplished in total by the _____ of Jesus Christ on the _____.

When and How can Salvation be received? Hopefully, since you are attending this series of classes, you are already saved. But, if after reading this lesson you feel that you have not received true salvation from God, then this section is vitally important.

For the Savior’s death to be effective for any individual that person must personally believe or trust in Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. Since the work of salvation is finished, salvation can be received at any time and at any place.

Romans 10:9 tells us, “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” It’s as simple as that! God has done all of the work through

Jesus, and all any man or woman has to do is confess and believe.

If you have received God's salvation, welcome to the family of God! But, if you have not, now is the time to make the most important decision of your life, right now, right here! All you have to do is to confess and believe (Rom 10:9).

Review:

For the Savior's death to be effective for any individual that person must personally _____ in Jesus Christ as his/her _____.

Romans 10:9 tells us, "That if you confess with your mouth, " _____," and believe in your heart that _____."

Reflection:

When and where did you receive salvation?

How do you know that you are saved?

How has your life changed since receiving salvation?