

SALVATION

Discipleship 1 - Chapter 2

SALVATION

No Bible truth is as simple or as complex as the study of salvation. Salvation in its offer to all is simple. Salvation in its provision by the plan of God in eternity past is complex.

As you read this article, prepare to learn three essential truths about the doctrine of salvation.

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Salvation Is Man's Great Need

1. Because every man is born a sinner. Parents don't teach their babies to be selfish, unruly, and disobedient, but every child has these traits. The Psalmist says, "Behold, I was sharpen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"(Psalm 51:5). Contrary to the opinion of the modern sociologist, the Bible teaches that man is basically and totally evil. The prophet Isaiah gives the authoritative statement from the Lord on man's condition when he says, "We are all as unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags"(Isaiah 64:6). "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"(Romans 3:23).

2. Because sin brings damnation. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Ezekiel 18:4 states, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." As our earthly parents punish our disobedience, God must judge our sin. God's punishment for sinners is eternal hell. Jesus said, "Be not afraid of them that kill the body...but...fear Him which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell" (Luke 12:4-5).

3. Because no one can be good enough to earn a spot in heaven. People do everything in their power to "turn over a new leaf." They often live a "good life" in an effort to please God and earn a position in heaven. Some are baptized, some teach Sunday school, some give money, and some do their best to be kind and good. Unfortunately, all these "do-gooders" ignore Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast"!

SALVATION IS NEEDED BECAUSE EVERY MAN IS A
SINNER ON A SPEEDING TRACK TOWARD DAMNATION
WITHOUT HOPE OF TURNING AROUND ON HIS OWN.

Salvation Is God's Great Gift

God "is not willing that any should perish (be damned)" (II Peter 3:9). What a wonderful truth! The Almighty God does not desire for anyone to go to hell. Therefore, he presents to the world His gift--salvation through the power of Jesus Christ.

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How can God offer sinful man salvation? The story is told of a drawbridge operator whose small son crawled into the mechanism of the bridge. As a huge ocean-going vessel approached the bridge, the father had to choose between the life of his son or the lives of those on board the unsuspecting vessel. The father spared the vessel at tremendous personal expense.

Likewise the Bible tells us that God sacrificed His precious son to pay the penalty of man's sin. "For God loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "He (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus paid for the sins of all men when He died on the cross and arose from the dead three days later (I Corinthians 15)!

How can men accept God's gift of salvation? A gift offered is of little value unless it is received. Even so with salvation, it is offered to all, but must be received. This is done as individuals:

1. Believe on Jesus. By this we mean that a man believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again in order to save men from sin (I Corinthians 15:1-3). This is what the Bible means when it says "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).
2. Ask Jesus for salvation. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Why is it so difficult for men to accept salvation? Two key flaws cause many to reject God's gift. They are:

1. Pride - People are too proud to confess their sins and too proud to see that they cannot earn their own salvation.
2. Unbelief - Some people simply refuse to believe in Christ.

Salvation Brings Great Results

The birth of a new baby brings many great things -- a new unspotted life, new hopes, new opportunities and much more. When a person accepts God's gift:

1. ***A new life is given.*** Jesus put it this way: "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). This new life is eternal and spiritual. A believer will live eternally and will be alive to spiritual things.
2. ***An adoption is granted.*** Believers are adopted into the family of God (Romans 8:15).
3. ***The Spirit of God comes to live within the believer.*** (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Now, the new believer will understand the Bible and genuinely feel remorse for his sins.

Remember, salvation is not a feeling! It is a belief in Jesus Christ which causes us to ask for forgiveness of sins and eternal life through His power.

FROM YOUR READING

1. (True or False) Men are born sinners. _____
2. How can God offer salvation to sinful men? _____

3. What two things cause many to reject God's offer of salvation?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. (True or False) People can get to heaven if they work hard enough. _____ How can you support your answer? _____

5. What happens to a person when he is saved? _____

6. What must a person do to be saved? _____

GROUP TIME

Earth

Heaven

The Great Gulf

2

Three Great Questions:

1. It is "narrow" and "egotistical" to believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation? _____

2. Can a person really know that he has eternal life? _____

3. What must a person do to have eternal life ? _____



The following material is given for your personal Bible Study and Christian growth. The basic assignments for the course are given and a special “achiever” assignment is suggested for those who desire to go the extra mile. Before you begin, pray that God will allow you to really grow through this endeavor.

SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENT

1. The Bible teaches us there are two groups of people in the world. What are the two groups? (John 3:36)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. How many ways of salvation are there? (John 14:6)

3. Can a person really know he has eternal life? (John 5:13)

4. What must a person do to have eternal life? (Romans 10:13) _____

5. What does Titus 3:5 tell us about salvation? _____

Achiever Questions

Find out what a person who has accepted Christ receives from God by looking up these references.

1. Romans 5:1 _____
2. Romans 5:2 _____
3. Acts 3:19 _____
4. Acts 2:38 _____
5. John 3:16 _____

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MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

Books of the Bible: I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

Verse: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Achiever's Verse: Romans 5:12

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

On a 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper, write out the story of your salvation. Be sure to answer the following questions:

1. Where were you saved?
2. When did it happen?
3. Who was with you?
4. Upon what Bible verses do you base your salvation?