

BRIGHT SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS CLASS #1

SALVATION

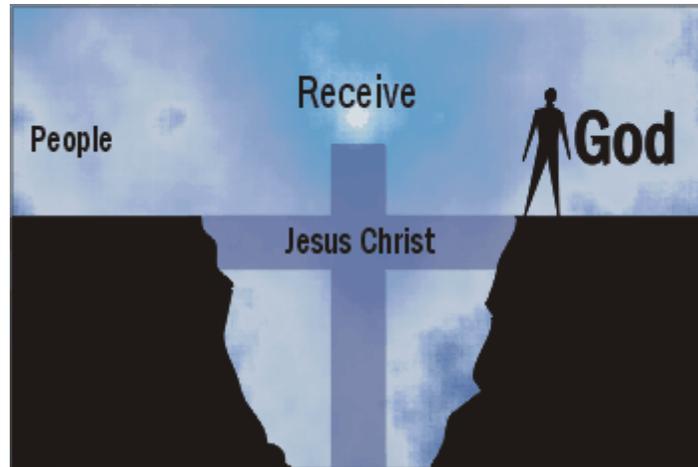
What is Salvation?

Background – Why We Need Salvation

In Christian doctrine, salvation is a rescue or deliverance of humanity from eternal death. We need rescue because we have been separated from God because of sin - original sin, and our own personal sin.

Original Sin

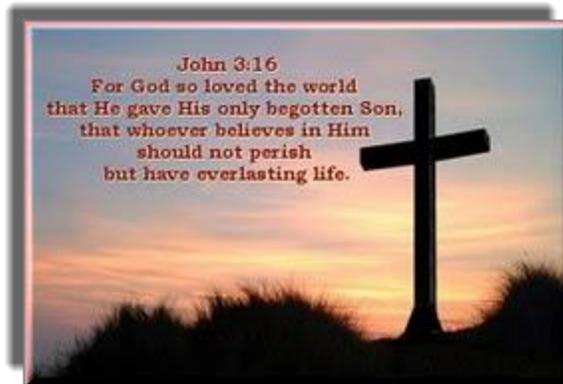
- God created Adam and Eve in God's own image. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 21-23)
- They were responsible to obey the instructions of God which were made known to them. (Genesis 1:28, 2:16-17)
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 3:6)
- God held them responsible for their disobedience and they were punished in accordance with God's law. (Genesis 3:11-13, 17, 23-24)
- As a result of their sin, their relationship was severed and they needed reconciliation in order to restore the relationship that they once had with God. (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 5:8, Habakkuk 1:13a)
- Their descendants (all of humanity), are *born separated* from God, not because of personal sins, but by virtue of their ancestry, being the children of Adam and Eve. The condition of all human beings is connected with this original sin of Adam and Eve. (Romans 5:12)
- It is the nature of all human beings to sin, as a result of the fallen condition inherited by being the children of Adam and Eve *and* by personal action. None are righteous. All have failed to attain the standard of God, which is perfection of character, spiritual righteousness and behavior. (Romans 3:9-10)



How Salvation Works

The "salvation" or provision provided by God that will re-establish and bring human beings into a right relationship with God is accomplished through the atonement.

- Our God is a just God and demands payment for the penalty of the sin of humanity. Jesus' death on the cross satisfies the justice of God and allows God to forgive sinful human beings through His mercy and grace. (Is. 53:11; Col. 2:11-14)
- The atonement is provided by Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, and who took on the nature of man when He came and dwelt among humanity here on earth. (John 1:14).
- Because Jesus is the Son of God, He is sinless, and is the *only* One in the position to redeem humanity from sin, and reconcile humanity back to right relationship with God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Jesus voluntarily laid down His life, for ours. He, who was blameless, paid *our* penalty for sin which is death, when He ransomed His life for ours on the cross. (Matthew 20:28, 1 Peter 1:17-19, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Galatians 3:13)
- Believers received the benefit of the atonement (payment) provided by Jesus Christ by way of His resurrection from the dead. By the resurrection of Christ, God demonstrated His acceptance of Christ as payment for humanity's sins. The New Testament assures the believer that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (payment in full) they too are now accepted by God. (Romans 4:25-5:20)



What the Atonement Means for Us

- We can only be reconciled (reunited) to God by *accepting* Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and recognizing what He did for us. He paid the penalty of our sins (He atoned for us) by giving His life for ours when He died on the cross. This atonement is what brings about our salvation (rescue) from permanent separation from God and eternal death.
- We must recognize that we are sinners; and that we *need* rescue (salvation). God reveals this to us. (Romans 1:18-20)

Repentance and Confession of Sin

- All sin (regardless of how it was committed or against whom) has as its root rebellion against God, and is ultimately a sin committed against God. As a consequence, God requires repentance and confession to Him of offenses committed so that the serious nature of the offenses can be understood. Repentance is not only saying you're sorry, but also that you have turned from the sin – not continue to repeat the same sinful actions. (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

Repentance also requires true remorse and regret; not just because of the consequences of the sin, but because it was committed against God. This expression of remorse comes from the core of a person's being. (2 Corinthians 7:10-11a)

Repentance involves an act of obedience and an agreement with God regarding the necessity of repentance. (II Timothy 2:24-25) It requires a core response from the innermost being of a person; a sorrow (regret) for the sin itself, not just the negative consequences of the sin. It requires a sincerity that the person turns away from, or rejects the sin in their life, and that leads to confession of the sin to God. (Psalm 32:3-5)

Repentance brings us to a submission to God; and a realization that we cannot reconcile (re-unite) ourselves to God on our own. It is through repentance that we understand that it is only through the grace of God through Jesus Christ, that we can stand before God. (Acts 5:31; 20:21; 26:20; Matthew 9:13; Luke 15:17, 19; 24:47; II Peter 3:9)

Requirements of Faith

Felt Need

- Faith begins with a realized need for salvation. If you are without Christ, you need salvation whether you recognize it or not. But you will not have reason to believe until you *feel* or recognize *a* need. The need may not initially be clear. You might just know that something is wrong in your life. Often a need is only partial. The first feeling of need may only be for a purpose in life or for someone to love us and care for us. Or it may be a sense of need for forgiveness and removal of guilt; for inner peace. The most important thing is that you realize that the answer to your need is in God. People came to Jesus for many reasons, some of them pretty superficial. But when they came, Jesus met their needs. Felt need only requires a **sincere heart** that knows it *needs* salvation.

Content

- A person needs the gospel truth (1 Cor. 15:1-5); that he is lost in sin and needs the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Read your Bible.

Commitment

- The climax of faith is commitment. Professing Christ, without commitment to Christ, is not saving faith. Many people express complete confidence in Christ but never trust themselves to Him.