

Soteriology - The Study of Salvation

What is Salvation?

Salvation is God's work in bringing people from a position or state of condemnation to justification, sanctification, and ultimately glorification.

- More simply, salvation is God's provision for man's sinful state. God does NOT cause us to sin.
- Salvation is God's provision to deal with our fallen corrupted state.

Why Would God Want to Save Us?

- Not to assume mind of God.
- Bible gives us a little insight.

1. Salvation becomes the greatest demonstration of God's love.

- **John 3:16** *"God so loved the world that He **gave**....."*
- **Rom. 5:8** *"While we were yet sinners, Christ **died**....."*
- **John 13:35** *"If you love one another the world will know you are my disciples."*
- Song: *"They will know we are Christians by our _____"*
- God's love is revealed at its most extreme by saving us on the cross.

2. Salvation becomes a display of God's grace.

- **Eph. 2:4-9**
- God *"made us alive in Christ"*
- He will *"raise us up and seat us in the heavenly places"*
- He has done this so that *"His surpassing riches, grace and kindness will be displayed through us for ages."*

3. Salvation restores us to the state God original intended and beyond.

- **Gen. 2:26** *"We have been made in the image & likeness of God."*
- Angels are not redeemed, nature is not redeemed, but we are.
- **Eph. 1:4** *"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundations of the world, that we should be blameless before Him."*
- God made us in His image / created us for a different purpose than everything else created.

We cherish our salvation because God has allowed us to know how lost we were without Him.

Illustration: Mieran searching for Giraffe. Wasn't willing to simply let him be lost for the night. Giraffe doesn't know he's lost, but Mieran did. That wasn't acceptable to her. We don't know we're lost apart from Christ, but God knows.

"IT IS FINISHED"

John 19:30 *"It is finished"*

- Perfect tense is very rare in Greek.
 - Perfect tense reveals a completed action with effects continuing on into the future.
 - Contrasted w/ PRESENT tense meaning ongoing action
 - Jesus is not continually dying for the sins of the world.
 - Contrast w/ aorist tense that has no specific timestamp, just the idea of a completed action.
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- When Jesus says *"It is finished"*
 - *Finished* refers to everything God has set in motion regarding salvation for sin.
 - *Finished* means it was all completed and perfected at that very moment on the cross.
 - The finished work of the cross results in salvation and its effect extend perpetually into the future.
 - Everything in the World since the cross is a result of salvation being made complete.
 - Every event in the world since the cross is moving toward Jesus' return.

I. Salvation - God's Finished Work of the Cross

1. Jesus Became a **Substitution** for Sinners

- **Substitution** = *That Christ died in our place. He is our substitute in death.*
 - Sometimes vicarious atonement. Jesus is our Vicar. Jesus became the Lamb of God
 - Burnt Offerings, Sin Offerings, Guilt Offerings, were substitutions.
 - **Edershiem** *"this was to be done with one's full weight & force upon the substitute."*
In the N.T. the understanding of substitution is further reinforced as God indicates that Jesus died "instead of us" or "in place of us".
 - **Gal. 3:13** Christ redeemed us by become a curse for us.
 - **John 11:49-52** Plan of men was substitute Jesus for the masses - Irony
 - **II Cor. 5:21** *"he made Him who knew no sin to be sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
 - **I Pet. 3:18** *"Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust..."*
 - The "just" person died in place of the "unjust" person.
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2. Jesus Became a **Propitiation** for God's Wrath Against Sinners

- **Propitiation** = *The turning away of wrath by an offering.*
 - We see throughout the Old & New Testament God's utter hatred for sin.
 - **20 different words 580 references** in O.T. refer to God's wrath as a result of sin.
 - God's wrath is a matter of justice, not vengeance.
 - **Deut. 13:15-17, Jonah 3:7,10 Psalm 78:38, Isa. 48:9**
 - God's wrath is recognized in the N.T. too.
 - **John 3:36, Rom. 1:18, Eph. 2:3**
 - **Rom. 3:25-26, Heb. 2:17, I John 2:2, 4:10**
 - Jesus has satisfied God who is offended by our sin. God's anger has been turned
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3. Jesus Became a **Redeemer** for Sinners

- **Redemption** = *Freedom as a result of a payment.*
 - We have incurred a sin debt with our Creator. We cannot pay for our sin debt.

O.T. References Regarding Redemption

- Not many overt examples of redemption as a result of sin in the O.T.
- Ryrie says *"this is probably due in part to the emphasis that is placed on the sacrificial system. Because it was continually seen, it did not have to be said so frequently."*
- **However, the principle of redemption does exist.**
 - **Exo. 13:11-16** First born males of the flock were redemption for God's deliverance of Israel
 - **Exo. 18:15-17** First born of men and unclean animals required redemption.
 - **Exo. 21:28** There was a price or redemption for the life that was lost.
- **A couple passages that DO reveal redemption directly for sin.**
 - **Psalm 130:7-8** "Lovingkindness"
 - **Isaiah 59:19-20** "God will send His redeemer to those turning from transgression (or sin)".
 - **Ruth 4: 7-10, 14** "Boaz serves as kinsmen redeemer to Ruth & Naomi."

N.T. References Regarding Redemption

- I Peter 2:1 *"Peter warns that false teachers will deny Jesus redeemed us with His blood."*
 - Rev. 5:9 *"Elders sang, worthy is Jesus who purchased from every nation with His blood"*
 - I Cor. 6:19-20 *"Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. You are not your own. You have been bought with a price."*
 - Gal. 4:4-5 *"God sent His Son to redeem us and we receive adoption as sons and daughters."*
 - I Pet. 1:17-19 *"We were not redeemed with perishable riches like silver and gold, but rather the Blood of the Lamb"*
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4. Jesus Became a **Reconciliation** for Sinners

- **Reconciliation** = A change of relationship from hostility to harmony or peace between parties.

Illustration: Typical divorce filings **"Irreconcilable Differences"**

In other words, the hostility between the spouses could not be reversed to harmony

- **Romans 5:9-11** Jesus' death reconciles us with God.
 - His death did not just turn away wrath
 - His death changed relationship from enemy of God to peace w/ God.
- **II Cor. 5:17-21**
 - Paul first says God reconciled him and his fellow missionaries
 - God gave to Paul & others a ministry of reconciliation
 - **Vs. 20 "be reconciled" passive voice.** (*Allow yourselves*)
 - Christ's death & resurrection changes our relationship with God from hostility to harmony
 - This IS NOT something we do for ourselves

II. Salvation - God's Finished Work in Us (3 Stages or Tenses)

1. Our Justification (We **Have Been Saved**)

- **Justification** = *The act of showing something to be right or reasonable.*
 - To Justify is legal term declaring one's right standing or position.
 - Justification occurs the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ
 - Justification is a sovereign act of God. He declares me legally righteous and free from the penalty of sin.
- **Romans 5:1** *"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- **Colossians 2:13-15** *".....having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."*
 - This is a great illustration that our debt doesn't magically disappear.
 - It is assumed by someone who became our substitute. Our debt is nailed to the cross
- Justification is instantaneous, in which The Father Transfers (imputes) Christ's righteousness to us.
- **II Cor. 5:21** *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
- Justification frees us from the **PENALTY** of sin.

2. Our Sanctification (**We Are Being Saved**)

- **Sanctification** = *To be set apart for holiness, to be free from sin, pure.*
 - This represents our position in Christ AND a process.
 - Pneumatology Positional Sanctification & Progressive Sanctification
 - Positionally Speaking = Completely Holy Practically Speaking = Work in Progress
 - Sanctification is a process in which the Holy Spirit works within our minds and our wills freeing us from the power of sin that lingers in our lives.
 - **II Cor. 3:18** *"We all are being transformed moment by moment."*
 - **Romans 6:11-18** *You have been freed from the power of sin. It does not have to control you.*
 - Sanctification is a life-long process that will not be completed during our time on Earth.
 - We will not obtain perfection on this side of Heaven
 - **I John 3:2** *"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will shall be....."*
 - Sanctification is the process of us exercising our faith in Jesus and depending on The Holy Spirit to produce Christ-like character within our lives.
 - **Romans 8:12-15** *"...living according to the Spirit means we put to death the deeds of the flesh. As sons of God, we are to be led by the Spirit of God."*
 - **Romans 12:1-2** *"...present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*
 - Sanctification frees us from the **POWER** of sin.
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3. Our Glorification (**We Will Be Saved**)

- **Glorification** = *The ultimate perfection of believers*
- Glorification is the final and completed work of the Holy Spirit in which He frees us from the **PRESENCE AND EFFECTS** of sin by resurrecting us to be with God forever.
 - **Romans 8:30** *"...and whom He predestined, these He also called, and whom He called, these He also justified, and whom He justified, these He also glorified."*
 - **Phil. 3:20-21** *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the extension of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."*
- Glorification (like justification) is an instantaneous and everlasting event.
 - **I John 3:2** *"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will shall be. We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is."*
 - We are currently being progressively sanctified by the Holy Spirit - a process

Glorification frees us from the **PRESENCE** of sin and **PERFECTS** us in reproducing Christ's physical and spiritual likeness.

Our Guarantee of Salvation

1. The Father Keeps Us:

God has said that **EVERYONE** He predestined, He called, He justified, He ultimately glorifies. If we could somehow forfeit salvation then this would not be true when God says all. It would only be true of some.

Jude 24 says *"To Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy....."*

Jesus said *"No one can snatch the sheep out of my Father's hand....."*

2. The Son Keeps Us

John 6:38-40 *"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."*

I John 2:1 *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."*

3. The Holy Spirit Keeps Us:

I Cor. 12:13 *"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

(We would have to somehow become detached from the Body)

Eph. 4:30 *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

(If we could forfeit salvation then this would mean that we're not actually sealed until the day of redemption)