

Salvation - An Overview

A brief summary of the plan of salvation:

- 1) We were created by God and made in His image. (Genesis 1:27)
- 2) We were given a free will to obey, or to disobey God as did Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:6-7)
- 3) We are Adam and Eve's children and have all sinned (Romans 3:23)
- 4) We are sinful at birth (Psalm 51:5)
- 5) We therefore all deserve death (Romans 6:23) because God is not only a loving God (1 John 4:16) but is also a perfect and holy God. (Psalm 99:9).
- 6) We are filled with varying degrees of pride and self-centeredness and try to earn or work our way back to God. God's "law" was given to us, not to bring salvation but to reveal sin (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:24).
- 7) It is by grace we are saved, not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9) but by faith and belief in Jesus (John 3:16).
- 8) Knowing about Jesus and believing that He exists does not bring salvation. Even the demons "believe" that He is real but they refuse to surrender to Him. (James 2:19)
- 9) The Bible teaches that we should repent (to change one's mind) of our sins (Matthew 4:17; 2 Corinthians 7:10).
- 10) It then involves believing in Him and making Him our "Lord", surrendering to His rule in our lives (Romans 10:9-10).
- 11) There is no other way to the Father but by Jesus (John 14:6). Not by our good deeds alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What does God save us FROM?

- 1) The PENALTY of sin:(spiritual death - Ephesians 2:1-3; eternal death - 1 Corinthians 15:42-55) (not to mention God's terrible wrath as taught in Revelation chapters 6,8,9,16 and elsewhere)
- 2) The POWER of sin:(2 Peter 2:19; Romans 8:5-11)
- 3) The PRESENCE of sin:(soon to come - Revelation 21:3-5)

What does God save us FOR?

- 1) A restored relationship with Him and those who love Him:(Romans 5:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
- 2) All of God's amazing blessings (His peace, protection, purpose, power, promises and provisions)
- 3) To do God's work in His power, not ours:(Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 1:7)

What is our part (how do we "accept" God's free gift)?:

- 1) Repent - (Matthew 4:17)
- 2) Believe - (John 3:16)
- 3) Receive - (John 1:12)

Surrender to Christ involves "death to self" (surrender to His will over our lives):

- 1) John 12:24-26: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot grow and bear fruit!
- 2) Phil. 3:7-11: All we have and all we are is like rubbish compared to knowing Christ.
- 3) Gal. 2:20: Our old self is crucified with Christ that He now lives in us when we give ourselves to Him!
- 4) Phil. 2:3-8: We give up our selfish ambition and look to the interest of others when we give our lives to Jesus.
- 5) Col. 2:20-23: We die to the principles and rules of this world that give the appearance of goodness but really lack value when we give up our lives to Christ.

Questions to consider:

- What is the evidence a person is saved? (hint: 1 John 2:2-6)
- Once we are saved, how do we grow to be more like Jesus? (see: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:11; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:16)
- Can we lose our salvation? (hint: John 10:28-29; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- When I mess up as a Christian, what may result even though I don't lose my salvation? (an example seen in 1 Peter 3:7,12 and Isaiah 59:2)
- As a Christian, I still mess up. What do I do to get right with God when I do mess up? (hint: 1 John 1:9)

We get to choose through which gate we walk!

(Matthew 7:13-14)