

A 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 even 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) The only way to the Father is by Jesus Christ (John 14:6). This is proven by our obedience to Him (John 14:15-24)

Dying to ourselves and becoming alive in Christ:

- 1) John 12:24-26 (NIV) ²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.
- 2) Phil. 3:7-11 (NIV) ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.
- 3) Gal. 2:20 (NIV) ²⁰**I have been crucified with Christ** and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- 4) Phil. 2:3-8 (NIV) ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but **made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!
- 5) Col. 2:20-23 (NIV) ²⁰Since **you died with Christ** to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? ²²These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

We get to choose through which gate we walk!

(Matthew 7:13-14)