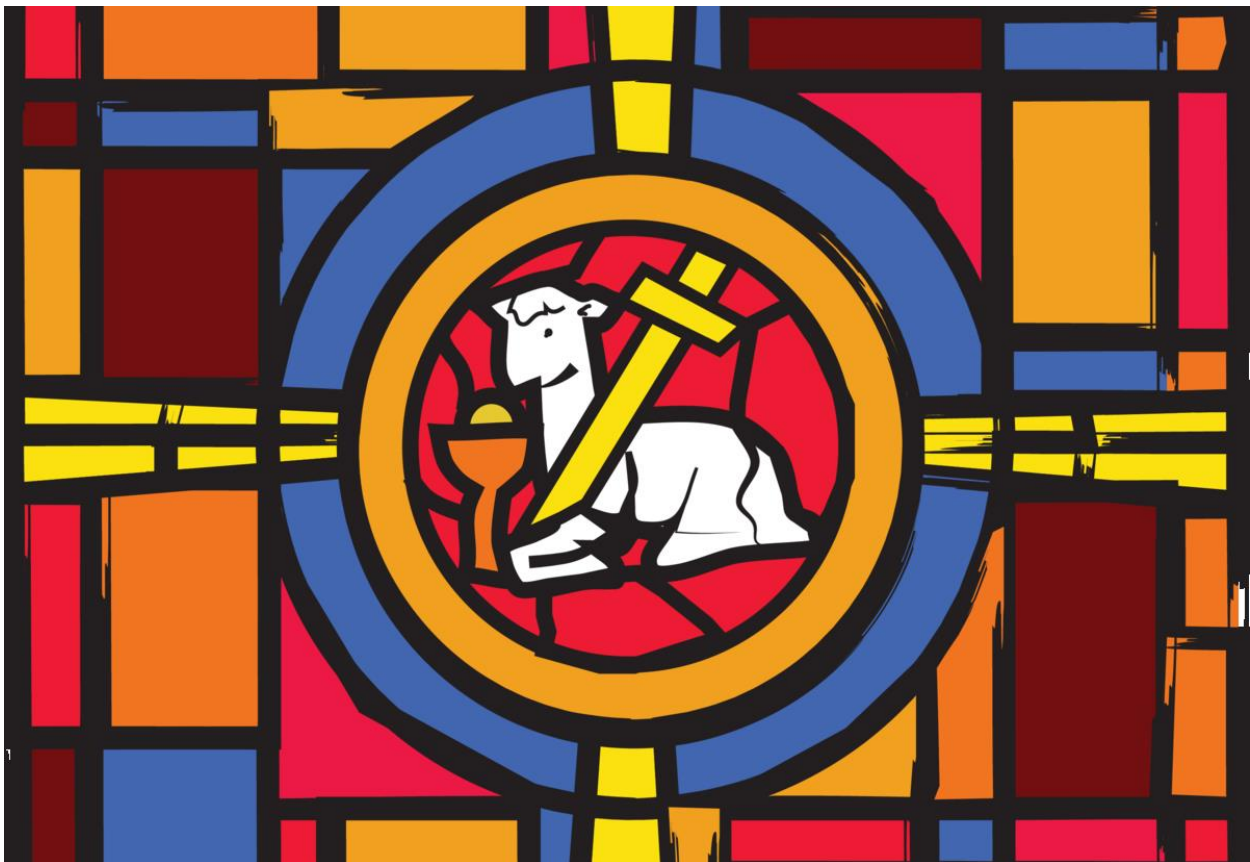




Salvation by Grace Through Faith

Key Doctrines for Starting and Finishing Strong

LESSON 6 | Part 1



"One of the greatest crimes committed by this present Christian generation is its neglect of the gospel, and it is from this neglect that all our other maladies spring forth. The lost world is not so much gospel hardened as it is gospel ignorant because many of those who proclaim the gospel are also ignorant of its most basic truths."

PAUL WASHER

In this lesson, we will study one essential subject:

- **What is Salvation? What is the source? Where does it come *from* and who is responsible for it?**

Are the following statements true or false? (circle one)



- Salvation is dependent upon man's decision. T F
- Man is responsible for his own salvation. T F

Be on the lookout for the answers to these questions as we study the Word of God.

What Is Salvation?

Soteriology is the theological term for *the study of salvation*. In its broadest sense, it includes *every divine undertaking*; from *the believer's deliverance* out of his lost state to *his final presentation in glory*. In order for this doctrine to be understood properly, the student must collectively consider the teachings of Scripture on election, the justice of God, the radical depravity of man, the blood atonement, propitiation, justification, substitution, regeneration, conversion, reconciliation, and *sanctification*. Not to examine these doctrines and their importance to biblical salvation is to risk *perverting* or *cheapening* the great salvation we have in Christ.

In his book concerning the gospel and salvation Paul Washer writes,

"Churches reduce the gospel message to a few creedal statements, teach that conversion is a mere human decision, and pronounce assurance of salvation over anyone who prays the sinner's prayer. The result of this gospel reductionism has been far-reaching. First, it further hardens the hearts of the unconverted...second, such a gospel deforms the church from a spiritual body of regenerate believers into a gathering of carnal men who profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him...third, such a gospel reduces evangelism and missions to little more than humanistic endeavors driven by clever marketing strategies...fourth, such a gospel brings reproach to the name of God." (*The Gospel Call and True Conversion*, pp.9-10).

An Important Point to Keep in Mind

When considering the doctrine of salvation, one must keep two views in mind: *God's view* and *man's view*. Paul and James dealt with these views in their epistles. Read these verses and see if you can discover which view each writer is addressing:

A. Romans 3:28, 4:2-3: _____

B. James 2:14, 20-24: _____

The reason this is important is that *some things that pertain to our salvation are done objectively*; that is, *outside of us*. Yet there are other aspects of our salvation that are *subjective*, that is, they are done *inside of us*. Both are important; however, the things that are *objective* need to be understood so that we don't confuse what is true with what is *felt in experience*.

Illustrated: When we have fallen sick with a common cold, we feel the effects of the cold on the inside only after we have at some point been affected from the outside. It would be true to say, "I have a cold, because the evidences of the cold are clearly seen." However, it would not be true to say, "I gave myself a cold." The cold was not initiated from the inside, it was caused by a virus from the outside that only became evident after some incubation period on the inside.

Where Is Salvation From?

Fundamental to a solid grasp of the doctrine of salvation is the understanding of its *source*. *Where* does it come from and *who* is responsible for salvation?

- **Jonah 2:9b**—"...Salvation is from the LORD."
- **Psalm 3:8a**—"Salvation belongs to the LORD..."
- **Psalm 37:39a**—"But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD..."
- **Psalm 68:19-20**—"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation...God is to us a God of deliverance, and to God the Lord belong escapes from death."

Defining Salvation

The word "salvation" is a translation of the Greek word "soteria," which can have a broad range of meanings. Here are some examples:

- A. *Material and temporary deliverance (Luke 1:69, 71; Acts 7:25)*
- B. *Spiritual and eternal deliverance (Acts 4:12)*
- C. *Deliverance from the bondage of sin (Phil.2:12)*
- D. *Future deliverance of believers (Rom.13:11; 1 Thess.5:8-9)*
- E. *Deliverance for the nation of Israel (Luke 1:71)*

Three Tenses of Salvation

According to the Scripture, the understanding of personal or spiritual salvation can be divided into *three aspects*. Read the following passages and pay close attention to the tense of salvation that it speaks of: past, present, or future.

- A. Read Luke 7:50; Rom.8:2; Eph.2:8.
 - The first is a _____ aspect. Here we discover that the believer was saved at the moment he *believed* and *surrendered to Christ in faith*. At that moment, we were delivered from the eternal penalty and punishment of sin forever (Rom.8:1).

B. Read 2 Cor.2:15, 3:18; Gal.2:20, 4:19; Phil. 2:12.

- The second is a _____ aspect. Here we discover that the believer is presently being saved from the power of sin.

C. Read Rom.13:11; Heb.1:14, 9:28.

- The third is a _____ aspect. Here we discover that the believer is yet to be saved from the presence of sin. However, he will be when heaven becomes our estate. These are other passages in which all three aspects are seen: (Phil.1:6; 1 Thess.1:9-10; Titus 2:11-13.)

What Is God's Goal in Salvation?

Some people find it hard to understand *why God would send His Son to die for sinners in order to save them*. It seems, for some, too good to be true. But why? What was God's motivation in salvation? Read the following verses to discover why God saves sinners.

A. Romans 3:25-26: _____

B. Ephesians 1:9-10: _____

C. Ephesians 2:8-10: _____

D. John 3:16: _____

E. Ephesians 2:7: _____

F. Romans 8:29: _____

Closing:

Application questions: Being a Doer of the Word

- **2 Timothy 3:16**—“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching [what is right], for reproof [what is not right], for correction [how to get right], for training in righteousness [how to stay right]; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

1. What did I learn (“teaching”)?
2. Where do I fall short (“reproof”)?
3. What do I need to do about it (“correction”)?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life (“training”)?

Answer Key:

Are the following statements true or false?

- F
- F

An Important Point to Keep in Mind

- A. God's view
- B. man's view

Three Tenses of Salvation

- A. past
- B. present
- C. future

What Is God's Goal in Salvation?

- A. to display His righteousness
- B. the kind intention of His will
- C. we were created in Jesus for good works
- D. love for those who are His
- E. to show His grace and kindness towards us
- F. to conform us to the image of Jesus

Holy Habits Weekly Devotion



This week's memory verse: **Titus 3:5**—"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

This week's holy habit: **Giving**

When we are obedient to God in faithfulness with our giving, He welcomes us to test Him, so He can prove Himself faithful to us. Giving is an act of worship, not a duty to be done begrudgingly. Our tithes and offerings are investments in the kingdom of the almighty God, not a fundraising campaign for some organization. The chief concern of our giving is furthering the Gospel. The Lord enables His followers to give—with love—just a portion of His provision for us (*James 1:17*).

DAY 1 Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.

- Examine your giving. Are you giving with a trusting and cheerful heart? What adjustments do you need to make?

DAY 2 Read Matthew 6:1-4.

- Pray for an opportunity and the ability to quietly take care of a need in the church such as a special offering, food or snacks for a fellowship time, missions opportunity, etc.

DAY 3 Read Malachi 3:10.

- Think of a time when you were physically and/or financially struggling and trusted in Him with what you had to offer. Call to mind the times when you had no idea how you were going to make it. Now, consider all the ways that God has been faithful in providing for you. Praise Him.

DAY 4 Read Proverbs 11:24-25.

- Call to mind (from your personal experience or look for examples in Scripture) when God's people have been blessed for their generosity.

DAY 5 Read 1 Chronicles 29:3.

- Pray about and consider something that you can forego or sacrifice in order to be able to give a little more the next time you bring a financial offering to the Lord.

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