

# Salvation

## Part 1

### **LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVE**

- To give you an understanding of God's gift of salvation that enables you to:
  - Love God more deeply for what he did for you.
  - Tell others more confidently what God can do for them.

The major theme of the Bible is God's eternal plan to rescue us from our sin through Jesus' birth, his death on the cross, and his Resurrection.

God knew from the beginning that his creation would need a Savior, so he set in motion all that would be necessary to accomplish the salvation of his children.

While the message of the cross is a familiar one to many, we must guard against attitudes of complacency, boredom, forgetfulness, and, most of all, "I've heard it before." There are so many layers of truth about Christ's work on the cross that we can never come to a point where there is nothing more to learn.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

In the study today we will be concentrating on:

- The problem: the need for salvation
- The provision: the solution of salvation

### **THE PROBLEM: OUR NEED FOR SALVATION**

To understand our need for salvation we must look at two things: the nature of God and the nature of people.

#### **THE NATURE OF GOD**

We underestimate our need for a Savior because we underestimate who God is.

1. God is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **ISAIAH 57:15**

For this is what the high and lofty One says – he who lives forever, whose name is holy; “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

#### **PSALM 99:9**

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

#### **HABAKKUK 1:13**

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

God cannot tolerate anything that is evil

2. God is \_\_\_\_\_.

Holiness has more to do with God's character.

Righteousness and justice have to do with God's dealings with mankind in relation to his character.

### **PSALM 116:5**

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

### **PSALM 145:17 (NLT)**

The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

## **THE NATURE OF PEOPLE**

1. Our nature: We are sinful.

The Bible records Adam and Eve's sinful choice to disobey God's instructions not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17; 3). Without knowing it, they unleashed the onslaught of evil and decay that permeates our world today.

God cursed them and all their offspring.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

### 2. Our choice: We sin.

God says that all of us are considered guilty because of our relationship to Adam and because of our own choices (Romans 5:18-19; 3:10-18).

### 3. Our condition: We are lost (Luke 19:10).

#### **A CLOSER LOOK**

##### **What are the consequences of Sin and Lostness?**

- Sentenced to physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:19, John 3:18, Romans 6:23)
- Separated from God (Ephesians 2:12)
- Dominated and controlled by sin (Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 6:6)
- Spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
- Without understanding (Romans 3:11)
- Enemies of Christ (Matthew 12:30)
- Objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3)
- Considered children of the Devil (John 8:44)

The Bible portrays mankind's lostness as the most pitiful condition imaginable. Not only is our life on earth wasted as we live for self and selfish desires but the consequence is eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23, Luke 13:3, Matthew 25:46).

## THE PROVISION: GOD'S SOLUTION TO SIN

God's solution is the last three words in this verse: faith in Jesus.

### ROMANS 3:25-26

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

### THREE CENTRAL TRUTHS ABOUT HOW WE ARE SAVED

1. Salvation is not by works but by \_\_\_\_\_.

### EPHESIANS 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. Salvation is not initiated by us but by \_\_\_\_\_.

### ROMANS 5:6-8 (NCV)

When we were unable to help ourselves, at the right time, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ dies for us while we were still sinners.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

3. Salvation is not an afterthought with God; it is his

\_\_\_\_\_.

### **1 PETER 1:18-20 (NCV)**

We were bought... with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb. Christ was chosen before the world was made, but he was shown to the world in these last times for your sake.

### **2 TIMOTHY 1:9 (NLT)**

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time – to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

## **SEVEN DESCRIPTIONS OF SALVATION**

1. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus died in my place.

### **1 PETER 3:18**

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

- He was made sin for me (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- He bore my sin in his body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24)
- He suffered once to bear the sins of others (Hebrews 9:28)
- He was tortured for others' sin (Isaiah 53:4-6)
- He was made a curse for me (Galatians 3:13)

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

### **GALATIANS 2:20**

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.

2. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus made me right with God.

### **ACTS 13:39**

“Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.”

### **ROMANS 4:25**

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

3. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus made peace with God possible.

### **2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 (NCV)**

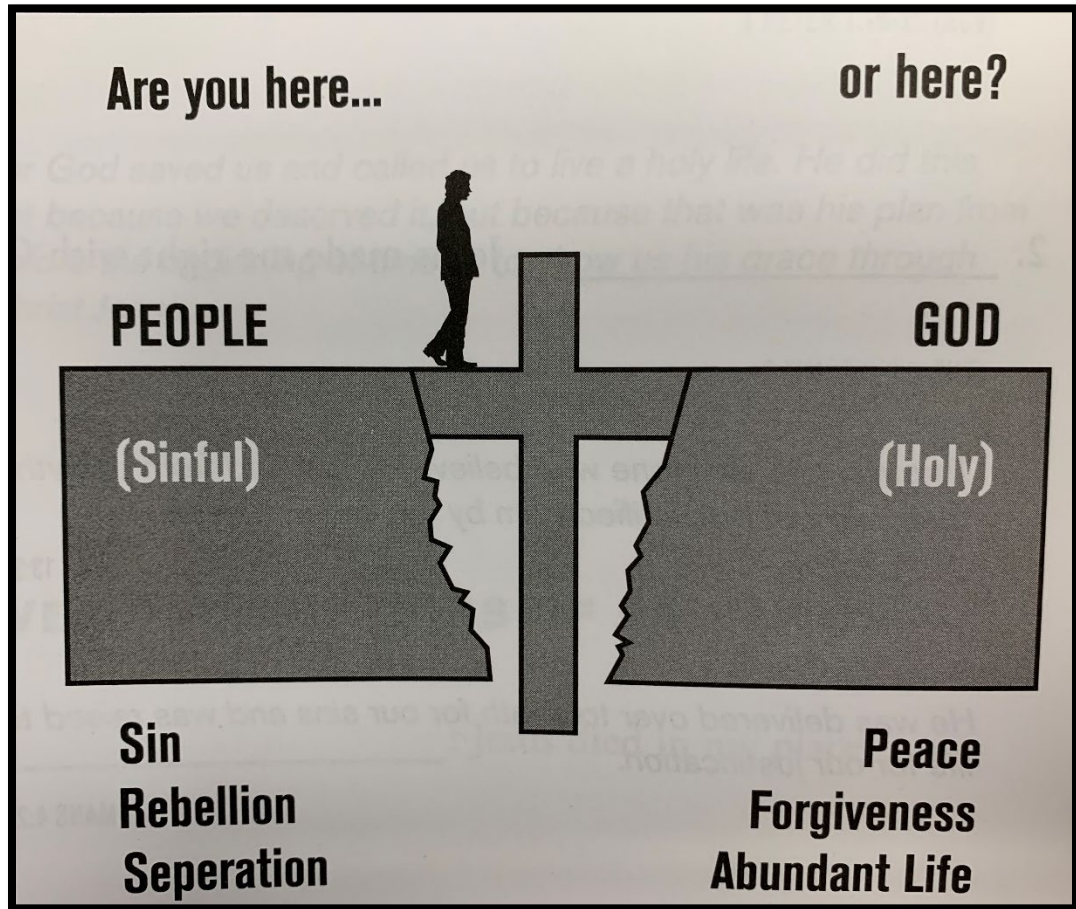
God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself... God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace.

### **ROMANS 5:10**

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Jesus is the bridge between God and man.



4. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus made me a part of God's family.

### EPHESIANS 1:5

He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.



## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

### **ROMANS 8:17 (TLB)**

And since we are his children, we will share his treasures – for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too.

### **ROMANS 8:15**

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

5. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus purchased my salvation with his blood.

### **A FRESH WORD**

#### **Redemption**

The Greek word for redemption refers to slaves being purchased in the marketplace. In the spiritual sense, all of us were slaves to sin until Jesus purchased us out of the slave market and set us free from sin’s bondage. Because he bought and paid for us with his blood, we now belong exclusively to him.

### **COLOSSIANS 1:13-14**

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

### 1 PETER 1:19-19 (NLT)

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

6. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus satisfied God's justice.

### A FRESH WORD

#### Propitiation

To propitiate is to bring satisfaction or to fulfill a demand or requirement. In heathen circles it was a word that meant "to appease the gods." The biblical sense of the word speaks of that which satisfies the justice of God so that mercy is given.

The picture of propitiation in the Old Testament is the "mercy seat," the cover of the ark of the covenant in the first Tabernacle and later the Temple. This is the place where blood was sprinkled as an offering for the sins of the people.

### 1 JOHN 2:2

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

### 1 JOHN 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

7. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus sent my sins away from me.

### **Ephesians 1:7**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

### **Colossians 2:13**

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

### **Psalms 103:12**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

### **Micah 7:19**

You will throw away all our sins into the deepest part of the sea.

## **THREE ASPECTS OF SALVATION: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

1. In the \_\_\_\_\_, I was saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (justification).
2. In the \_\_\_\_\_, I am being saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (sanctification).
3. In the \_\_\_\_\_, I will be saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (glorification).

## FOUNDATIONS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: Salvation (Part 1)

This means that while Jesus' death accomplished all that God intended to – Jesus said, “It is finished” – we have not experienced all there is to experience of salvation. There is more to look forward to!

### **KEY PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Does someone have to be able to understand all the truths we've discussed today to be saved? No

To be saved you need to know only three truths:

1. I am a sinner.
2. Jesus died in my place.
3. If I ask God to forgive me for rebelling against him and I trust in Jesus as my Lord, we will save me.

No one can say these three truths are difficult to understand. The truth of our salvation is simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough to study the rest of your life and never fully comprehend.

The bottom-line question: Have you accepted God's gift of forgiveness for your sin, paid for by Jesus' death on the cross?