

Lesson 1

This Great Salvation

I. What is man's condition outside God?

God created man as a three part being. He created man in the image of God. Unfortunately man fell from that perfect state and, as a result, the human race has been thoroughly corrupted by sin in spirit, soul and body.

A. Man is born in sin and a slave to it.

Sin entered the human race as a result of the original sin of Adam and Eve. As a result of this (since all mankind came from Adam) every human being is born with a sin nature.

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...

2 Peter 2:19

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

Psalms 14:1-3

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 John 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

B. Man has no inclination toward God.

Romans 3:23

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

C. Man has no understanding of the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

D. Man's mind and conscience were affected by this separation from God.

Titus 1:15

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

Colossians 1:21-22

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight...

E. Man is spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:1

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...

F. Man is on the road to eternal damnation.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

John 15:6

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

...in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...

Matthew 25:31-33, 41

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.... Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

II. Who is the source of salvation?

Because man is born in sin and is powerless to remedy his own condition, it is necessary that someone come to the rescue of man. The word that is translated "salvation" in the Bible [*sozo*] means: *to save, rescue, deliver or heal*. Who can save mankind from his sinful condition?

A. A sinful man does not have the power to redeem another sinful man.

Psalm 49:7

None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him...

Psalm 62:2

He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

1. We cannot redeem ourselves through additional sacrifices of animal blood.

No other sacrifice is needed for our salvation. Christ's work on the cross was a complete work.

Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins... And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But

this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

2. We cannot be redeemed by our ancestors.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

B. God must take the initiative to redeem man.

1. God is our salvation.

Psalms 35:3

Also draw out the spear, and stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

Psalms 62:1

Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation.

2. Jesus is the only way by which we can be saved

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

III. How did God provide salvation for us in Jesus?

Thankfully God not only had a plan for our creation, but He also had a plan for our salvation, redemption and deliverance. Just as thoroughly as sin contaminated mankind, God's salvation will deliver or heal mankind.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Jesus came to earth to live a life of obedience to God.

Philippians 2:5-7

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

B. Jesus gave His life as a substitute for our life.

Isaiah 53:4-7

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

1. We would receive His righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. He would receive our punishment of being dead and separated from God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Jesus' death would provide for a regeneration or rebirth of our old spirit.

John 3:3-5

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

IV. What must we do to receive this salvation?

A. We must believe in Jesus through faith.

Romans 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

B. We must believe that Jesus died and rose again.

1 Corinthians 15:1-6

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

C. We must receive Jesus into our heart and mind to become children of God.

John 1:11-13

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

D. We must acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

....that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

V. From what must we saved?

A. We are saved from sin.

Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

B. We are saved from emptiness and the traditions of men.

1 Peter 1:18

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers...

C. We are saved from our enemies.

Luke 1:71

That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us...

D. We are saved from the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")

E. We are saved from wickedness and lawlessness.

Titus 2:14

...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

F. We are saved from being lost.

Luke 19:10

...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

G. We are saved from fear.

Fear can come in many forms, but when we are saved we are freed from the greatest of fears—the fear of death. There are many other things that Christians can be afraid of including the fear of being cursed. However, if we are born again and hidden with Christ in God we do not have to fear these things any longer.

Psalms 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

H. We are saved from condemnation.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

VI. What is the nature of God's Salvation?

A. God's salvation is abundant.

Psalms 130:7

O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.

B. God's salvation is eternal.

Hebrews 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...

C. God's salvation is available now.

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

D. God's salvation is for all.

Acts 2:38-39

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

E. God's salvation is both complete and progressive.

1. Our spirits are saved when we are born again.

I Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

2. Our souls are being saved through the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification.

Titus 3:5

...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...

3. Our bodies will be saved or redeemed at the Second Coming of the Lord.

Romans 8:28

Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

VII. How should we respond to this great salvation?

A. We must not neglect this great salvation.

Hebrews 2:3

...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...

B. We must be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

Luke 10:20

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Psalms 13:5

But I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

C. We must proclaim this salvation everyday.

Psalm 96:2

Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

D. We must actively walk in our salvation.

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

E. We must share our faith or the experience of our salvation with others.

Psalm 107:2

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy...

Acts 4:20

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

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Lesson 2

Reflection Questions

1. What do you think are some of the hindrances to people receiving salvation in your society?
2. “Man has no understanding of the things of God.” What are some of the marks of this in your community?
3. Remembering that to save is “to rescue, heal, deliver and restore,” is there anything you could be looking to for salvation apart from God?
4. Reflecting on your former life, from what have you been saved?
5. Reflecting on your life in Christ, to what have you been saved?
6. How would you say you have responded to your salvation? Compare your answer with the items listed in Sec 7.
7. Have you fully embraced the things that accompany salvation? If not, what more can you embrace?
8. To what degree is your soul (mind, will, emotions) experiencing salvation?
9. In what ways are you communicating your salvation to others?
10. What do you find difficult about communicating your salvation and how will you overcome these obstacles?