



Salvation

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

The Great Truth of Salvation

When refer to salvation, what are we talking about?

Ultimately, salvation is being saved from eternal separation from God in hell.

How may we be saved?

We may be saved by trusting Christ, that He was who He claimed to be and that His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

When did God formulate His plan of salvation?

The plan of salvation was not an afterthought of God...

Ephesians 1:4 - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Before God created our world, He knew that the people He would create in His image would rebel against Him, but He made plans to save some and bless them with eternal life.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 - Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

We were saved according to God's own purpose and grace.

What does Titus 2:11 tell us about salvation?

Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

We are saved by the grace of God... and this salvation is offered to all people.

What does it mean that we were saved by God's grace?

Salvation is not the result of anything we do ourselves, it is the result of God's unmerited favor toward us. You can think of the word "grace" as an acronym which stands for: "God's Riches At Christ's Expense."

What does Romans 5:8 tell us about why God provided a way that we might be saved?

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Salvation is offered to us because of God's love for us...

I John 4:9 - In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

How is God's love different from the world's concept of love?

To the world, love is a pleasant emotion that you fall into if you're lucky. The world-view of love is that this is something a person can fall into and out of based on their feelings. But with God, love is an act of the will, a deliberate action in the best interests of another. God demonstrated unilateral sacrificial love toward us not expecting anything in return.

Salvation Before & After the Cross

What does the book of Leviticus have to say about how people became saved prior to the Cross?

Leviticus 16:34 - This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.

God dealt with sin before the cross by atonement which means "to cover." The Levitical offerings "covered" the sins of the people but did not take them away. This "temporary" covering of sins was in anticipation of the cross. After all, what would have been the point of covering the sins if God did not have a plan for them to be forgiven?

Did having to make sacrifices for atonement of sins represent a salvation by works?

Some no-doubt approached it as salvation by works... certainly the Pharisees thought they were earning favor with God when they thought they were obeying the Law of God by following detailed interpretive rules. But ultimately people were saved the same way before the cross as they are saved today...

Does Ephesians 2:8-9 apply to how people were saved before the cross?

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

It certainly does...Before the cross, people made atonement for their sins but had to just trust in God that He would remove their transgressions, "*as far as the east is from the west*" (Psalm 103:12). They knew this removal of their sins had something to do with the Messiah but they did not know exactly what; Job certainly knew this...

Job 19:25-26 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God,

What advantage do we have since the cross in coming to salvation?

We have the benefit in the Church Age of knowing the mechanism God used to enable our sins to be forgiven, Christ paying our penalty for sin on the cross. But in both cases, both before the cross and after the cross, those who are saved are saved by the grace of God through faith in Him.

What does Hebrews 9:15 tell us about salvation before the cross?

Hebrews 9:15 - He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

This is talking about Jesus who is our Mediator, the one who represents us to God and represents God to us. Jesus is the One who brought us the new covenant for a relationship with God. This new covenant was only promised before in Old Testament times but it is delivered to us by Jesus in this Church Age. We do not just have the promise of eternal life, we have the presence of eternal life which is our resurrected human spirit which makes possible the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

What does Genesis 22:8 have to say about how people became saved prior to the Cross?

Genesis 22:8 - And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering

This event where Abraham took his son Isaac up to the mountain intending to sacrifice him foreshadowed God sending His Son to be sacrificed. Abraham may or may not have realized that his statement was a prophecy of what God would do... God had promised a Savior and He forgave sins on the basis of His promise...

Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

What does Hebrews 10:12-14 have to say about how God dealt with sin after the cross?

Hebrews 10:12-14 - But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

The divine method of dealing with sin since Christ died is based upon one all-sufficient offering which was the sacrifice Christ made on the cross with His own life. In His death, Jesus did not "cover" our sin but took away our sin...

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

The Price Paid for Salvation

What does 1 Peter 3:18 tell us about the price God paid for our salvation?

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God By His death and resurrection, Jesus provided the way of salvation for all humanity. Jesus suffered so that He might bring us to God.

What does Matthew 26:28 tell us about why Jesus had to die to pay the price for our salvation?

Matthew 26:28 - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus' blood was shed for the remission of our sin. The word remission means forgiveness. The shedding of blood represents dying...

Hebrews 9:22 - And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to help us remember what He did for us so that our sins may be forgiven.

Salvation from the Penalty of Sin

What does 2 Peter 3:9 have to say about who He desires to be saved?

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Christ will save all who turn to Him for salvation. God always keeps His promises, His character is at stake. God does not want any of His creation to perish.

What is the significance of the words “that all should come” in 2 Peter 3:9?

The final decision to enter into a relationship with God is left to the individual. God never forces people into a relationship with Him. He has already made all the overtures to establish a relationship between us, if there is to be a relationship, the ball is in our court.

Salvation from the Power of Sin

What does Romans 6:14 have to say about our salvation?

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

This speaks of our salvation over the power of sin in the present tense. Since God has saved believers from the guilt and ultimate penalty of sin, He also provides us with a day-by-day salvation from the power of sin in our lives.

Why do we need daily salvation?

Even though a person accepts God's plan of salvation, their soul has not yet been resurrected so it still has its old sin nature. This sin nature constantly struggles with our born-again spirit which has been resurrected to give us a new nature that is tuned into God.

Romans 7:15-23 - For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do... I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

What does 1 John 2:1 say about the provision God has for us if we sin after we're saved?

1 John 2:1 - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Jesus will forgive the sins of those who are saved.

Christians need to confess their sins to God to restore their fellowship with Him and be used by Him.

John 15:5 - I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

How may we win the struggle between our old sin nature and our new born-again spirit?

The struggle in the Christian between the old sin nature and our new born again spirit can be settled by choosing to follow the promptings of our spirit... Paul was victorious and so can we be...

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.

And the Holy Spirit help us in this regard...

Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Salvation from the Presence of Sin

What does Hebrews 9:28 tell us about our salvation?

Hebrews 9:28 - so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Christ will save us from the presence of sin, this speaks in the future tense. The child of God has been saved from the penalty of sin (past), is being saved from the power of sin (present), and will be saved from the presence of sin (future).

What is the inheritance described in 1 Peter 1:3-5?

1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you

The future inheritance Peter spoke of will be incorruptible meaning that it will be free from the penalty of sin. It will also be undefiled which means that we will no longer have a sin nature that will lead us astray. And it will not fade away which means our wonderful resurrected condition will last forever.

What is the present and future tense of our salvation in 1 John 3:2?

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We do not expect to be sons of God... we are! All who have accepted Christ are sons of God in the here and now. The future tense here refers to our resurrected bodies which will be like Jesus' resurrected body.

1 Corinthians 15:20 - But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Salvation is the Free Gift of God

What does Ephesians 2:8-9 say we pay for our salvation?

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

We pay nothing for our salvation; it is a free gift of God... that is what grace is all about, unmerited favor.

Who needs salvation?

Everyone needs salvation...

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Everyone needs salvation because the penalty of sin is spiritual death which is the eternal separation from God:

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is our role in becoming a child of God?

All we do is respond to what God has already done and believe Him then follow through on that belief by letting Jesus become the most important part of your life.

John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: