

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - June 22, 2023

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Title: Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation - Part I

I. Introduction - The Necessity of Salvation

A. The word Soteriology means salvation. It covers what Christ's death and resurrection accomplished for fallen mankind.

B. In this series of lessons, we will cover topics such as faith, repentance, justification, regeneration, and adoption. All of which are covered under the doctrine of salvation.

II. Adam's Sin Made Salvation Necessary

A. Adam's sin brought death to the entire human race.

1. God said that if Adam ate of the forbidden fruit he would die. As result, Adam died spiritually (he was separated from God) the very moment he took of the fruit.
2. He also began to die physically and as a result of sin, mankind is spiritually dead and will eventually be physically dead.
3. But Christ's death on the cross provided the solution to both physical and spiritual death.

Point:

- 1) Regeneration abolishes spiritual death while the Resurrection abolishes physical death.

B. Adam's sin affected the entire Universe.

1. Adam's sin corrupted the entire universe. As a result, the Lord will eventually destroy the heavens (atmosphere and universe) and earth in order to purge them from sin. He will then create a new heaven and a new earth for all eternity.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (Rev. 21:1).

C. Adam's Sin **Necessitated Redemption.**

1. After Adam had sinned, God revealed His Plan of Redemption:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Gen. 3:15)

2. God promised that He would send a Redeemer who would die (Satan would bruise his heel on Calvary) but the Redeemer would conquer sin and death (by crushing Satan's head).

More insight: Salvation in the Old Testament

How were Old Testament saints saved? They were saved the same way anyone is saved - by faith. **By faith** they trusted that God would someday send a Redeemer.

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (Romans 4:3)

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my [Jesus'] day: and he saw it, and was glad." (John 8:56)

"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

(1 Peter 1:10-11)

"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen, through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham."

(Galatians 3:8a,b)

Comment: Consider this: God allowed the Old Testament saints to enjoy salvation before Calvary. God promised that He would pay for salvation through Christ and the Old Testament saints enjoyed that promise by faith.

D. God Provided a Plan of Salvation.

1. The Plan of God was to provide a Redeemer for mankind. God Himself was the Redeemer who came through forty-two generations in human flesh (the Lord Jesus Christ). By simple faith in Christ, God's Son, any individual is able to become of child of God. (John 1:12)

E. The word for Biblical Salvation is full of meaning.

1. In its simplest form, salvation means "health." It is occasionally used to mean "recue from danger" as in **saved** from drowning or **saved** physically from a dangerous fire.
2. Its use in the bible is quite divergent. As used in our spiritual relationship to God, the scope of salvation is **past, present, and future.**

- a. In the past we are saved from the **penalty** of sin. Christ took all of our sins upon Himself when He died on Calvary. As a result, Christians stand today **without** condemnation.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)

"But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (2 Timothy 1:10)

- b. In the **present** we are being saved from the **power** of sin.
1. The Bible also uses the word salvation to describe a process which begins the moment we receive Christ as Savior and ends when Christ returns, or we meet Him in death.
 2. As Christians, we must continually yield our lives to Christ so that sin will not reign in our mortal bodies.
- c. In the **future** we will be saved from the **presence** of sin.
1. Someday in the future, the Christian will experience final and complete Salvation.
 2. This final step is necessary because our flesh did not get "saved" when we accepted Christ as Savior.

We gained a new nature but we did not lose our old nature.

3. However, someday we shall lose our old nature.

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:22-23)

F. The folly of putting off salvation is great.

1. The sinner **mocks or treats very casually the earnest scriptural appeals to be saved now!**

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." (Isa. 55:6)

"... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2)

"To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."
(Heb. 4:7)

2. The sinner **misses out on the life he or she could have had.**

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10b)

3. The sinner **encourages God's judgment.**

"I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord.

Therefore thus will I do unto thee, ... prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." (Amos 4:11-12)

4. The sinner treasures up God's Wrath.

"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." (Romans 2:5)

5. The sinner increases the gulf between God and himself.

"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

(John 3:20)

6. The sinner has no guarantee of another opportunity.

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." (Luke 12:20)

7. The sinner builds up resistance against other possible salvation opportunities.

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

(Prov. 29:1)

8. The sinner increases his potential punishment.

- a. The Bible clearly teaches that there will be degrees of punishment in the Lake of Fire.
- b. The indication seems to be that the more opportunities a person has to be saved the more he will be held responsible for his continued rejection of Christ's offer of salvation.

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (Luke 12:48b)

- c. The degree of punishment appears to be related to the opportunities one has to be saved.
- d. Wouldn't it be tragic for some of those who will suffer the most in the Lake of Fire, were those who attended a good church or a good Christian school, but constantly rejected the many opportunities to receive salvation?

My prayer is that you have been blessed through Part I of this series on Soteriology (The Doctrine of Salvation). Please share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost, in a spirit of sincerity and love.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"For by _____ are ye _____ through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of _____, lest any man should _____."

[Ephesians 2:8-9]

"For if we sin _____ after that we have received the _____ of the truth, there remaineth no more _____ for sins, But a _____ fearful looking for of _____ and fiery indignation, which shall _____ the adversaries."

[Hebrews 10:26-27]

"Now _____ is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not _____."

[Hebrews 11:1]

"That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine _____ that God hath _____ him from the _____, thou shalt be _____. For with the heart man _____ unto _____; and with the mouth _____ is made unto _____."

[Romans 10:9-10]

"My _____ hear my _____, and I know them, and they _____ me: And I give unto them _____ life; and they shall _____ perish, neither shall any man _____ them out of my hand."

[John 10:27-28]

Thank you for your participation.

Pastor Austin