

Lesson 1 – Salvation

1) Why do I need to be saved?

- A. You were created by God to love and serve Him (Matthew 22:37-40). His will for your life is clearly revealed through His Word the Bible. Within the Bible are written all of the commands that God expects of you to obey – it is His law (John 14:15).
- B. But everyone has broken God's law (Romans 3:10,23).
- C. Breaking God's law brings the punishment of eternal death (Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:46).
- D. There is nothing you can do to merit God's forgiveness. The Bible is clear that there is nothing you can do in and of yourself to escape the sentence of eternal death in hell (Psalms 46:6-9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16).

2) How can I be saved?

There is good news (gospel)! John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (NASB). Jesus Christ died in your place and took the punishment of death you deserved upon Himself (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He offers you eternal life (John 17:3; Revelation 3:20).

3) Is there a cost involved in God's offer of salvation?

God's gift of salvation is freely offered to everyone, but there is a cost involved in being Jesus' disciple. In fact, Jesus made a point of urging those who sought to follow after Him to count the cost of such a decision (read Luke 14:25-33).

- A. *The commitment.* You love God more than you love anyone else. Your loyalty to Jesus must come before your loyalty to your family, your spouse and even your life itself.
- B. *The cross.* The cross was an instrument of humiliation and death. If you want to follow Christ, you will have to die to yourself. This means that you must renounce your right to control your own fate and choose your own way.
- C. *The cost.* Jesus warned that those who do not consider the true cost of their endeavors will find themselves unable to complete them (Luke 14:28-33).

4) How do I respond to God's salvation?

- A. *Confess your sins.* Confession is agreeing with what God says about your sinful condition. It is recognizing and acknowledging that you are guilty of breaking His law. (Psalms 32:5; 1 John 1:9-10)
- B. *Repent of your sins.* Repentance is not simply feeling bad that you have done wrong. It is a complete change of mind toward sin and a desire for forgiveness. True repentance always shows itself in a change in behavior (Acts 3:19; 8:22; 17:30).
- C. *Believe in Christ.* You must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross in your place, and that He was resurrected to bring life to the world. You must place your trust in Christ's sacrifice as the atonement of your sins (Romans 19:9-10; 13; Acts 16:31).
- D. *Pray to God.* David gives us a model prayer in Psalms 51. He prayed that God would blot out his sin, wash him thoroughly, and create a new heart within him. No one can pray your sin of confession, repentance and faith for you. Pray now for God to forgive you and change your heart and life.
- E. *Be baptized.* Baptism is the earliest form of public confession that one is a disciple of Christ. Jesus calls all disciples to be baptized (Matthew 28:19). In the Book of Acts, new believers were baptized very quickly. Later, because of persecution, new believers were discipled for two years before baptism, according to Tertullian, an early Christian leader.

5) What happens when I'm saved?

When you are saved you are spiritually united with Christ and become a part of His body (the Church). As a result of this union you are: justified or forgiven and declared righteous (Romans 3:24-26; 5:9); regenerated or made spiritually alive (Ephesians 2:1-5); sanctified or made holy (1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11); cleansed or made clean from your sin and guilt (1 Corinthians 6:9-11); reconciled or made a friend rather than an enemy of God (Colossians 1:21-22; Romans 5:10); adopted or privileged with all the rights and responsibilities of being a child of God (John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26, 4:4-6; 1 John 3:1); and naturalized or brought into Christ's kingdom as a citizen (Colossians 1:13).

GROWING DEEPER

Questions for Group or Personal Study

1. Read Matthew 22:37-40. What action word is used in these verses to describe the follower of Christ?
2. Read John 14:15. What does God say we will do if we love Him?
3. Read 1 John 1:8, 10. What lie may a person tell themselves?
4. Read Romans 6:23. What does a person need saved from? What is a person be saved to?
5. Read Ephesians 2:8. By what is a person saved? Who gives this?

Memory verses for this week

Read and study these verses every day this week.

- John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
- Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

Personal reflections from this week:

Study this week’s lesson and write something from the lesson that is meaningful to you each day.

Day 1 ~

Day 2 ~

Day 3 ~

Day 4 ~

Day 5 ~

Day 6 ~

Day 7 ~