

Salvation and Assurance

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Salvation: Initial Questions

- ◉ Why does God work through the Holy Spirit to save us?
- ◉ Why was it necessary for Jesus to come in the first place?
- ◉ Why do we need to be saved?



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- ◉ The Bible has one great theme: The person and work of Jesus.
- ◉ The Old and New Testaments have Jesus Christ as their focus.
- ◉ The Bible is a testimony about Christ.
- ◉ The Bible holds the testimony of why Jesus needed to atone for the sins of the world.



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- ◉ To answer our initial questions as to why the world needs a Savior, we must turn to the biblical story.
- ◉ What better place to start with the biblical story than the very beginning...Genesis Chapter One!



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- ◉ Genesis 1 – God spoke and created all things in heaven and on the earth.

- ◉ Genesis 2 – God forms man from the dust of the earth and prepares Eden for him.
 - ◉ Adam's obedience is tested.
 - ◉ Adam was commanded by God to not partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - ◉ God provides a helper for Adam (wife).



Salvation: The Biblical Story

◉ Genesis 3 – The Fall of Mankind

- The “crafty” serpent that God made enters the garden.
- Adam and Eve partook from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- The first sin enters the human story (Gen. 3:5).
- Because of sin the first humans become separated from God and ejected from the garden.
- Human rebellion– this was a foolish and irrational choice.



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- ◉ Adam and Eve were no longer able to dwell in God's holy presence.
- ◉ God then begins His plan of redemption and will continue to use this Adamic family for that purpose.
- ◉ God will ultimately introduce Abraham (Gen. 12) and the nation of Israel into the biblical story.
- ◉ Let's learn more about this family.....through which Christ would come.....



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- Genesis 6 – The Flood
 - Sin is pervasive on earth and we think it [sin] even reaches the heavenly realm (6:1–2).
 - Noah and his family are righteous before God.
 - God instructs Noah to build an ark and eight (8) Adamic souls enter and close the door.
 - God destroys all life.

- Do you see the salvation theme here?



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- ◉ Genesis 12: God calls Abraham to serve the only true and living God that he would ever need!
- ◉ God makes a covenant (Gen. 15:18) with Abraham that includes
 - Land
 - Posterity
 - Greatness
 - Personal Blessing
 - Blessings to the nations– This includes us!!



Salvation: The Biblical Story

○ The Exodus

- God uses Moses to deliver His people from enslavement in Egypt (ch.14).
- God gives the Israelites the law on Mount Sinai and Israel becomes a nation (ch. 20).

- Do you see the salvation theme again here?

- But.....While Moses is away Israel creates a golden calf to worship – **the sin of idolatry.**



Salvation: The Biblical Story

- 2 Samuel – 2 Kings:
 - David is anointed king over the united kingdom of Israel – all 12 Tribes!
 - Davidic covenant – the future eternal kingdom of Christ would be founded upon this covenant (2 Samuel 7:16).
 - Solomon reigns after David's death.
 - Solomon forsakes God – loved many foreign women and served their gods. (1 Kings 11)
 - **The sin of idolatry continues....**and as a result the nation would split into Northern and Southern kingdoms and eventually go into captivity to the Assyrians and Babylonians respectively.



Salvation: The Biblical Story

◉ The Prophets

- The prophets were raised up during these times of declension and apostasy in Israel.
- They spoke on behalf of God about what was local and present and the future.
- Spoke about Israel's sin and failures – **Idolatry.**
- Spoke about our promised Redeemer and the fulfillments of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.



Salvation: The Biblical Story – The Gospel

- ◉ What was the ultimate cause that led to Christ's coming to earth and dying for our sins? Scripture points to two things: *love* and *justice* of God.
 - Love = For God so love the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life – John 3:16
 - Justice = Required for God to find a way that the penalty due to us for our sins would be paid (for God could not accept us into fellowship with himself unless the penalty was paid).



Salvation: The Biblical Story – The Gospel

- ◉ Scriptures that support God’s love and justice:
 - But God the Son voluntarily took upon himself the role of bearing the penalty for sin. Paul says, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin [that is Christ], so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).
 - Isaiah said, “The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6).
 - When Jesus knew he had paid the full penalty for our sin, he said, “*It is finished*” (John 19:30).



Salvation: The Biblical Story – The Gospel

- ◉ The blood of Christ is the outward evidence that his life blood was poured out when he died a sacrificial death to pay for our redemption – “the blood of Christ”, means his death in its saving aspects.
- ◉ By the blood of Christ our consciences are cleansed (Heb. 9:14).
- ◉ By the blood of Christ we gain bold access to God in worship and prayer (Heb. 10:19).
- ◉ By the blood of Christ we are progressively cleansed from remaining sin (1 John 1:7; cf. Rev. 1:5b)



Salvation: The Biblical Story – The Gospel

- ◉ Four needs are met by Christ's death in the following ways:
- ◉ **Sacrifice:** To pay the penalty of death that we deserved because of our sins, Christ died for us. “He has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb. 9:26).
- ◉ **Propitiation:** To remove us from the wrath of God that we deserved, Christ died as a propitiation for our sins. “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).



Salvation: The Biblical Story – The Gospel

- ◉ **Reconciliation:** To overcome our separation from God, we needed someone to provide reconciliation and thereby bring us back into fellowship with God. Paul says, that God “through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself (2 Cor. 5:18–19).
- ◉ **Redemption:** Because we as sinners are in bondage to sin and to the evil one, we needed someone to provide redemption and thereby “redeem” us out of that bondage. “For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life *as a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45). The penalty for sin was paid by Christ and received and accepted by God the Father.



Salvation: The Biblical Story –The Response

- ◉ Jesus' death was a substitution for mankind's sins committed in the beginning of time through present-day. We deserved death and God's wrath (Justice), but Jesus' atoning blood saves us (Love) from:
 - Hell
 - Eternal separation from God
 - Death
 - Sin's control and bondage
 - Eternal condemnation



Salvation: The Biblical Story –The Response

- ◉ If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Reconciliator to God and Redeemer for your sins, I want to share with you some assurances that God gives in the Bible:
 - God assures you that Jesus Christ has come into your life. *John 14:20: On that day you will realize that I am in my father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*
 - God assures you that your sins are forgiven. *Colossians 2:13–14: God made you alive in Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he [Jesus] has taken it all away, nailing it [sin] to the cross.*



Salvation: The Biblical Story -The Response

-But if you have *Not* accepted Jesus as God's Savior and the Holy One who offers to cover the sins of Israel and the world.....you have an opportunity now to settle this matter.



Salvation: The Biblical Story –The Response

- ◉ God is willing to forgive you for your sins, but you must:
 - Personally respond by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
 - You must acknowledge that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior.
 - You realize you cannot be good enough for a perfect God on your own. Too much was lost that humans cannot fix – Jesus is the only person – fully man and fully God who could offer a sacrifice perfect enough to atone for the sins of the world.



Salvation: The Biblical Story –The Response

- ◉ You must through faith believe that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you are justified, and it is with our mouth that you profess your faith and are saved (Romans 10:9–10).

If you believe this testimony about Christ, please say so and pray this prayer or pray your own prayer:

Dear God, I know that my sin has separated me from you. Thank you that Jesus died in my place. I ask Jesus to forgive my sins and to come into my life. Please begin to direct my life. Thank you for giving me eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You are now an official member of God's family!



Salvation: The Biblical Story – Assurance

- ◉ What happens when a Christian sins?
 - Our legal standing before God is unchanged.
 - We are still forgiven, “there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).
 - Salvation is not based on our merits but is a free gift of God (Rom. 6:23).
 - Christ’s death certainly paid for all our sins – past, present, future – Christ died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3), without distinction.



Salvation: The Biblical Story – Assurance

- ◉ Final Thoughts and Considerations about Jesus:
 - He took our place and entered into our suffering for us.
 - God raised his Son Jesus from the dead giving us new life.
 - Formed a community of believers through the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Accomplished something so decisive that all of life is changed.
 - He calls us back into a loving relationship with the Father.
 - Over time, we will grow into a greater awareness of God and his holiness.



Salvation: Questions

You are now prepared to answer the initial questions:

- ◉ Why does God work through the Holy Spirit to save us?
- ◉ Why was it necessary for Jesus to come in the first place?
- ◉ Why do we need to be saved?



Salvation/O-Quiz

Please email your facilitator with questions or comments:

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Salvation/O-Quiz

For lesson credit, please send an email to your lesson facilitator answering these questions:

- ◉ Why does God work through the Holy Spirit to save us?
- ◉ Why was it necessary for Jesus to come in the first place?
- ◉ Why do you need to be saved?
- ◉ What must you do to be saved?
- ◉ Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- ◉ Give an example of one thing you learned from this presentation.

God bless you!

