



BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF 11 CORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS

Salvation

PART 1



Life Change Objectives

To give you an understanding of God's gift of salvation that enables you to:

- Love God more deeply for what he did for you.
- Tell others more confidently what God can do for them.

The major theme of the Bible is God's eternal plan to rescue us from our sin through Jesus' birth, his death on the cross, and his resurrection.

God knew from the beginning that his creation would need a Savior, so he set in motion all that would be necessary to accomplish the salvation of his children.

While the message of the cross is a familiar one to many, we must guard against attitudes of complacency, boredom, forgetfulness, and, most of all, "I've heard it before." There are so many layers of truth about Christ's work on the cross that we can never come to the point where there is nothing more to learn.

In the study today we will be concentrating on:

The problem: the need for salvation

The provision: the solution of salvation

In the next session we will look at:

The promise: the security of salvation

The Problem: Man's Need for Salvation

To understand man's need for salvation we must look at two things: the nature of God and the nature of man.

The nature of God

We underestimate our need for a Savior because we underestimate who God is.

1. God is _____.

For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

—Isaiah 57:15

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

—Psalm 99:9

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

—Habakkuk 1:13

God cannot tolerate anything that is evil.

2. God is _____.

Holiness has more to do with God's character.

Righteousness and justice have to do with God's dealings with mankind in relation to his character.

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

—Psalm 116:5

The Lord is fair in everything he does, and full of kindness.

—Psalm 145:17 (LB)

The nature of man

1. Our nature: we are sinful.

The Bible records Adam and Eve's sinful choice to disobey God's instructions not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17; 3). Without knowing it, they unleashed the onslaught of evil and decay that permeates our world today. God cursed them and all of their offspring.

2. Our choice: we sin.

God says that all of us are considered guilty because of our relationship to Adam and because of our own choices (Rom. 5:18–19; 3:10–18).

3. Our condition: we are lost (Luke 19:10).



A Closer Look

What Are the Consequences of Sin and Lostness?

- Sentenced to physical and spiritual death (Gen. 3:19; John 3:18; Rom. 6:23)
- Separated from God (Eph. 2:12)
- Dominated and controlled by sin (Eph. 2:1–3; Rom. 6:6)
- Spiritual blindness (2 Cor. 4:3–4)
- Without understanding (Rom. 3:11)
- Enemies of Christ (Matt. 12:30)
- Objects of God's wrath (Eph. 2:3)
- Considered children of the Devil (John 8:44)

The Bible portrays mankind's lostness as the most pitiful condition imaginable. Not only is our life on earth wasted as we live for self and selfish desires but the consequence is eternal separation from God (Rom. 6:23; Luke 13:3; Matt. 25:46).

The Provision: God's Solution to Sin

God's solution is the last three words in this verse: faith in Jesus.

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

—Romans 3:25–26

Three central truths about how we are saved

1. Salvation is not by works but by _____.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

—Ephesians 2:8–9

2. Salvation is not initiated by us, but by _____.

It's not man reaching _____ to God, but God reaching _____ to man.

When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

—Romans 5:6–8 (NCV)

3. Salvation is not an afterthought with God; it is his _____.

You were bought . . . with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb. Christ was chosen before the world was made, but he was shown to the world in these last times for your sake.

—1 Peter 1:18–20 (NCV)

It is God who saved us and chose us to live a holy life. He did this not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan long before the world began—to show his love and kindness to us through Christ Jesus.

—2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT)