

## The Gospel and Salvation - Overview

### Special Revelation and the Nature of God, Reality, Man and Purpose

- Scripture is an inspired revelation from God, given that man might know and understand fundamental truths about life and reality.

- These truths form the basis by which we can form judgments about what is true and not true and discuss the legitimacy or illegitimacy of competing systems to Christianity:

- 1) Other World Religions
- 2) Various Philosophical Systems
- 3) "Science" (Evolution)
- 4) Pseudo Christian Religions (Cults)

- We must know the truth if we would be able to rightly discern error. We must have a standard by which to make judgments as to truth and falsehood. God has provided that standard in the special revelation of Scripture.

- Scripture, as an inspired revelation from God, reveals Truth. It gives us the answers to life and an understanding of Reality.

- Revelation from God gives us a certainty of knowledge. We have a basis upon which we can for sure whether something is true or false.

- The truth revealed by God is not relative, it is absolute. It is truth that is unchanging and is true regardless of whether men accept it or not. The fact that some men reject the truth that God exists does not affect the truth itself. God exists whether men acknowledge that to be the case or not. The truth revealed simply corresponds to what is true and real.

- There is such a thing as absolute truth. This is one of the major aspects of Revelation. Many philosophies deny that there is such a thing as absolute truth and they deny that we can have a certainty of knowledge about the ultimate issues of life. But God has given us a revelation that we might know truth and in particular that we might know Him who is the ultimate truth itself.

- God does not want us to be confused about life and reality. Confusion comes from a rejection of the Truth of what God has revealed to us.

- God warns us in Scripture, as His people, to beware of deception, of being led astray from the Truth:

Ephesians 5:6: Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

1 John 3:7: Little children let know one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous just as He is righteous.

1 John 2:26: These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

- There are certain fundamental truths that God wants us to know that are emphasized throughout Scripture which form the foundation for our lives. These can be listed as seven fundamental categories of truth which embody the primary message of all of God's special revelation in Scripture:

- 1) That God Is
- 2) Who He Is

- 3) The Origin of All Things
- 4) Who Man Is and What Man's Purpose Is
- 5) The Origin and Nature of Evil
- 6) Salvation: Its Necessity, Accomplishment and Application (How It Becomes Real in a Person's Experience)
- 7) Eternity

- These basic categories of truth that are the main message of Scripture deal with the most basic questions asked by Philosophy.

- Philosophy can be summed up under 3 major headings. All philosophies in one way or another deal with these general headings:

- 1) Metaphysics: The study of existence or being. It asks, How do you explain the nature and existence of the Universe and its significance.
- 2) Morals: What is right and what is wrong and how are we to live.
- 3) Epistemology: The study of the theory of knowledge. What is the basis upon which we know something is true or real. Is there such a thing as certainty of knowledge.

- Christianity and Philosophy deal with the same categories of questions: Metaphysics, Morals and Epistemology. Christianity is a philosophy but it is more than a philosophy.

## **I. The Reality of God**

- The fact and reality of God is the most basic of all truths. The one truth that is foundational to every other truth.

- When we think about existence (the reality of things); when we think about morality (what is right and wrong, good and evil); when we think about truth and knowing truth; when we think about purpose (the why for which everything exists); the key to understanding them all comes down to this fundamental truth - GOD IS.

- The bottom line for all of life, the truth that makes sense out of everything and dispels all confusion, is the truth that God IS.

- God is the ultimate reality behind all of reality and our understanding of truth and how we are to live is directly related to what Scripture reveals to us about the Nature, Character and Attributes of God.

- The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that God exists. The very first verse of the Bible states:

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God...

- The Bible does not try to defend the existence of God, it merely declares His existence and points to the existence of the universe as Proof that He exists and that there are certain things that can be known about Him:

Romans 1:18-20: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- All men throughout this world, in every culture, have an innate knowledge that God exists because God revealed it in Creation and in their hearts.

- Scripture was given to reveal to us the Nature of God that exists. It is not enough to simply say that we believe in God. Different cultures all claim to worship God but their concepts of who God is differ as to His nature and character and attributes. The true God is a certain kind of God who must be worshipped and served in accordance with the truth of Who He has revealed Himself to be. To not worship and serve the one true and living God as He has revealed Himself is idolatry.

## **II. The Nature of God**

### **1) The God of Scripture is the Only One True and Living God in the Universe**

Isaiah 44:6: Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

Deuteronomy 4:39: Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

Isaiah 45:5-6: I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Jeremiah 10:10: But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.

Hebrews 10:31: It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- This truth contradicts the religious system of Polytheism which teaches that there are many gods in the universe.

### **2) The Living God is a King and Lord of All**

Psalms 10:16: The LORD is King forever and ever; nations have perished from His land.

Isaiah 42:8: I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images.

- Our God who is a God who is Living. He has personality, He communicates. He is a Person. He is not an impersonal force, a mere philosophical concept. He is a Personal being who, while He exists in, is separate from the material universe. Some religions describe God as the totality of all that exists in the universe. This is called Pantheism and it contradicts the revelation of Scripture.

### **3) God is Eternal**

- God existed before there was a universe because Scripture says that God is Eternal, while the Creation had a beginning.

Habakkuk 1:12: Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One?

Deuteronomy 33:27: The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

1 Timothy 1:17: Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 102:12: But You, O LORD, abide forever, and Your name to all generations.

- This means that God had no beginning and will have no end. He is an eternal Being.

#### 4) God is a Trinity

- Scripture teaches us that the God of the universe in His essential Being is Trinitarian in Nature.
- This means that though there is only one God, that God is 3 distinct Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- This is a mystery that we cannot fully understand but it is a truth revealed to us by God in His word.
- Each of these Persons is presented to us in Scripture as separate and distinct personalities who communicate with one another.

##### A) The Father is God

1 Corinthians 8:6: Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

2 Corinthians 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

##### B) The Son, Jesus, is God

- Jesus claimed to be Jehovah God of Exodus 3:14 (I Am), the God of special revelation. The Jews understood this and accused Him of blasphemy:

John 8:56-59: Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

John 10:31-33: The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

- Scripture tells us that we are to worship God alone. Jesus taught this:

Matthew 4:10: Then Jesus \*said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' "

- Jesus receives and accepts worship and is called God in Scripture:

Hebrews 1:6: And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.

Hebrews 1:8: But of the Son He says, YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

##### C) The Holy Spirit is God

- He is called God

Acts 5:3-4: But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

- The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of deity such as Omnipresence (Ps 139:7-12), Omniscience (1 Cor 2:10-11), and is associated with the Father in Creation (Gen. 1:2).

- He is described as having a Personality and not an impersonal Force. He is referred to with personal pronouns such as He and Him and not as "It" (Jn 14:26; 16:13). He does things only a Person can such as teach (Jn 14:26; 1 Jn 2:27), convict of sin (Jn 16:7) and be grieved by sin (Eph 4:30). He has intellect (1 Cor 2:10-11), will (1 Cor 12:11) and feeling (Eph 4:30).

- He is associated with the other members of the Trinity under the name of God:

Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#### 5) God is a Spirit

- Scripture tells us that God is a spirit, which means He does not have a physical body like a man:

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Luke 24:39: "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

#### 6) God Is Invisible

1 Timothy 1:17: Now to the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God...

#### 7) God Is Omnipresent (Everywhere Present)

- This means that God is infinite. He is not limited by Space, just as being eternal means He is not limited by time. He exists outside of Space and Time, though He is, at the same time, He is immanent within and operates within space and time:

Psalms 139:7-12: Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.

Jeremiah 23:24: "Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

## 8) God Is Omniscient

- This means that God knows all things

Psalm 33:13-14: The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,

Psalm 44:21: Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13: And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

## 9) God is a God of Perfect Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding

- Because God is omniscient He possesses all wisdom, knowledge and understanding. These likewise are infinite:

Psalm 147:5: Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Isaiah 40:12-14: Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and informed Him of the way of understanding?

Daniel 2:20-23: Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him."

## 10) God Is a God of Truth

- Our God is a God of Truth

Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Psalm 31:5: Into Your hand I commit my spirit; you have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

- Truth exists and has meaning because God exists. By His very nature He is a God of truth Who has revealed Truth. This tells us there is such a thing as error and falsehood. The opposite of truth is error or a lie. Whatever contradicts God's Truth is falsehood and error.

- Falsehood is wrong because it contradicts God's character.

## 11) God Is Sovereign

- This means God providentially controls and rules over all things. He is not uninvolved in the sustaining and controlling of this universe.

Psalm 103:19: The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.

Colossians 1:17: He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

## 12) God Is Omnipotent

- This means God is All-Powerful. He is Almighty.

Jeremiah 32:17: 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.

Revelation 15:3 And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty.

Revelation 19:6: Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

## 13) God Is Holy

Ps 11:7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness.

Is 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts..."

Is. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place,

1 Jn 1:5: This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

- God is a moral being. He is perfectly righteous and holy. There is no evil in Him and He cannot abide evil and wickedness.

- Because God is holy, this tells us there is such a thing as evil and right and wrong. Anything that contradicts His essential nature as holiness is evil and wrong.

## 14) God Is Just

- Because God is holy and absolutely committed to righteousness He is Just.

Deuteronomy 32:4: "The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

- For God to be just means that He always does what is right. He will never contradict His own character. He will always act in accordance with justice.

## 15) God is a Judge

Genesis 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that

the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

Ps 7:11: God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.

Ps 96:10: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

- One day God is going to bring all men and women to account for their deeds

## 16) God is Love

1 Jn 4:8: God is love

- As a God of love He is a God of mercy, grace and forgiveness:

Exodus 34:6-7: Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Ps 103:8: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Ps 130:4: But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

## 17) God Is Good

- All in all Scripture tells us that the God of this universe is perfectly good:

Psalm 25:8: Good and upright is the LORD.

Psalm 34:8: O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

## 18) God is Unchanging

- Because God is perfect in every way He cannot change for the better or the worse. What He is today he will be tomorrow and throughout all eternity.

Malachi 3:6: I the Lord change not.

- These are the essential truths that God has revealed to us about His being and nature and character. We are not given exhaustive truth about God but we are given sufficient truth.

## III Creation

### 1) God is the Creator

- The next great truth that Scripture reveals to us is that the God of the Bible is the Creator of all that exists.



- Creation is one of the major themes of Scripture. Over and over again Scripture reveals God to be the originator of the world and the universe and the source of all life. This means that what exists had a beginning in time and is not eternal.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 5:1: This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Isaiah 40:25-26;25 "To whom then will you liken Me that I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing.

Jeremiah 32:17: 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,

Colossians 1:15-16: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

## 2) God is the Possessor of His Creation

- As the creator God is also the possessor of all He has created. He owns it. It is His:

Deuteronomy 10:14: Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.

Psalms 24:1: The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

- The truth of Creation is an extremely important aspect of God's revelation to us. It teaches us that all that exists is the personal creation of a personal God. It did not just happen. It is not an accident.

- This tells us that man is not just a very complex chemical and mechanical/physical machine. Man is created in the image of God and has dignity and significance.

- In addition this truth reveals to us that there is an ultimate Authority in this universe who owns us because He made us.

## 3) All Creation Has a Purpose

Colossians 1:16: All things have been created through Him and for Him.

- The ultimate existence for the Creation of all things is God. We were made for Him. All creation exists for His glory and honor.

- Scripture reveals to us a very clearly defined purpose. God has provided us with the answer to the big question of who we are and why we are here. We were made for Him.

- Scripture also gives us more detailed revelation of what it means when it says we were created for

God because God has given us His Law which defines for us our purpose in practical terms

- The Law of God reveals to us that we were created for a relationship with God so that we might know Him, love Him, be under His authority, serve Him, obey Him and glorify Him.

- We were created to have the Lord as the very center of our lives and to love Him with all our hearts:

Exodus 20:2-3: Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Matthew 22:36-37: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

- The Law of God reveals to us 2 major categories that are to characterize this relationship:

1) We were created to be in a heart relationship of first love with God.

2) We were created to live for God by living for His will in our behavior.

- The Law of God reveals to us that God is a moral being and that the universe is a moral universe governed by moral laws.

- The existence of the Law of God reveals to us that there is such a thing as moral absolutes, because the moral Law comes from God who created the universe and He is holy.

- This entire universe has laws interwoven into it. These laws are physical and moral and they are absolute. 2 plus 2 is equal to 4. That is an absolute fact of reality. It never changes. This universe there fore is an ordered, rational universe because the God who created it is a rational being who created it with Laws.

- The Law also reveals another important concept: Accountability. Man was created accountable to the Law and what God demands is perfect obedience. This is part of the purpose of man's creation.

Key concepts that are foundational to the Gospel:

God  
Revelation  
Creation  
God's Nature  
Authority  
The Law of God  
Purpose  
Absolutes  
Accountability  
Sin

## Need for Salvation / Sin

### I The Purpose of Creation and the Law of God

- The second major category of Truth revealed by the overall message of Scripture is the nature of salvation.
- This subject will be examined under the major headings of:
  - 1) The Necessity for Salvation
  - 2) The Accomplishment of Salvation
  - 3) The Application of Salvation (How it becomes real in a person's life).
  - 4) The Results of Salvation
- In the first section we noted the fact that God created all things for a purpose.
- Man's purpose is defined for us by the Moral Law - the 10 Commandments.
- The Law of God reveals that man was created for God and it defines what that means by dividing our purpose into 2 major categories:
  - 1) We were created for an exclusive heart relationship with God as a person characterized by love and submission, and worship.
  - 2) We were created to live a life of obedience to God's will in our behavior.
- The Law of God reveals that all men are accountable to the God as the moral governor of this universe because He is holy. The Law of God requires perfect obedience.

Galatians 3:10: For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

Romans 3:19: Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God.

Luke 12:13-21: Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you, and now who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Hebrews 9:27: And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

- The fact of judgment speaks to the reality that one day all men must give an account of their lives to God.
- Our God is a God who is Holy and Just. He has given a moral Law and He has told us that any violation of that Law must and will be judged. This brings us to the whole issue of sin.

## II. The Reality of Sin

- Man was created for a purpose but Scripture teaches us that all men have rebelled against God and His will for their life.
- When Adam sinned against God he FELL. He fell from his relationship with God into a STATE of rebellion and man has been born into that state of rebellion ever since. We inherit the nature of rebellion from Adam.
- This state of sin has resulted in a state of separation from God. Man does not know God. All that man and the universe was originally created to be has become totally corrupted.
- The universe is now dominated by evil. Satan was an angel created by God who rebelled and led Adam and Eve into rebellion against God which resulted in the Universe being engulfed in evil.
- This tells us the Origin of evil. The universe was not originally created evil but good. Evil came about as a result of rebellion against the Creator. God did not create evil and is therefore not the source of it.
- Evil is not eternal. It was not there from the beginning and one day it will be eradicated. This means that evil is an aberration. It is not a necessary part of reality.
- The fall of Satan and Adam explains the origin and existence of evil and suffering.
- Scripture reveals that God is now actively engaged in seeking to redeem this world from evil and its consequences and to restore the universe to what He originally created it to be.
- One of the clearest truths revealed in Scripture is that all men are sinners and are therefore in need of salvation:

*All have sinned*

Rom. 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

*Idolators*

-Men are sinners first and foremost because they are idolators. They do not worship the true and living God or else they profess the true and living God but worship Him in word only for they actually worship themselves or the world rather than God:

Rom 1:18-23: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power

and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

*All under sin, None righteous (unrighteous), None good, Useless - None Understand - Corrupt Mind, Corrupt Speech, Corrupt Actions*

Rom. 3:9-18: What then? Are we better than they? Not at all, for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin, as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDER STANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

*Gone astray, Turned to one's own way, CHOICE - Corrupt Will*

Is 53:5: All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way

*There is no man who does not sin*

Eccl 7:20: Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

*No man living is righteous*

Ps 143:2: And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous.

*There is no man who does not sin*

1 Kings 8:46: When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near;

*If we say we are not sinners we make God a liar, We are all sinners*

1 Jn 1:8-10: If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

*Deceitful Heart*

Jer 17:9: "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

*All are sinners*

Gal 3:22: But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

*Inability to please God*

Rom. 8:8: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

*Can do nothing good in myself*

Jn 15:5: Apart from me you can do nothing

*Nothing good dwells in me*

Rom 7:18: In my flesh dwells no good thing

*Disobedient, Foolish, Enslaved to lusts and pleasures, Hateful*

Titus 3:3: For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

*Empowered by Satan, Dead in sin, Children of Wrath, Enslaved to Lusts, CORRUPT DESIRES*

Eph 2:1-3: And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

*Darkness*

Eph 5:8: You were darkness but now you are light in the Lord

*Ungodly, Sinners, Enemies of God*

Rom 5:6-10: For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

*Children of Satan*

Jn 8:44: You are of your Father the devil

1 Jn 3:7-10: Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned

from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

*Alienated from God, Hostile in Mind, Engaged in evil deeds*

Col 1:21: And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,

*Evil*

Lk 11:13: If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children

- Sin is not something that men have invented. Sin is real because God exists, He is holy and He has revealed His Law as the moral Law for this universe.

### **III. The Nature of Sin**

- What is the nature of Sin? It is defined by LAWLESSNESS or transgression of the Law of God:

1 John 3:4: Sin is lawlessness.

- Sin is therefore rebellion against the 2 basic categories of the Law of God:

1. Rebellion against God as a person so that He is not the First Love of our life, we are not in submission to Him and we do not worship Him exclusively.

2. We have rebelled against the will as defined by the Law of God in our behavior. We live in disobedience.

- Therefore man is corrupt in his nature and behavior. The center of our lives is SELF. Man lives in Self-Rule and Self-Will which is expressed in acts of behavior which are contrary to the will of God.

- Man does not live for God and His kingdom but for Self and the world.

### **IV. Results or Consequences of Sin**

1) Rom 6:23; Ezek 18:4: Death

The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)

The soul that sins shall die (Ezek 18:4)

Spiritual, Physical, Eternal (Eph 2:1)

2) Gal. 3:10: Curse

Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law to perform them

3) Is 59:1-2: Separation from God

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

4) Jn 3:36: Under Wrath

He who does not obey the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abides on him.

5) Heb 9:27, Mt 12:36, Lk 12:16-20, Rom 2:3-9, Rev 20:11-15: Judgment

Heb 9:27: And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Luke 12:16-2: And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

Romans 2:3-9: But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,

Revelation 20:11-15: Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



## The Accomplishment of Salvation

- When God established the Jewish nation He established a sacrificial system whereby men and women could deal with their sin through the atoning sacrifice of an animal which would bear their sin and become a substitute for that person by taking the person's place to bear the punishment due that sin - the punishment of death. He is teaching mankind the truth of atonement and substitution.

Leviticus 17:11: 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

- The justice and holiness of God requires death for sin. For God to be able to extend forgiveness to individuals His justice must be satisfied. Sin must be punished.

Hebrews 9:22: Apart from the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- God is not only holy. He is also a God of love. As a God of love He desires to forgive mankind, but that forgiveness can only be accomplished in conformity with the fulfillment of His Law.

- The problem with the Old Testament sacrificial system is that the death of an animal will not satisfy the justice of God for the sin of a man. The sin of a man requires the death of a man.

Hebrews 10:4: It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin.

- All that the blood of the sacrificial animals in the Old Testament could do was cover sin, not take it away. Therefore the sacrificial system was only a temporary means of dealing with sin. God had a plan for completely eradicating it. But that would require that a human being completely satisfy the just demands of the Law of God.

- For a man to qualify for a substitute for other men to accomplish salvation would require that He be perfect otherwise he could only die for his own sins. And this person must be able to deal with the sin of the entire world.

- Jesus Christ is God's means of accomplishing salvation for all mankind. He is God and man.

- Jesus is a Savior from sin - from its guilt, bondage, power, consequences and presence.

- When Jesus was born He was born under the Law. That is He was born like all men, accountable to keep the Law by yielding a perfect obedience.

Galatians 4:4: But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- Jesus came as a man to be our substitute that He might fulfil all the requirements of the Law for us.

- The Law has 2 basic demands:

- 1) Perfect obedience for acceptance with God
- 2) Death for Transgression

Gal 3:10: For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.

- As a man Jesus fulfilled both of these requirements of the Law:

1) He lived a perfect life in that He never sinned.

1 Peter 2:22: He committed no sin.

2) He went to the cross and took our sin upon Himself (they were imputed to Him) and laid down His life to pay the full penalty of the Law against sin, the penalty of death.

1 Pet 2:24: He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross.

Isa. 53:4-6: Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

2 Cor 5:21: He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:24-26: Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- God has completely accepted Jesus' sacrifice as a payment for sin for the entire world. His sacrifice was once for all meaning that it is perfect and complete and sufficient for the payment for sin. It cannot be repeated or added to.

Hebrews 9:24-28: For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

- There is nothing else that needs to be done. The work of atonement is finished. This is why on the cross Jesus cried, It is finished, and therefore Scripture tells us there is no more sacrifice for sin:

Hebrews 10:18: There is no longer any offering for sin.

- Jesus was then resurrected from the dead to be a living Savior for all mankind. He has ascended to heaven at the right hand of God where He rules and reigns as Lord over the kingdom of God.

- Jesus is God's means of salvation.. He is the only way, the only Mediator between God and man, God's

Prophet, Priest and King. There is no other way of salvation, because there is no other way of dealing with sin. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). There is no other way of forgiveness:

John 14:6: Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:12: And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

- Any way of salvation apart from Jesus is a false way.

## **The Application and Appropriation of Salvation**

- The Gospel is God's message proclaiming to men a work accomplished by Jesus Christ and a message calling for men to the application of salvation through Him in their lives:

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- The Gospel is a message that proclaims salvation from sin—from sin's guilt, condemnation, state, bondage, power and presence and deliverance to a state of righteousness.
- Jesus is a Savior from sin. The Gospel is a universal call from God to men to come to Christ for salvation:

Acts 17:30-31: Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Mark 16:15: And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

- Jesus has accomplished a work of Salvation. The next question we have to ask is how does that salvation become real in a person's life.

### **A) The Source of Salvation: Union with Christ**

- The general answer to that question is through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

- This spiritual truth is the very essence of the bible's teaching on salvation. Paul's favorite phrase to express the meaning of salvation is 'in Christ'.
- When we speak of union with Christ we are emphasizing the fact that salvation, in its essence, is a relationship with a person.
- All of the benefits of salvation flow out of union with Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 2:4-5: But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:4: Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of

Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

- The Lord Jesus Christ is not just a crucified Savior, but a resurrected ascended Savior who is Lord and King. He is a living person with whom we can enter into a living relationship.

- Christ's resurrection and ascension are just as important in the work of salvation as His atonement because salvation means more than deliverance from sin's guilt and condemnation. It also means deliverance from sin's state, bondage and power, all of which are accomplished through union with Christ.

- For salvation to be applied to our lives we must receive Christ into our lives.

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

Colossians 2:6: Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him

- Therefore we have to ask, What does it mean to receive Jesus Christ and enter a relationship with Him? What is required?

- We enter a relationship with Jesus through the human response of repentance and faith.

- God is sovereign in salvation. It is He who alone can regenerate an individual. But we cannot separate regeneration from union with Christ and repentance and faith. They all fit together. God is sovereign and man is responsible.

## **B) Man's Response: Repentance and Faith**

- God is sovereign in salvation but God has also commanded that the Gospel be preached and that men respond. And the response He calls for is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Faith:**

Romans 5:1: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 3:28: For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Galatians 2:16: Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Romans 1:17: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

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 as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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.

## **Repentance:**

Luke 13:3: I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30-31: Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Luke 5:32: I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Acts 3:19: Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Acts 26:19-20 So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

1 Thes. 1:9: How you turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God.

## **Repentance and Faith:**

- The overall message of Jesus:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15).

- The overall message of Paul:

How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:20-21).

- Repentance and faith are separate concepts, but while they can be distinguished they can never be separated. The call of the Gospel is to repentance and faith, not just to faith. They are placed on an equal footing with one another.

- The Lord Jesus Christ is a Savior from sin and saving faith has Jesus as its object as One who delivers from sin.

- The object of our faith is Jesus not faith. Faith does not save us, Jesus does. He is the source of salvation. Salvation results from receiving Christ in personal relationship. Salvation is not through faith in doctrines about Jesus, but in actually knowing Him through spiritual union with Him.

1 Cor. 1:30-31: But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and

righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Rom 7:4-5: Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

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

Rom 6:1-8: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

John 17:3-4: "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

- Faith looks to Jesus in the context of the issue of sin and being delivered from it.
- Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Faith turns to and appropriates Christ as Lord and Savior in commitment, trust and dependence to be delivered from sin. But to turn to Christ one must first of all turn from all that is contrary to Him as Lord and Savior. That is, we must repent.
- The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia* which means literally a change of mind. Inherent in the meaning of the word is the concept of turning. In the context of salvation it means to turn from all that is contrary to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

### **Jesus as Savior:**

- With respect to Jesus as Savior repentance has to do with turning from all trust and dependence upon anything other than Jesus alone for salvation. Specifically it means to turn from all reliance upon human works of any kind, be they moral, social or religious, to give us acceptance and forgiveness with God.
- Repentance means the repudiation of all SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS - We must turn from all reliance on and trust in anything other than Jesus to save us. We cannot rely upon works of any kind in any way. Jesus alone is the Savior. His merits alone give us acceptance with God and forgiveness:

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 as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Salvation is a gift, it is not something we earn or merit.
- God can only accept perfect righteousness as merit and death for sin. We cannot make ourselves acceptable to Him through our own works.

- When we come to Jesus He gives us His perfect righteousness as a gift, which makes us eternally acceptable to God. We are declared to be perfectly righteous in God's eyes. The perfect life we are required to live Jesus has lived for us. God's accepts His righteous on our behalf. We can only receive Christ's righteousness when we turn from our own attempts to be righteous before God and to atone for our sins or to make ourselves acceptable to Him and by so doing to earn salvation.

Phil 3:2-10: Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith...

Rom 4:1-8: What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

### **Jesus as Lord:**

- With respect to Jesus as Lord repentance has to do with turning from sin. We must forsake our sin and surrender our lives to Christ and Lord and God and Master and Ruler.

- Scripture is clear that repentance means turning from sin:

Isaiah 55:6-7: Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 59:20: A Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 18:30: Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.

Acts 3:26: For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.

Acts 26:18: To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion



of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Acts 26:20: But kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

1 Thessalonians 1:9: For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.

- Repentance means more than sorrow for sin. It means a repudiation of it and involves sin of the heart as well as sins of the outward life.

- Sin is a transgression of the Law. The Law of God has 2 fundamental requirements:

1) A certain relationship with God as a Person—a heart relationship of submission, first love, worship and service.

Exodus 20:2-3: I am the LORD your God,...You shall have no other gods before Me.

Matthew 22:37: And He said to him, YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

Deuteronomy 13:4: You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

Matthew 4:10: Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.

2) Obedience to the Will of God in our behavior

1 Peter 1:15-16: like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.

- Sin involves a rebellion against the true and living God to worship false gods. In repentance a man must turn from that rebellion to worship and serve the true and living God - the God revealed in the Old and New Testaments which means acknowledging that Jesus Christ is God and the worship of Him as such:

Mt. 4:10: You shall worship the Lord your God, Him only shall you serve.

1 Thes. 1:9: How you turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God.

Heb. 1:6: Let all the angels of God worship Him

- Sin is rebellion against these two fundamental aspects of the Law of God. We have rebelled against God as a person and against His will. We live in SELF RULE and SELF WILL.

- Repentance means that we must turn from sin as it relates to these 2 aspects of the Law of God. We must turn from a wrong relationship with God as a Person and from disobedience to His will in our behavior.

- We repent by turning from self will and self rule and selfish ambition to submit our lives to Christ as Lord to give Him first place in our hearts with the commitment to live for His will and glory.
- When we truly repent we experience a reversal of the condition of sin in our lives. We enter into a right relationship with God as a person and with the will of God in our behavior.
- Romans 6:22 sums up the reality of this truth:

Romans 6:22: But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

- 1) Freed from Sin
- 2) Enslaved to God: Right relationship with God as a Person—a servant of God
- 3) the Fruit of Sanctification: Right relationship with the will of God in my behavior.

- Repentance means turning not only from what I do, but from what I am—a self-centered, self-directed, independent creature—to turn to God in Christ to give Him His rightful place in my life as it is defined by the Law of God.
- This is what Paul meant when he said he preached repentance towards God.
- If a person has not surrendered his life to Christ as Lord to become a disciple of Christ he has never truly repented of sin and has never come into the experience of salvation. He is still living in a state of sin, a state of independence from God and rebellion against Him.

### **The Teaching of Jesus**

Mark 8:34-37: And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 14:26-33: If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- Jesus says that unless an individual becomes a disciple he will not experience salvation. To become a disciple an individual must fulfil the conditions laid down by Jesus in the above verses. These are conditions for entering a relationship with Him for salvation. He says unless these conditions are met one cannot be His disciple.

- Jesus is calling for repentance in these passages. Repentance from a state and life of sin. He doesn't use the word repent, He simply applies the term. He tells us what it means. He demands that we turn to Him as Lord and God to give Him first place in our hearts that we might love Him supremely and live for His will. He is calling us to become reconciled to God that we might fulfil the purpose for which we were created as it is defined by the Law of God.

- What Jesus is calling for is conversion. A radical change in a man's heart from rebellion against God to one of submission and righteousness:

Matt 18:3-4: "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:20: "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

John 3:3-8: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Matt 7:21-23: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Acts 26:16-18: 'But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

- When Jesus becomes the Lord of our lives He delivers us from sin's bondage and power. He reverses the condition of our lives as sinners where we are in a state of rebellion against God and His Law.

## The Results of Salvation

### 1) Reconciliation with God:

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 2) Justification:

- We are forgiven and accepted with God, declared to be righteous on the basis of the Law being fulfilled by Jesus Christ. In Him we have His righteousness imputed to us

Romans 4:3-8: For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

### 3) Forgiveness

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Ephesians 1:7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

### 4) Deliverance from Condemnation, Judgment and Hell

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.

John 5:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Romans 8:1: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### 5) Eternal Security

- Those who are united to Christ and follow Him will never perish

John 10:27-30: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Romans 8:1, 31-39: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand

of God, who also intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 6) Regeneration

John 3:3,7-8; Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."...Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

## 7) Sanctification

- When a person repents and believes and is regenerated they are converted. It signifies the radical nature of true salvation where a person becomes a new creation and the life becomes radically reoriented because it has received a new center, a new love, a new life, a new power, a new direction and a whole new purpose. This reality is manifested in a life of sanctification.

2 Corinthians 5:15: He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Romans 6:4-7: Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

- The true evidence that a person has received salvation from God is a changed life, a life of holiness. If there is no changed life there is no salvation. The person must be converted. We are not saved by works but once we are saved we live a life of works because we have a new life with a new heart and a new power.

Mt 7:21: Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 2:8-10: For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

James 2:17: Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Titus 2:11-14: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Rom 6:1-22: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

1 John 2:3-4: By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 John 3:2-1: Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

John 14:21: He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.  
1 Corinthians 16:22: If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha.

## 8) Adoption / The Children of God

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

Romans 8:15-17: For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

1 John 3:2: Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

## 9) The Personal Knowledge of God

John 17:3: This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

## 10) Eternal Life

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 eternal life.

## 11) The Holy Spirit Indwelling

Eph 1:13-14: In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 4:30: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Cor 3:16: Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

## 12) Glorification and Inheritance:

Rom 8:28-30: For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Rom 8:16-17: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

1 Peter 1:3-5: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 John 3:1-3: See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God, and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

### 13) We are a People of Hope / The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

- We do not fear death because Christ has overcome it. We have a certain knowledge about the future. We know the love, joy and peace of God and we know that He will build His kingdom and one day the world will end with the second coming of Christ and God will create a new heavens and a new earth:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Peter 3:10-13: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.



Schematic of Salvation regarding Deliverance from the state, power and bondage of  
Sin so that a man becomes sanctified

*Need for Salvation*

**Creation / Creator**

Character of God - Holy / Judge

Accountability

**Purpose of Creation:**

Heart Relationship of submission to and love for God as a person

Obedience (inward and outward) to the will of God in behavior

**The Law: Revelation of God's Purpose**

Heart Relationship of submission to and love for God as a person

Obedience (inward and outward) to the will of God in behavior

**Requirements of the Law**

Perfect Obedience

Death for transgression

**Sin**

Rebellion against God's purpose

Rejection of heart relationship with God - Self is at the center - Self Rule

Rejection of obedience to God in behavior - Self will

*Accomplishment of Salvation*

**Jesus**

God and Man

**Jesus - Perfect Man - Never sinned**

Retained a perfect heart relationship with God

Walked in perfect obedience to God and His will in his behavior

Fulfilled the requirements of the Law for perfect obedience

Jesus - Work of Salvation

Atonement - Pays the penalty of death for the guilt of sin - Is 53, Rom 3:21-26

Fulfilled the requirements of the Law of death for transgression

Resurrection - Raised for our Justification

*Appropriation of Salvation*

**The Law of God is preached to bring men to conviction of sin - of lawlessness**

**Repentance/Conversion**

Turning from sin: Rebellion against God - from lawlessness

Turning from idolatry to the true and living God - from false gods (false religions and the world)

Turning from rebellion in heart with God as a person - from self will and self love to submission of the heart to God and love for Him

Turning from sinful behavior - from darkness to light

Submission to the Lordship of Christ to be His follower.

Turning from all self righteousness (religious, moral and social works) to trust in Jesus alone, by faith, for salvation.

*Results of Salvation from Sin:*

**Conformed to the image of Christ**

Heart Relationship of submission to and love for God (regeneration)

Obedience (inward and outward) to the will of God in behavior (sanctification)

Delivered from a state of lawlessness. Brought into a state of conformity with the law of God.

Delivered from all condemnation - forgiveness (justification)

Eternal life and Glorification

*Salvation: Deliverance from the guilt and power and bondage to sin and reconciled to God to fulfil the purpose for which one was created.*