

Ephesians 2:8, 9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

The Bible reveals that salvation is the free gift of God towards sinners. As descendants of Adam, all of mankind is born spiritually dead - “dead in trespasses and sins.”

Redeemed sinners were not able to do anything to earn salvation and there was nothing in us that deserved salvation. Salvation is a gift from God provided to sinners through Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Once a person is truly born again, they are a recipient of “everlasting” life.

Although the Christian journey is full of weaknesses, failures, and even backslidings, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:28 – 39)

HANDOUTS INCLUDED

(The handouts were given as supplemental material to the teaching session.)

The Role of the Godhead in Salvation

God the Father – Works according to His own will to save the elect.

God the Son - Pays redemption's price by His own blood.

God the Holy Spirit – Awakens and draws sinners to Jesus Christ.

The Divine Aspect and the Human Aspect of Salvation

Divine – Salvation is of the Lord.

Human - God has given mankind “responsibility” in the execution of their salvation.

Different Classifications of Believers

There are varying degrees of maturity within the Body of Christ.

Pretenders and Deceivers

There are those who appear to be saved. But, in reality, they are not.

Things that Happen at the Moment of Salvation

None of the things that happen at the moment of salvation can be reversed.

Session #1 – The Eternal Security of the Believer

"Once Saved – Always Saved"

April 12, 2016; 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Baxter Arena; Omaha, Nebraska

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see!*

(Great Hymn of the Church: Amazing Grace; Written by John Newton – 1779)

THESE THINGS HAPPEN AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION

1. Baptized by the Spirit – John 1:33; Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:13
2. Become a Child of God – Romans 8:15 – 17; 1 John 3:1, 2
3. Become a Citizen and Member of the Household of God – Ephesians 2:19 - 22
4. Born Again – John 3:3 – 8; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:1
5. Brought Nigh by the Blood of Jesus – Ephesians 2:13 - 18
6. Brought Out of Darkness – Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9
7. Called to be Saints – Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 1:24, 26; 1 Thessalonians 2:12
8. Cleansed/Washed – John 13:8 – 10; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Revelation 1:5
9. Delivered from the Hand of the Enemy – Psalm 106:10; 107:2; Colossians 1:13
10. Engrafted In – Romans 11:17 - 19
11. Forgiven – Ephesians 1:7; 4:32; Colossians 1:14; 2:13; 1 John 2:12
12. Justified – Romans 3:24; 5:1, 9; 8:30; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:7
13. Made a Member of the Body of Christ – 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27
14. Made a New Creature – 2 Corinthians 5:17
15. Made a "New Man" – Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10
16. Made a Spiritual House; A Holy Priesthood – 1 Peter 2:5
17. Made a Temple of the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 19; Ephesians 2:21;
18. Made Alive/Quickened; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13
19. Purchased – Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:14
20. Preserved/Kept – 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:1
21. Receives an Inheritance – Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:12; 1 Peter 1:3, 4
22. Receives Eternal Life – John 3:16, 17; 10:28, 29; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11
23. Reconciled – Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 19
24. Redeemed – Galatians 3:13; 4:5; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18, 19
25. Regeneration – Titus 3:5 – 7
26. Sanctified/Made Holy – 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 2:11; 10:10, 14
27. Saved – Ephesians 2:8; John 10:9; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9, 13; 2 Timothy 1:9
28. The Holy Spirit Indwells – Ezekiel 36:26; John 4:14; 14:16, 17; Romans 8:9, 15, 16
29. The Holy Spirit Seals – Ephesians 1:13; 4:30
30. Union with Christ ("In Christ") – Romans 6:3 – 5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:20

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THE ROLE OF THE GODHEAD IN SALVATION

GOD, THE FATHER – It is the Father who from eternity works according to His own sovereign will to elect, predestine and chose those persons whom He has ordained to be objects of His mercy and grace. Further, the Father gives these persons as gifts to His Son.

John 6:44 “No man can come to me, **except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Ephesians 1:3 – 6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as **he hath chosen us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 **Having predestinated us** unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will,** 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted** in the beloved.

Scripture References: John 1:13; John 17:2, 6; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28 – 30; Romans 9:11 – 23; Ephesians 1 – 3; Hebrews 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3

GOD, THE SON - The security of the Believer is based upon the one perfect offering of Jesus Christ on the cross.

John 10:27 – 29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,** neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Hebrews 10:12 – 14 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering **he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.**

Scripture References: John 3:16; 5:24; 17:11,12; Romans 5:1–11; Colossians 1:20 - 23

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT - The Spirit of God glorifies and testifies to Jesus Christ. It is He who calls sinners to repentance; convicts of sin and leads a person to put their trust in Christ. Thereafter, He indwells and seals the Believer and witnesses to that person that they are saved.

John 3:5 – 8 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which **is born of the Spirit** is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is **born of the Spirit.**

Scripture References: John 16:7 – 14; Romans 8:9, 15, 16; Titus 3:5

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THE DIVINE ASPECT and THE HUMAN ASPECT OF SALVATION

THE DIVINE ASPECT

Salvation is of the Lord – Psalm 18:46

The sovereign act of God according to His will

God chooses, elects, predestines - Romans 9:11–16; Ephesians 1:4, 5

God's grace and faith given as a gift to the Believer – Ephesians 2:7, 8

THE HUMAN ASPECT

- **THE HEART.** Salvation is a work of the heart. Salvation begins in the heart. But salvation in its fullness encompasses the whole of man: spirit, soul and body. (*The “heart” does not refer to the physical organ of the body. But, instead it has to do with the inner being of the person; the human spirit.*)
- **AWARENESS.** The person is made aware of personal sin and separation from God. The person has within them an inner conviction and a “pull” to God. This is “the call to salvation.”
- **HEARING.** The person hears the Gospel message (“the preaching of the cross”). Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 23
- **REPENTANCE.** Repents towards God – Mark 1:15; 6:12; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20
- **FAITH.** Places faith in Jesus Christ (“Believes”) – John 3:16; 20:31; 1 John 5:13

Acts 20:21. “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance** toward God, **and faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **CONFESSION.** Confession with the mouth – Romans 10:8 – 10

Romans 10:8 – 10. “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even **in thy mouth, and in thy heart:** that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with **the heart** man believeth unto righteousness; and with **the mouth** confession is made unto salvation.”

- **BAPTISM.** (The above steps should be followed by baptism). Baptism is an outward public sign to an inward personal faith. Mark 16:16

Scripture references that show both the Divine and the human aspects of salvation:

John 1:12, 13. “But **as many as received him**, to them **gave he power** to become the sons of God, even to them that **believe** on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**”

Ephesians 1:11 – 13. “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated **according to the purpose of him** who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³ In whom **ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.”

CLASSIFICATION OF BELIEVERS

Little Children – Young Men – Fathers. 1 John 2:12 – 14. I write unto you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. ¹³ I write unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, **little children**, because ye have known the Father. ¹⁴ I have written unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, **young men**, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Carnal (Babes; Fleshly) – Spiritual. 1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4. And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal**, even as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet **carnal**: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not **carnal**, and walk as men? ⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not **carnal**?

Babes – Full Age. Hebrews 5:11 – 14. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age**, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Weak – Strong. Romans 15:1. We then that are **strong** ought to bear the infirmities of the **weak**, and not to please ourselves.

Backsliders

Psalm 89:30 – 34

Mark 14:66 – 72 (Peter's Three Denials)

Hebrews 12:5 – 11 (Chastisement)

Revelation 2:4, 5 (The Need to Repent)

Luke 15:11 – 28 (The Prodigal Son)

1 Corinthians 11:27 – 32 (“Unjudged Sin”)

1 Corinthians 5:1 – 5. (The “Sinning” Brother)

Romans 7:14 – 23 (Two Natures Within)

“Standing” vs “State”

Standing – The Believer's position “In Christ.”

It NEVER CHANGES

It is based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

State – The Believer's “walk” (daily living).

It is SUBJECT TO CHANGE

It is based on the actions of the Believer

For the Believer:

Sin interrupts FELLOWSHIP with the Father.

Sin never changes the RELATIONSHIP between the Father and the Believer.

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PRETENDERS and DECEIVERS

The following scriptures show that there are some people who appear to be truly converted and lovers of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. But, in reality, they are not.

Matthew 7:21 – 23. “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Matthew 25:1 – 12. The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Luke 18:10 – 14. “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

Luke 22:47, 48. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:19. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

APOSTATES – These renounce “the faith in the Lord” that they once held.

1 Timothy 4:1. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

2 Peter 2:1, 2. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even **denying the Lord** that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

2 Peter 2:20 – 22. “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. ²¹ For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, **to turn from** the holy commandment delivered unto them. ²² But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”