



**UNDERSTANDING SALVATION AND
ETERNAL SECURITY**

Understanding Salvation and Eternal Security

Key Terms

- **Salvation:** The act of being saved from sin and its consequences.
- **Discipleship:** The process of learning from and following Jesus Christ.
- **Eternal security:** The assurance that once a person is saved, they will never be lost again.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor.
- **Sin:** Falling short of God's holiness
- **Faith:** Trust in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- **Repentance:** Turning away from sin and turning to God.
- **Justification:** Being declared righteous by God.
- **Adoption:** Being brought into God's family.
- **Sanctification:** The process of being made holy by God.
- **Glorification:** The final state of being made perfect in Christ.

The Christian life begins at the moment of salvation, which is the beginning of discipleship.

Salvation is the miracle of a moment.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

In only two instances does the New Testament pronounce a curse of Christians for failure to do something. One is not loving the Lord (1 Cor 16:22), and the other is preaching a gospel other than the Gospel of the grace of God (Gal. 1:6-9). Not comprehending clearly the doctrine of salvation can lead to proclaiming a false or perverted Gospel.

Ryrie, Charles C. Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth. Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.

Understanding salvation is not only important to the hearer but for our witness in the world. Having a gospel witness is the responsibility of all believers. The better we understand salvation for ourselves, the better we can share it with others.

Questions being answered tonight:

- **Why is salvation necessary for mankind?**
- **How can a person be saved?**
- **What does salvation accomplish?**
- **How can we have confidence that our salvation is secure forever?**

Why is salvation necessary for mankind?

Salvation is necessary because of sin.

"Because of man's sinfulness and helplessness, someone else had to step in and aid him if he was to find acceptance and fellowship with a holy God."

What is sin?

- **Greek:**
 - **hamartia:** This is the most common Greek word for sin. It means "to miss the mark" or "to fall short." In the context of Christianity, it refers to our failure to live up to God's standard of perfection.
 - **adikia:** This word means "injustice" or "unrighteousness." It refers to our wrongdoings, both against God and against others.
- **Hebrew:**
 - **chata'ah:** This is the most common Hebrew word for sin. It means "to miss the mark" or "to fall short." It has a similar meaning to the Greek word hamartia.
 - **rasha'ah:** This word means "wickedness" or "evil." It refers to our willful disobedience to God.

In both the Greek and Hebrew, sin is seen as a failure to live up to God's standard of perfection. It is a state of being that separates us from God. Sin can be both personal and corporate. It can be something that we do individually, or it can be something that we do as a group.

Sin entered through Adam's disobedience.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Genesis 2:15-17

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Sin has separated us from God and made us deserving of his wrath.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

John 3:36

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Every person born into the world stands condemned before God because:

1. Adam's sinfulness is passed down.
2. They all commit sins of their own as the inevitable consequence of a sinful nature.

Depravity = mankind's entire being is corrupted and he can never do anything that would merit saving favor with God.

Isaiah 64:6

6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:10-12

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Hell is the punishment for sin, but was not intended for mankind.

- Hell is described in the Bible as a real place that those who do not receive salvation go to for eternity.
 - Luke 16:19-31
- Hell was not created for mankind but for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Revelation 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Descriptions of Hell Include:

- Fire
- Weeping
- Torments
- Darkness
- Separation from God

Hell is a biblical and literal reality. This is not a fictional place.

How can a person be saved?

Salvation is made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was uniquely qualified to be offered as a sacrifice for sinners.

Jesus, the substitute. (IN OUR PLACE)

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The virgin birth made it possible for Jesus to be sinless. Jesus was God in human flesh.

substitutionary atonement = Christ's death on the cross was a substitutionary atonement, meaning that he died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

Jesus, the satisfaction.

propitiation = satisfaction of God's wrath on sin.

1 John 2:2

*2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 John 4:10

*10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.*

Jesus, the sacrifice.

sacrifice = Jesus was offered in love by God as a spotless lamb for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. This is in reference to the Levitical system of offerings.

John 1:29

*29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the **Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Hebrews 9:12

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Salvation through Jesus is the only way to bridge the gap between us and God and to be reconciled to Him.

Acts 4:12

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Hebrews 9:22

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

There are no other ways for a person to be saved. Not many ways to God, only one.

Salvation cannot be earned by our own works or efforts. It is a gift that is freely given to us by God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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

grace = God's unmerited favor.

Salvation is a gift from God.

It was paid for by Jesus Christ and made available to you.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

works = anything you can do trying to earn favor with God.

- Baptism
- Church Attendance
- Good deeds
- Religious ceremony

Salvation is received through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and brought into a right relationship with God.

faith = Trust in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Romans 5:1

*1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Galatians 2:16

*16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, **but by the faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

What about repentance?

Repentance = Turning away from sin and turning to God.

Repentance is biblical and necessary for salvation. Repentance and faith are like two sides of the same coin.

- True repentance is shown by your faith.
- When you repent, you are exercising faith.

Mark 2:17

*17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***

Mark 1:15

*15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.***

Who can be saved?

Salvation is available to every person.

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.

This verse teaches that God's love is for the whole world, not just a select few.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

This verse teaches that God is patient and does not want anyone to perish. God desires every person to be saved.

Jesus died for every person, not just the elect.

Words like **election** and **teachings of Calvinism** can lead us to believe that Jesus only died for a few and that God chooses people to go to Hell.

This teaching is heresy and should be rejected.

1 John 2:2

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

What does salvation accomplish?

Salvation places you into the family of God.

We are adopted into the family of God.

John 1:12

12 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:

Galatians 4:5-6

*5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

Salvation makes you righteous before God.

Justification means we are no longer viewed as sinners but as righteous. Our identity changes.

Justification: Being declared righteous by God.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

justified - "Just as if I'd never sinned"

Salvation brings life to your spirit and makes you a new creation in Christ.

Ephesians 2:1

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

You begin a journey of becoming like Christ.

Sanctification: The process of being made holy by God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

Discipleship: The process of learning from and following Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:24

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

You have the promise of eternal life.

Glorification: The final state of being made perfect in Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

How can we have confidence that our salvation is secure forever?

Salvation is eternal.

Once we are saved, we are saved forever. Our salvation cannot be lost.

Eternal security: The assurance that once a person is saved, they will never be lost again.

John 10:28

*28 And I give unto them **eternal** life; and they shall never perish,*

John 6:47

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

The Greek tense of the verb "hath" in John 6:47 is the present tense. This means that the action of believing is happening now, in the present moment. The significance of this is that Jesus is not saying that believing in him will eventually lead to everlasting life. He is saying that believing in him right now, in this moment, gives us everlasting life.

Eternal life never ends.

Salvation is kept by the power of God, not by our own works.

God promises "no one" can take the believer from a safe position.

1 Peter 1:5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

John 10:27-29

27 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 me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Our eternal security is based on the grace of God and the fact that eternal life is a gift and it is eternal.

God purposed to glorify those he justified. He promises our eternal security.

Romans 8:30 *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

Group Discussion Questions

As a group, read the following questions and discuss. Be sure to give everyone an opportunity to answer.

- Read John 3:16 aloud in your group and answer the following:
 1. What is the motivation of God in sending Jesus to save us?
 2. What do you need to “do” according to this verse to be saved?

- What verse mentioned tonight was the most helpful for you? Was there anything that stood out to you to be encouraging, eye-opening, or helpful?

- What are you looking to get out of this summer course, how can the group pray for you?