

The Doctrine of Salvation

HOW AM I SAVED?

We all need to be saved. The Bible teaches that we all have broken God's Law. We all have sinned against God. We all are lawless. We all need salvation. We have domestic problems; our homes are breaking up. We have business problems, health problems, family problems. Sometimes we want to scream at life. We want to escape. We try to escape reality by using drugs or alcohol, or even by trying suicide. We are like a man the Bible tells us about, a man who cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" ...The Gospel—the Good News—is that, in spite of our sins, God loves us. He's willing to save us. He's willing to forgive us. ... "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

—Billy Graham, "Are You Saved?" *Decision Magazine*, Sept. 23, 2004

WHERE IS MY SECURITY? MY HOPE? MY TRUST?

Anyone with an honest assessment of life soon comes to the realization that there is something wrong with the world, something wrong with our relationships, something wrong with us...with you...and with me.

Pain. Suffering. Anxiety. Depression. Sorrow. Loss. Conflict. Violence. Disease. Disaster. Selfishness. Loneliness. Death.

Our biggest problems go much deeper than any kind of political, economic, psychological, or educational solutions. These things may bring temporary improvement; but they cannot transform hearts or bring new life to a dying world.

So where do I go for my security? Where do I put my trust? Where do I find true hope?

When it comes to the uncontrollable problems of life and the undeniable reality of death, we are helpless and hopeless without Jesus Christ, God's Son, the only Savior.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief (1 Timothy 1:15).

Jesus has come to **SAVE** us through His sinless life, atoning death, victorious resurrection, and expected return. Jesus is the spotless Lamb who paid for our sins on the cross and who conquered death by physically rising from the dead.

Have you personally trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Sin is the ultimate disease, the grand psychosis. You cannot escape it or defeat it on your own. ...It is not just that we are rebels and fools. Sin makes us moral quadriplegics. ...We simply cannot do the good we were created to do. —Paul David Tripp

Most of us think that if we work hard to be good people, that will suffice when we come to the judgment seat of God. The great myth of popular culture, which has penetrated the church, is that people can earn the favor of God, even though Scripture states clearly that by the works of the law no one shall be justified (Gal. 2:16). We are debtors who cannot pay our debt.

—R.C. Sproul

The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

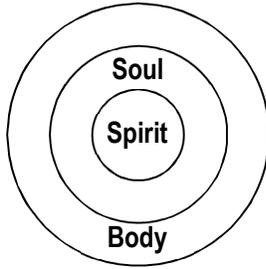
You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.

—Jonathan Edwards

Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ.

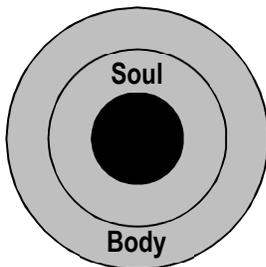
—Andrew Murray

OUR DIVINE CREATION (Genesis 1-2)



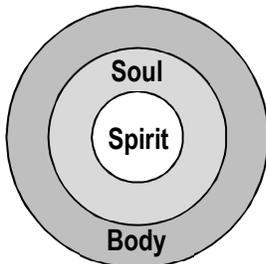
We are created in God's image, designed to live in relationship with Him and to reflect His glory (Genesis 1:27). Our body is designed to serve Him. Our soul—intellect, emotions, and will—is designed to know Him, love Him, and submit to Him. And our spirit is designed to worship Him alone.

OUR SINFUL CONDITION (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; 6:23)



Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die (Gen 2:16b-17). Adam's disobedience brought sin and death into our world (Rom. 5:12). As children of Adam, we are born spiritually dead with a selfish nature bent toward sin (Eph. 2:1).

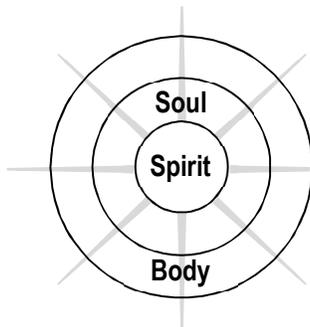
OUR GREATEST DECISION (John 3:16; 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9)



Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. He paid our debt so that we could have forgiveness. He rose from the dead, conquering death, so that we could have life. Salvation is offered as a free gift but we must receive it. *We must acknowledge our sin, believe in Jesus, and choose to trust Him alone as our Savior.* At that very moment, our spirit is resurrected!

In Christ, we are born again, forgiven, declared righteous, reconciled to God, indwelt and sealed by the Spirit, and guaranteed eternal life!

OUR COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION (Romans 8; 1 Cor. 15)



After we trust in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit begins His progressive work to transform our soul—intellect, emotions, and will—into greater likeness to Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). The final transformation takes place when Christ returns and our bodies are resurrected and transformed into the glorious likeness of His resurrection body (Phil. 3:20-21)!

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel. —Question #86, Westminster Shorter Catechism

*[Salvation] is by **grace alone**, with no merited favor whatever; on the basis of **Christ alone**, with no other sacrifice or righteousness as the foundation; through the means of **faith alone**, not including any human works whatsoever; to the end that all things lead ultimately to **the glory of God alone**; as taught with final and decisive authority in the **Scriptures alone**.*

—John Piper

*Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. ...I make a decision of my will to depend on, or put my trust in, Christ as **my** Savior.*

—Wayne Grudem

Regeneration is at the basis of all change in heart and life. It is a stupendous change because it is God's recreative act.

—John Murray

Do not be surprised, then, when you feel this battle of the sinful nature against the Spirit. ...The more godly you are, the more you feel this battle.

—Martin Luther

The Bible speaks of three tenses of salvation. *I have been saved* (past) in justification, declared righteous through faith in Christ. *I am being saved* (present) in sanctification, being transformed more and more into the image of Christ. *I will be saved* (future) in glorification, being fully redeemed with a glorified body.