

5 WEEK REVIEW OF THE STUDY OF OUR SALVATION

- The overall purpose of this multi-week study is not to just gain knowledge (though that is important), but it is to allow God's grace to expand our minds. As our minds are overwhelmed with the grace of God, our hearts are lit on fire to serve Him in all that we do.
- There are many questions that we have set out to answer:
- Why do all people need to be saved? Are all people equally sinful or bad in God's eyes? Did Jesus have to die for our sins? Did Jesus death make salvation only possible or by His death did He secure salvation for those who would believe? If we are saved, why do we still struggle with sin? Do I still have to keep the law to be saved? What role do the 10 Commandments have in my life as a Christian? Who is the Holy Spirit and what role does He place in our salvation, sanctification, and continued life in Christ? What does being saved have to do with church membership, spiritual gifts, one another ministry, and fellowship? Can anyone take me away from Jesus after I have been born again? What do I owe God after being born again? Can I ever be perfect in this life? What about shame, guilt, and other feelings about my sin?
- These are just of the areas that we are seeking to understand.
- We have answered some of these already and look forward to answering many more in the upcoming weeks.

Where we are, as we process the need for our salvation.

- Mankind was created by God; there was no evolutionary process involved.
- "Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." (Calvin)
- When we start with man's understanding of man, it cannot lead us to God. This is why there is so much confusion in our world today about who man is and what man can (morally) do.
- The belief in a literal Adam and Eve being created is ***foundational*** to our Christian life.
 - Inerrancy of Scripture. Jesus as the second Adam. Original Sin. Image of God in man.
- We then discussed God and started to gain wisdom about the character and nature of God.
- It's God's holiness and man's sinfulness that creates the gap between man and God. Man cannot reach God on his own so God had revealed Himself to mankind through general and special revelation. God and His standards are knowable.
- We discussed much regarding man's sinfulness and how sin has infected and affected every area of man's thoughts, desires, emotions, will, etc. He is completely dead spiritually and needs to be acted upon by an outside source.

- We then talked about how our society has changed the wording and definition of what sin really is to make it more palatable in this life.
- The Bible calls us to obedience, but if we don't know that sin is keeping us from obeying, then we are not going to be able to repent and get back on the right path with God.
- **The world says that people are naturally good**...the Bible says **Psalm 14:1-3** “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”
- **The world says that people are a product of their environment**¹...the Bible says **Romans 8:5** “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”
- **The world says that good and evil are left up to the person to decide**...the Bible says **2 Peter 3:11** “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...”
- **The world says that we must esteem ourselves higher**...the Bible says **Romans 12:3** “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”
- We then ended our last time together discussing the origin of sin, the fall of Satan, and how God uses even the sinful acts of mankind for His glory and our good.
- **Romans 8:28** “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”
- **Philippians 1:29** “For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...”

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/am-i-mainly-the-product-of-my-background#:~:text=The%20Bible%20teaches%20that%20human,they%20suppress%20that%20knowledge.%E2%80%9D>