

A Study of God – God’s Salvation

Aug 7-8, 2010

Introduction

- God’s Standard and Salvation – Genesis 3
 - 15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*
 - 21 *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*
- Doctrinal Statement {Salvation} = “*We believe that salvation is the gift of God and is received by personal faith in Jesus Christ whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins. We believe that our redemption has been accomplished by means of the grace of God and is not the result of any human works.*”
- Doctrinal Statement {Assurance of Salvation} = “*We believe that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word, which however clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality.*”
- Doctrinal Statement {Christian Conduct} = “*We believe that the Christian’s goal in conduct should be to glorify God among men and that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions and should strive to live a Christlike life guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.*”

Exegesis

➤ God’s Salvation Given – “*the gift of God*”

- **Ephesians 2:8-10**

8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

9 *not by works, so that no one can boast.*

10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- “*gift of God*”

- “by grace”
- “through faith”
- **God’s gift is given by grace**
 - Grace is the work of God on our behalf
 - Romans 3:23-24
 - 23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
 - 24 *and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*
 - “his grace” = Our salvation (justification) is really His salvation because it is by grace
 - 2 Timothy 1:8-9
 - 8 *So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,*
 - 9 *who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,*
 - “purpose and grace” = Salvation is God’s work – His plan, His actions, His accomplishment
 - It is only proper to speak of “our salvation” in that we benefit from it, but...
 - ...it is “His salvation” because it is His gift (an action of His love) that is given by His grace (His work on our behalf)
 - He (Trinity) planned it, He (Father) sent, He (Son) died – it’s all His work (His grace)
- **God’s gift is received by faith**
 - While salvation is accomplished by God’s grace, it is received by faith
 - Faith is an assent to God’s truth, a repentance for our failure to meet His standard and a trust in His salvation
 - John 5:24
 - 24 *I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*
 - “believes” = That Jesus came is not enough...that He came and you have heard of Him is not enough...there must be belief

➤ John 3:14-16

14 *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

15 *that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

- “believes” = Transfers their trust from their own efforts to His work

➤ Consider again man’s freedom

- In his freedom, man (Adam) chose to disobey God – to believe something else other than God and to violate His standard
- In his freedom, man (every human being) chooses to disobey God – believing something else other than God and violating His standard
- In his freedom, man must decide whether he will believe God in regards to His salvation
- Faith is necessary in salvation as it was necessary in keeping or violating God’s standard – man is free, God doesn’t force

❖ **God’s salvation is His gift – given by His grace (His work) and received by faith**

➤ **God’s Salvation Secured – “kept by God’s power”**

- **Security means forever – we cannot lose our salvation**

➤ Salvation, by grace – God’s work, is also secured by God’s work

➤ John 10:27-30

27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

28 *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

29 *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

30 *I and the Father are one."*

- “eternal life” = We believe it is eternal as given and not as finally received
- “never perish” = If perish, death, is truly separation from God, than those who are saved can never be separated from God

- “no one can snatch” = There is no one (or thing) that can dislodge those who are saved from the security of the Son and the Father
- God’s salvation is an eternal salvation – secure forever
- **Security does not mean sin – we cannot freely sin without discipline**
 - God’s salvation, from sin, does not entitle the one saved to return to or continue in sin (genuine repentance is key)
 - Titus 2:11-14
 - 11 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*
 - 12 *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,*
 - 13 *while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*
 - 14 *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*
 - “say ‘No’” = Security is not a license to say ‘Yes’ to ungodliness – violation of God’s standard
 - “live self-controlled, upright and godly lives” = Security is God’s blessing, which should lead us to respond in appropriate ways to His salvation
 - “purify for himself a people...eager to what is good” = Security is the foundation for pursuing what is good – not by fear or guilt but genuine zeal
 - God’s salvation, being secure, is not a freedom to sin

❖ **God’s salvation is secure – lasting forever but without a license to sin**

➤ **God’s Salvation Guided – “power of the Holy Spirit”**

- **Purpose – guided to glorify God**
 - God has saved us for a reason, a purpose – to reflect His glory
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - 18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
 - “the Spirit” = We are able to do this (bring God glory) because of the work of the Spirit in our lives – guiding us into God’s glory

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - 31 *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*
 - “do it all” = The Spirit is given to guide us in all areas of life – in whatever we do
- God’s salvation is guided in our lives to a purpose – to bring glory to God (Father, Son and Spirit)
- **Pattern – guided to become like Christ**
 - God has saved us but His salvation is guided by the Holy Spirit to change us to become like Jesus
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - 18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
 - “transformed into his likeness” = God’s salvation involves a process of changing us to be like Christ
 - Romans 8:29
 - 29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*
 - “conformed to the likeness of his Son” = An on-going work in the life of every believer
 - God’s salvation is guided in our lives to a pattern – to change us into the likeness of Jesus
- ❖ **God’s salvation is guided – bring about God’s purpose (His glory) and His pattern (Christ’s likeness)**

Response

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to know about God’s salvation so that we could enjoy it, live it and share it.**
 - Observers = Accept God’s gift by faith
 - Disciples = Enjoy and share God’s gift