

Our Great Salvation

Introduction

I. Introduction

In this course we will be studying the doctrine of Soteriology, the doctrine of salvation. This is an important and central doctrine as it touches nearly every other subject in the Bible.

- It intersects with the Theology Proper (the doctrine of the person and nature of God) as it is God's mercy and forgiveness balanced with justice and holiness that necessitates salvation.
- It intersects with Christology (the doctrine of the person and work of Christ) as He is our perfect substitute for sin, and our one and only Saviour.
- It intersects with Pneumatology (the doctrine of the work of the Holy Spirit), since it is He that convicts us of sin and produces the new life of Christ in us.
- It intersects with Hamartiology (the doctrine of sin), as it is the sin problem that requires a solution.
- It intersects with Eschatology (the doctrine of last things), as all who are lost will inhabit the lake of fire, and all the redeemed will inhabit the new heavens and new earth.
- It intersects with Bibliology (the doctrine of the Bible), as it is God's word that gives us the necessary information regarding our need for salvation, and the solution offered in Christ.
- It intersects with Anthropology (the doctrine of Man), as it is the only solution to man's sin problem and the only way to reestablish a proper relationship with his creator.

Soteriology, then, is central as it connects all of these doctrines together into a cohesive whole.

II. Course Outline

There are many ways to approach this doctrine, but the one used in this course will be the chronological. We will look at Soteriology from the viewpoint of the individual, starting in eternity past, and finishing in eternity future.

Soteriology

Salvation Defined

Salvation began in the mind of God before the creation of the world. It is God who planned salvation, and it is He and He alone who determines its recipients.

I. Election

Definition: Election is the sovereign, predetermined, and unmerited choice of God by which He chooses those who will be recipients of salvation. It comes from the Greek word *ekkaleo* which means "to call out from among."

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

Acts 13:46-48 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Romans 9:13-16 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

Romans 11:4-5 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 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: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

1 Thessalonians 1:3-4 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Luke 4:16-30 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily, I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

II. Foreknowledge

Definition: Foreknowledge is a predetermined planning of something, an intimate knowledge of someone or some event prior to its occurrence. It comes from the Greek word *proginosko* which means "to intimately know or determine beforehand."

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

III. Predestination

Definition: Predestination is a predetermined consequence or action. It comes from the Greek word *prooritzo* which means "to mark out beforehand."

Acts 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 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.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:11 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:

IV. Calvin and Jacob Arminius

A. Calvinism - first propounded by John Calvin - known by the acrostic TULIP

T - Total Depravity

Man cannot do anything to save himself.

U - Unconditional Election

Man did not do anything to merit his choice by God for salvation.

L - Limited Atonement	Christ died for all who were elected to salvation, not for the whole world.
I - Irresistible Grace	Those who are elect cannot resist the grace of God, and will be saved.
P - Perseverance of the Saints	Those who are elect will never lose their salvation.

B. Armenianism - very much the opposite of Calvinism

- Armenianism teaches that man is not totally depraved, there is still a part of man that can respond to the truth of God when confronted with that truth.
- Armenianism teaches that man is not unconditionally elected, but that anyone can believe if they so desire.
- Armenianism teaches that Christ died for the sins of the whole world, not just the elect.
- Armenianism teaches that God's grace can be resisted.
- Armenianism teaches that one can lose their salvation if they turn away from God and fall back into sin.

C. The Biblical Answer

1. The Bible teaches that man is totally lost and unable to respond (Ephesians 2:1, 1 Corinthians 2:14, John 6:44, Ephesians 4:17-18). Men do not seek God (Romans 3:11-18, Isaiah 53:6).
2. The Bible teaches that God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world for His own purpose alone (Ephesians 1:4-5, 1 Peter 1:1-2). This choice was made before we did anything to deserve it (Romans 9:11-13).
3. The Bible tells us that Christ's death is *sufficient* for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2), and is *efficient* only for those who believe (John 6:37, John 3:16, John 1:12).
4. The Bible teaches that all who have been chosen by God will believe (John 6:37, 39).
5. The Bible teaches that all who believe will persevere to the end and receive all that God has promised them (Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:29-30, John 6:39).

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Required

Before we can begin a discussion of the way in which man is saved, we need to be convinced that there is a problem. If man has no problem, or man can save himself, then there is no need for a Saviour.

I. Sin - The Real Problem

A. The Origin of Sin

1. The Origin of Sin in the Universe

Sin originated in the universe within the heart of Lucifer who wanted to be like the Most High (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28). Lucifer, who later became Satan, fell from his lofty position in the presence of God because of pride.

Isaiah 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

2. The Origin of Sin in this World

The Bible teaches us that sin found its entrance into this world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve who ate of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3, Romans 5:12).

Genesis 3:6-7 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

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:

B. The Results of Sin

1. Separation from God - Isaiah 59:1-2

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

2. Spiritual Death - Ephesians 2:1

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

3. Physical Death - Romans 5:12.

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:

4. Eternal Death - Revelation 20:11-15.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

II. Why Are All Men Sinners?

A. Because of the Imputed Sin of Adam

All men are sinners because of the imputed sin of Adam. This is called the *Federal Headship* view. Some teach that Adam's original sin is passed from generation to generation, but the best view is that of immediate imputation in which Adam's sin is directly credited to the account of each person born in the human family.

B. Because of the Flesh

The flesh is the unredeemed, physical body which is the source of all sinful desires (Romans 6:12, 7:18, 23). Men sin when they listen to the desires of the flesh and attempt to fulfill those desires outside of the boundaries of God's provision. Sex is not wrong, but when fulfilled outside of marriage, it becomes adultery and fornication.

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

C. Because Men Sin

Finally, men are sinners in the sense that they commit acts of sin. Note that men sin because they are sinners, men are not sinners only because they sin.

III. How Is Man's Sin Problem Solved?

A. The Imputed Sin of Adam

When a man is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, their identification with Adam is broken, and a new relationship to Christ is born. The old identification with Adam is described in the New Testament as the "Old Man" or "Old Nature." According to Romans 6:6 the old man has been crucified and is no longer operative in the life of the believer. In its place is a new nature, which is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Textual notes: the words "is crucified" in Romans 6 are in the Greek aorist tense, which denotes a completed act in time past. The words "put off" in Ephesians 4:22

are in the perfect tense which denotes a past completed act with continuing results. It is better translated "having put off."

B. The Flesh (Greek sarx)

This is where the struggle for the believer lies. The old nature (or old man) is gone, but the flesh remains. When believers submit to the desires of the flesh, they sin (Romans 6:12). Romans 7 gives us a picture of the struggle between the flesh and the spirit, especially in verses 15-25. The solution for this problem is the elimination of this body of flesh either by death and resurrection, or transformation at the rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51ff.)

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 7:15-25 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

C. Individual Sins

The individual sins of believers have been forgiven in total by God, and as a result they are expunged from our record before God. When a person becomes redeemed, they are declared righteous by God (the act of justification). This judicial act of God means that all sin is forgiven, past, present, and future (Psalm 103:12).

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

John tells us in 1 John 1:9 that if we "continually confess our sin" that Christ will "continually forgive us our sin." In 2:1 we are told that Christ is our advocate, our defense lawyer before the throne of God. In Hebrews 7:25 we are told that Christ ever lives to make intercession for us, and in Romans 8:34 Paul tells us that Christ is even now making intercession for us before the throne of God.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

If it were possible to die with even one sin uncovered, we would not be allowed to enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). Adam only committed one sin to plunge the entire human race into sin.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Pictured

Throughout the Old Testament we find many pictures of salvation. In this study we will look at these various pictures and see what they tell us of salvation.

I. Adam and Eve - A Proper Covering

A. The Old Testament Picture

After Adam and Eve's sin they made themselves clothes out of fig leaves to cover their nakedness. God, however, made them clothes from the skins of animals, thus picturing the heinousness of their sin. This pictures the necessity of a blood sacrifice to cover sin and the fact that human works cannot cover sin.

Genesis 3:7-21 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

B. The New Testament Reality

Christ is the source of true righteousness which clothes the one who believes.

Zechariah 3:1-5 And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

II. Cain and Abel - A Proper Offering

A. The Old Testament Picture

Cain and Abel brought their respective offerings to the Lord, but only Abel's was accepted. A close examination of the text reveals that both knew what the Lord wanted but only Abel brought the proper sacrifice. Cain is a picture of man coming to the Lord on his own terms, Abel is a picture of man coming to the Lord on God's terms.

Genesis 4:3-7 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

B. The New Testament Reality

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Philippians 3:4-9 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

III. The Ark - A Proper Protection

A. The Old Testament Picture

Noah was commanded by God to build an ark in which Noah, his family, and representative land animals would be protected from the flood. An interesting note is that the Hebrew word for "pitch", *kephar*, is the same as that for "atonement."

Genesis 6:17-19 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

B. The New Testament Reality

Christ is our protection, having taken the wrath of God upon Himself so that we would be spared the divine judgment of God.

Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

IV. Abraham and Isaac - A Proper Substitute

A. The Old Testament Picture

Abraham was told to take Isaac, his only son, and offer him as a burnt offering to the Lord. Just before the knife fell, Abraham's hand was stayed, and a ram caught in a thicket became the substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac.

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:9-13 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

B. The New Testament Reality

Christ is our perfect substitute. He took our place on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like

sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

V. The Bronze Serpent - A Proper Cure

A. The Old Testament Picture

Because of their incessant murmuring, God sent fiery serpents into the camp of Israel. Whoever was bitten by these serpents eventually died. The only cure was a brazen serpent which when looked upon would cure the one bitten.

Numbers 21:5-9 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

B. The New Testament Reality

Christ is the only cure for sin, and incurable disease that will ultimately result in eternal death for all who do not believe.

John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

VI. The Passover Lamb - A Proper Sacrifice

A. The Selection

The passover lamb had to be without blemish and spot, and observed for three days in order to make sure that it is without flaw.

Exodus 12:5-6 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Christ was without blemish and spot, and observed for three years by men during which time they could find no fault with Him.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by

tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

B. The Sacrifice

On the fourteenth day of Nisan, the lamb was to be killed, and the blood sprinkled on the door.

Exodus 12:6-7 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Christ died on the fourteenth of Nisan, A.D. 29 (or 32), just as the passover lamb was being killed at the temple mount.

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

C. The Substitute

When the death angel observed the blood on the doorposts and lintel, he would pass over that house, thus sparing the firstborn from death.

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Christ is our substitute, His blood is the satisfaction for our sin.

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

VII. The Day of Atonement - A Proper Covering

A. The Priestly Preparation

The high priest was to make a sin offering for himself before performing any other rituals.

Leviticus 16:5-6 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

Christ, our perfect lamb, needed to make no sin offering for Himself as He Himself was the offering.

Hebrews 7:26-27 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

B. The Procedure

The high priest would take the blood of the goat and sprinkle it on the mercy seat inside the holy of holies.

Leviticus 16:15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

Christ came into the heavenly holy of holies and offered Himself.

Hebrews 9:12 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.

Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

C. The Permanance

The Old Testament Day of Atonement needed to be observed yearly.

Leviticus 16:29-31 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

Christ offered Himself once. His sacrifice was good for all time.

Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

D. The Purging of Sin

The body of the goat and bull was to be carried outside the camp and burned with fire.

Leviticus 16:27 And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

Christ suffered “without the camp” as our sin sacrifice.

Hebrews 13:11-13 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Effected

Salvation was effected by the person and work of Jesus Christ. If God could have redeemed man any other way, He would have. However, He could not, and it cost Him His only Son. In this session we will look at the life and work of Christ as it relates to our salvation.

I. A Proper Birth

A. The Right Time

God sent forth His Son at the time appointed in eternity past.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

B. The Right Lineage

1. The Redeemer had to be of the seed of woman

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

2. The Redeemer had to be a man

Hebrews 2:10-15 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-8 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

3. The Redeemer had to be a Jew

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

4. The Redeemer had to be a descendant of David

Psalms 89:3-4 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

2 Samuel 7:12-17 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

C. The Right Method of Birth - Virgin Born**1. Required because of prophecy**

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

2. Required because Christ is God**3. Required to bypass the imputed guilt of Adam****a. The guilt of Adam is directly imputed to all men who have Adam as their father**

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

b. Christ was never identified with Adam since He was begotten by the Holy Ghost

Luke 1:31-35 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

II. The Proper Life

A. He Grew

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

B. He Was Tempted

Matthew 4:1ff.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Temptability - the possibility of being tempted

Impeccability - the quality of character that refuses to yield to temptation

Christ was temptable and impeccable.

1. *posse non peccarre* - Christ was able to sin, but did not
 - Easily explains that He was tempted just like us but without sin.
 - Implies God could have sinned.
 - Implies that the plan of God in eternity past could have been not accomplished.
2. *non posse peccarre* - Christ was not able to sin
 - Christ could not sin because He is God, and God cannot sin.

- Accounts for the sovereignty of God in that God's plan was inviolable.
- No real problem with Christ's endurance of temptation since He endured the undiluted temptations of Satan but was unable to succumb.

C. Christ Was Without Sin

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

2 Corinthians 5:21 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.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

III. The Proper Death

A. By Crucifixion

1. As predicted by David

Psalm 22

2. As predicted by Christ

Mark 10:33-34 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Matthew 17:22-23 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

3. Outside the camp

Hebrews 13:11-13 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

4. As a bloody sacrifice

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain,

having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

- **Christ died as a blood sacrifice, but Christ did not bleed to death**

- i. **He voluntarily gave up His spirit**

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

- ii. **He said that no man could take His life from Him**

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

- iii. **He still had blood after His death**

John 19:33-34 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

IV. The Proper Burial

A. As Predicted by Isaiah

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

John 19:38-42 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

B. As Proof That Christ Was Dead

- **The Romans were experts at crucifixion and death. The fact that they allowed Christ to be buried gives proof that He was indeed dead.**

C. An Essential Proof of the Resurrection

- **Christ was resurrected, not resuscitated.**

- The burial was long enough to prove the validity that Christ was actually resurrected.

V. The Proper Resurrection

A. The Resurrection Proved Christ Was God

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;

B. The Resurrection Proved that Christ's Death Was Accepted by God

Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

C. The Resurrection Proved That What Christ Said Was True

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

D. The Resurrection Proves That We Will Be Resurrected As Well

2 Corinthians 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

1 Corinthians 15:13-19 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

E. The Resurrection Proves That Satan Will Be Destroyed

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

VI. The Proper Result

A. Christ Became Our Substitute

1. Christ did not pay a ransom to Satan for us.
2. Christ was not merely a moral influence.
3. Christ was not merely a good example.
4. Christ did take our place and pay the penalty for our sin

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

1 Peter 3:18 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:

B. Christ Provides Redemption

- Redemption means “to purchase from the marketplace in order to set free.” Christ has purchased us from the slave market of sin to free us to worship and serve God.

1. As pictured in the Old Testament

- Boaz (in the book of Ruth), and Jeremiah (in Jeremiah 32) are two Old Testament examples of “kinsman redeemers.” A kinsman redeemer acted in the behalf of another in order to redeem property that had been sold, or to fulfill the duties of a near-relative in the laws of the levirate marriage.
- The three essential qualifications of a kinsman redeemer was 1) that they be a qualified near-relative, 2) that they be able to redeem, and 3) that they be willing to redeem.

2. As personified in the New Testament

a. Christ was our near-relative

Hebrews 2:10-15 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the

children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-8 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

b. Christ is able to redeem

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 9:12 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.

c. Christ is willing to redeem

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

C. Christ Provides Reconciliation

- **Reconciliation refers to the process whereby those that were once enemies are made friends. Prior to salvation, we were the enemies of God. After salvation, we are part of His family, joint-heirs with Christ.**

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Colossians 1:20-22 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconcile In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Romans 5:10-11 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his

life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

D. Christ Is The Propitiation For Our Sin

- **Propitiation refers to the fact that Christ has appeased God's wrath and has made us acceptable to God.**

1 John 2:21 John 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 4:101 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 3:24-25 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

E. Christ Provides Remission of Sins

- **Remission is that process whereby our sins are "put away." It is the subtraction of our sin.**

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Our Great Salvation Salvation Appropriated

One of the greatest questions in the Bible was asked by the Philippian jailor in Acts 16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This is the greatest and most important question that can be asked, and one that requires a proper answer.

I. The Two Pillars of Salvation

A. Salvation Has Always Been Anchored In God's Grace

- Many make a distinction between salvation in the Old and New Testament times by saying that the Old Testament saints were saved by works. This is not true. Salvation always has been by grace.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

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.

Exodus 32:12-13 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

1. **Grace is Undeserved - no one deserves salvation.**
2. **Grace is Unearned - no one can earn salvation.**

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

3. **Grace is Unmerited - no one can merit salvation due to pedigree.**
4. **Grace is Unconditional - God alone determines who receives His grace and who does not.**

Romans 9:15-16 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.

5. **Grace is Unsought - no one seeks for God's grace. Romans 3:10-17.**

Romans 3:10-17 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known:

6. **Grace is Unmixable - salvation is by grace, or by works, not a combination of both.**

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

7. **Grace precludes boasting.**

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

B. Salvation Has Always Been Appropriated By Faith

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.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

- **Noah built the ark by faith**

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- **Abraham left Ur to go to a land God would show him by faith.**

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

- **Abel offered a better sacrifice by faith**

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

II. The Gospel - What Is It?

A. It is a knowledge of the Person and work of Jesus Christ

1. Who He Is

- **God**

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- **Perfect Man**

1 Peter 2:22-23 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

2 Corinthians 5:21 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.

- **Perfect Substitute**

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2. What He Did

- **Died, buried, rose again - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

3. What He Can Do

- **Save men**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

- **Keep those that are His**

John 10:27-31 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

B. It is a knowledge of the condition of man**1. Man is unable to save himself**

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. Man is totally lost

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

3. Man is under God's condemnation

John 3:36 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.

4. Man will be eternally lost unless God intervenes

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

C. It is a knowledge of the provision of God

1. Christ's substitution

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. God can redeem because Christ paid the penalty for sin

Romans 3:24-26 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

D. It is a knowledge of the method of appropriation

1. Faith

Romans 10:9-10 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. Repentance - Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:10, 26:20

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 26:20 But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

III. The Vocabulary of Appropriation

A. Faith

- **Faith is active, never passive.** *It is a belief in God which results in some action on our part.*

1. Faith is first of all grounded in facts. Although these facts do not necessarily lend themselves to tangible proofs, they do exist and can be understood. Saving faith is based in the fact of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice for our sins and the fact that we can escape condemnation for our sin by placing our trust in Christ. Salvation is not a leap into the unknown, it is based on facts revealed by God in the Scriptures.
2. It is not enough to believe the facts of the gospel, one must go further and affirm the truth of those facts. There are many people in the world today who are aware of the facts of salvation, but they have not taken the second step of affirming the absolute truths of those facts. James 2:19 states that "**the devils believe and tremble.**"
3. The third element of true faith is internalization. This is when the facts are considered, affirmed as true, and incorporated into the life of the one believing. There are people who are aware of the facts of salvation and even affirm them as true, but have not internalized them in their lives.
4. Fourthly, one must believe the facts, affirm their truth, internalize them, and put their total trust in those facts. This is the point at which the grace of God is activated. We must totally trust God even though we may not understand the full implications of that trust.
5. Lastly, true faith looks forward to the day when faith becomes sight. We have labeled this concept hope. In doing this, however, we must understand hope in the New Testament sense and not in our modern English sense. The word "hope" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *elpidos*. It refers to something that is certain but waiting for fulfillment. In other words, when we "hope" for salvation we are not questioning whether or not we will be saved, we are merely waiting for the complete fulfillment of that salvation.

B. Repentance

1. What it is not
 - a. It is not reformation
 - b. It is not remorse, examples are Judas and Esau
 - c. It is not penitence

2. What repentance is

It is a voluntary and sincere change in the mind of the sinner, causing him to turn from his sin. (It is a turning from sin, i.e. the rejection of Christ). It deals with the mind as well as the heart.

- a. As expressed in the ministry of John the Baptist - Matthew 3:2, 8

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

b. As expressed in the ministry of Jesus - Matthew 9:13, Luke 13:5

Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

c. As expressed in the ministry of Peter - Acts 2:38, 3:19

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

d. As expressed in the ministry of Paul - Acts 26:20, 17:30

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 26:20 But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

C. Justification

1. The need for justification

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

2. The definition of justification

a. What it is not

1). It does not mean to be acquitted

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

2). It does not mean to be pardoned

3). It does not mean to be paroled

b. What it is

- **Justification is the judicial act of God where, on the account of Christ, he declares the guilty sinner righteous.**

3. The method of justification**a. It is by faith**

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

b. It is by grace

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

4. The results of justification**a. The remission of sin's penalty**

Acts 13:38-39 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:33-34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

b. The restoration to Divine favor

Romans 5:1-11 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

c. **The imputation of Christ's righteousness**

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

D. **Adoption**

1. **Adoption defined**

- **The word literally means "to place a son."**

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

- **In the Roman judicial system, adoption had four results:**

1. **The adopted person had a new name.**
2. **The adopted person lost all connections to their old family.**
3. **The adopted person had their past erased.**
4. **The adopted person received a new inheritance.**

2. **How spiritual adoption differs from civil adoption**

- a. **We never adopt our children, God never adopts any other but his own child**

- b. **Civil adoption provides comfort for the childless, but God had a beloved Son prior to adopting us**

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- c. **There are many pleasing qualities in a child to enable them to be adopted civilly, God found no good qualities in us**

- d. **Civil adoption never gives the child the nature of the father, but God's adopted are given the very mind of Christ**

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

- e. **In some cases, civil adoption could be declared null and void, not so with God**

3. How spiritual adoption compares with civil adoption

a. The Father must begin the action leading to adoption

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

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.

b. Both adoptions give and inheritance to one who previously had none

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

c. Both adoptions provide a new name

Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

E. Forgiveness

1. Positional forgiveness

- **When a person comes to God for salvation, they are positionally forgiven. That is, they have a new standing before God in which all their sins, past, present, and future are completely and totally forgiven.**

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Romans 4:6-8 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

2. Parental forgiveness

- **When a believer sins, their communion with God is broken. Their position before God is still that of a son, but their fellowship with God is lost until they ask forgiveness for their sin.**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

F. Regeneration**1. The definition of regeneration**

- **It is that process whereby God, through a second birth, imparts to the believing sinner a new nature.**

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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

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. The necessity of regeneration

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

a. By nature, all men are dead

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

b. By nature all men are children of wrath

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

c. By nature all men are sons of disobedience

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

d. By nature, all men are cursed with Adam's sin

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:

1 Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

3. The means of regeneration - three factors**a. The Word of God**

John 3:5 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.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

b. The man of God

Romans 10:13-15 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

1 Corinthians 15:18-20 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

c. The Spirit of God

John 3:5-6 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

4. The fruits of regeneration

a. The twice-born person now loves other Christians

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

b. The twice-born person now loves Jesus

1 John 5:1-2 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

c. The twice-born person now loves the separated life

1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

d. The twice-born person now loves his enemies

Matthew 5:43-45 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

e. The twice-born person now loves the Word of God - Psalm 119

f. The twice-born person now loves the souls of men - Romans 9:1-3

Romans 9:1-3 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

g. The twice-born person now loves prayer

Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Proven - Sanctification

I. Sanctification

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

A. Sanctification defined

1. What it is not

a. It is not the eradication of the sin nature

Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

b. It is not the second blessing

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

c. It is not the baptism by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

d. It is not instantaneous

2. What is is

a. Sanctification occurs in various forms some 300 times in the New Testament and 760 times in the Old. The basic meaning in all these cases is "to be set apart."

- b. It is progressive in nature
- B. Sanctification/Justification contrasted**
1. Justification deals with standing, sanctification deals with our state
 2. Justification is what God does for us, sanctification is what God does in us
 3. Justification is an act, sanctification is a work
 4. Justification is the means, sanctification is the end
 5. Justification declares us righteous, sanctification makes us righteous
 6. Justification removes the guilt and penalty of sin, sanctification checks the growth and power of sin
- C. Sanctification achieved - Romans 6**
1. Sanctification implies we are dead to sin - Romans 6:1-14
 - a. Three Key Words
 - Know
 - Reckon
 - Yield
 - b. The Question - Romans 6:1

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
 - c. The Answer - Romans 6:2

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
 - d. The Proof
 - 1). Our Identification with Christ

Romans 6:3-5 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

2). Our Freedom from the Sin Principle

Romans 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

3). Our Position in Christ

Romans 6:8-10 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

4). Our Reckoning Regarding Sin

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5). Our Submission to God**a). Let Not Sin Reign**

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

b). Do Not Yield Your Members as Instruments of Unrighteousness

Romans 6:13a Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin...

c). Do Yield Your Members as Instruments of Righteousness

Romans 6:13b ...but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

d). Sin Has No More Dominion Over Us

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

2. Sanctification implies we are free to serve God - Romans 6:15-23**a. The Question**

Romans 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?...

b. The Answer

Romans 6:15b ...God forbid.

c. **An Axiom**

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

d. **The Proof**

1). **Our New Master**

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

2). **Our New Walk**

Romans 6:19-20 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

2 Peter 1:3-11 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

3). Our New Wages

Romans 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Proven - Security and Assurance

I. Assurance of Salvation

In dealing with this subject there are two major issues with which to deal. The first is the assurance of salvation, the second is the security of salvation.

A. The Security of Salvation

The security of salvation answers the question, can a truly redeemed person ever lose their salvation? The answer to this is a resounding no!

1. Supposed arguments against salvation

- a. **Some confuse passages dealing with false teachers to refer to believers.**

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. 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. 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.

- b. **Some confuse passages dealing with apostates to refer to believers.**

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

- c. **Some confuse passages dealing with profession to refer to believers.**

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. 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- d. **Some confuse passages dealing with a state of sin to refer to believers committing acts of sin.**

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

2. Proofs for the security of salvation**a. As proved by the plan of God**

Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 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.

Ephesians 1:4-6 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: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

b. As proved by the work of Christ

Romans 8:31-39 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 6:37-39 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

c. As proved by the keeping power of God

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father,

which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

d. As proved by the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13-14 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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

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

B. The Assurance of Salvation

The assurance of salvation answers the question, How can I know for sure I am redeemed.

1. Reasons people lack assurance (taken from series on 2 Peter by John MacArthur)
 - a. People may sit under strong preaching against sin and hence feel unforgiven.
 - b. People may have a hard time accepting God's forgiveness for their sin.
 - 1). Their conscience accuses them.
 - 2). God's holiness and the law speak against forgiveness.
 - 3). God's justice speaks against forgiveness.
 - c. People may not understand the Gospel of grace.
 - d. People may not remember the exact time of their salvation.
 - e. People may struggle against the flesh and hence feel like failures.
 - f. People may be facing severe trials and feel as though God does not love them and does not care.
 - g. People fail to walk in the Holy Spirit.
 - 1). The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word to us.
 - 2). The Holy Spirit reveals the truth of the Gospel.

3). The Holy Spirit bears witness with us.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

4). The Holy Spirit brings fruit into our lives.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

5). The Holy Spirit empowers us for service.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

h. People may be living in sin.**2. Eleven tests to determine if you have true, saving faith.****a. Do you enjoy fellowship with Christ?**

1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

b. Are you sensitive to sin in your life?

1 John 1:5-9 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

c. Are you obedient (direction, not perfection) to the Word?

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

d. Have you rejected the world?

1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

e. Do you eagerly await the second coming?

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

f. Do you see a pattern of decreasing sin in your life?

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

g. Do you love other Christians?

1 John 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

h. Have you experienced answered prayer?

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

i. Have you experienced the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

j. Can you discern truth from error?

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

k. Have you experienced persecution because of your faith?

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Our Great Salvation

Salvation Perfected, Realized, and Enjoyed

I. Glorification, The Resurrection of the Believer

A. The Key Verse

Acts 17:32-34 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

In this passage we find that Paul had made his way to Athens, and was asked to speak to the philosophers of the day. His message on the resurrection brought three responses, which we see today:

1. Some mocked.
2. Some said "this is interesting, we will hear more of this later."
3. Some believed.

B. The Resurrection of the Believer Stated

1. By Christ

Matthew 22:29-32 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

John 11:23-26 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

2. By Paul

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.

3. By John

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4. By Daniel

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

5. By Job

Job 19:25-27 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

C. What Will We Be Like?

1. We will have a body like Christ's - Philippians 3:20-21, 1 John 3:2-3

a. Recognizable, yet unrecognizable

- The disciples on the road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35, especially vv. 16, 31
- Mary in the Garden - John 20:11-18

b. Able to eat

- Jesus by the Sea of Galilee - John 21:10-14
- Jesus in the Upper Room - Luke 24:41-43

c. Able to appear and disappear at will

- Jesus in Luke 24:31 (Emmaus) and Luke 24:36 (Upper Room)
- Jesus in John 20:19 and 20:26

d. Like the pre-resurrection body, yet different

- Jesus hand's, feet, and side in John 20:24-29

e. A glorious body - Philippians 3:20-21

2. **We will be incorruptible** (*aphtharsian* - not subject to decay)

1 Corinthians 15:52-54 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

3. **We will be immortal** (*athansian* - undying)

1 Corinthians 15:52-54 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

4. **We will have an eternal body**

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

5. **We will have a body free from sin**

Romans 8:19-23 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

D. **When Will We Receive our Resurrection Body?**

- **The Bible speaks of two resurrections, the first and the second**

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1. First Resurrection**a. Christ and the firstfruits**

1 Corinthians 15:23a But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits;

Matthew 27:51-53 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

b. The Rapture or Main Harvest

1 Corinthians 15:23b ...afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

c. The Last Gleanings, Millennial Saints

1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

2. Second Resurrection**• The resurrection of condemnation - Revelation 20:6, 10-15**

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

E. Implications of Our Resurrection**1. We should purify ourselves**

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2. We should realize our citizenship is in heaven

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.

3. We should look forward to that day in hope

Romans 8:23-25 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

4. We should not unduly concern ourselves with our current body but exercise ourselves to godliness

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

II. Heaven - Our Eternal Home**A. Why Study Heaven?****1. Heaven is where all that is eternally precious to us exists****1. The Father is in Heaven**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

2. The Son is in Heaven

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

3. The Holy Angels are in Heaven

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Mark 12:25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are [in heaven].

Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

4. Our Reward is in Heaven

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure [in heaven]: and come and follow me.

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have [in heaven] a better and an enduring substance.

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5. Our Names are Written in Heaven

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

6. Our Home is in Heaven

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Hebrews 13:14 (For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Hebrews 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

7. Our Eternal Family is in Heaven

Ephesians 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Revelation 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

8. Our Citizenship is in Heaven

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

9. Our Hope is in Heaven

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

10. The True Temple is in Heaven

Revelation 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

11. Satan is in Heaven only Temporarily

Revelation 12:7 And there was war [in heaven]: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

B. What Heaven Is

Heaven is referred to over 550 times in the Bible. The Hebrew word, *shamayim*, means heights. The Greek word is *ouranos* from which we get Uranus.

1. Heaven is a place

a. The atmospheric heavens

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 147:8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.

b. The planetary heavens

Psalms 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

c. The divine heaven

Isaiah 63:15 Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Psalms 33:13 The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

Psalms 33:14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

Heaven came to be so closely associated with God, that the Hebrews used the word "heaven" to refer to "God" in much the same way we use the phrase "white house" to refer to the President.

2. Heaven is a sphere

Ephesians 1:3ff tell us we have been placed in the heavenlies. We do not occupy heaven yet, but we are in a sphere of God's rule which is referred to as the heavenlies.

C. The Intermediate State

The Bible does not give us a lot of information regarding the intermediate state of the righteous dead before the resurrection of Christ. There are two basic views. The first states that there was an intermediate place in which the righteous dead went to await the resurrection of Christ. The other states that the righteous dead went immediately into the presence of God. I lean towards the latter view. In any case, we know from Philippians 1:20ff that when a believer dies now, he is immediately taken to heaven.

1. Arguments For an Intermediate State

- a. The sins of the righteous dead before the cross were not paid for but put on account. See Romans 3:24ff.
- b. Christ told the thief on the cross that "today thou shalt be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Note that Christ did not tell the thief he would be with him in heaven.
- c. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man could see Lazarus. How could this be if hades is "down below" and heaven is "up above?". (Note however that we are never told the exact location of hades.
- d. In Ephesians 4:6ff we are told that "Christ led captivity captive". This is interpreted to refer to the Roman custom of returning from battle with the freed Romans citizens in parade. Those who were captive are now "led in captivity".

2. Arguments Against an Intermediate State

1. Just because the sins of the pre-cross righteous were not paid, there payment was a certainty. Hence God would have no reason to keep them out of heaven.
2. Although Christ told the thief he would be with him in paradise, the word "paradise" is also used in 2 Corinthians 12:4 to refer to heaven as well as in Revelation 2:7. Paradise does not have to refer to an intermediate state.

D. Where Heaven Is

1. Upward

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive {and} remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. Distance

Infinitely far away. The current known universe extends some 100,000,000 light years away, some 6,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles. However, this distance is but a short hop for God.

E. The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:1-7 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

1. What is it?

- a. The capitol of the new heaven - Hebrews 11:10, 12:22-24
- b. The dwelling place of the Church, the bride of Christ - Revelation 21:2ff compared with Revelation 19:9

2. Its description

1. It has the glory of God to illuminate it

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

2. Brilliant, made of clear stones

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

3. It has high walls symbolizing security

Revelation 22:14-15 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

4. It has twelve gates, each a pearl

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

5. Its foundations are made of twelve kinds of stone

Revelation 21:14-21 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

6. It is a cube of 1,500 miles

Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

a. **It would contain 2.25 million square miles**

b. **It would have enough room for 100 billion people**

7. It is made of transparent materials

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

3. New Jerusalem city life**1. There is no temple, God dwells there in person - Revelation 21:22**

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

2. There is no sun or moon, God is its light

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

3. It is secure, God protects it

Revelation 21:25-26 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

4. Its citizens will be perfect, no sin will ever come in it

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

5. It has a river of living water and fruit trees for the enjoyment of the redeemed

Revelation 22:1-2 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

6. It is a place of perfect fellowship

Revelation 22:3-5 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

F. What Will We Be Like?

1. A perfected soul

a. Negatively

1). No sin

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:14-15 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and

sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

2). **No sorrow, suffering, pain, or death**

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

b. **Positively**

1). **Pleasure**

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

2). **Complete and perfect knowledge**

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

3). **Perfect comfort**

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

4). **Perfect joy**

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2. **A perfected body**

a. **We are promised resurrection**

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

b. **It is a glorious body, just like Christ's**

1 John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world

knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.

G. How Will We Relate to Others?

1. Our relation to angels

a. We will commune with them

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

b. We will worship with them - Revelation 4:4ff

c. We will be served by them

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

2. Our relation to family

a. We will not have the same relationships that we had in life - Matthew 22:23ff

b. We will enjoy our reunion with loved ones - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3. Our relation to other believers

1. We have identity - Luke 19:16ff

2. We will recognize others - Matthew 17:3, 22:32

3. We will all be perfect and hence have perfect fellowship

H. What Will We Do?

A. Worship

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 7:9-12 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

B. Reign

Revelation 3:20-21 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

C. Serve

Revelation 22:3-5 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

D. Rest

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

E. We will be served

Luke 12:35-37 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.