

**THE WAY OF
SALVATION**
Lesson 1 Slide 1

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OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION

The Bible describes us, because of our sin, as being lost, separated from God and unable to save ourselves.

Ours is a hopeless condition indeed.

Yet God wants us to be saved.

The dilemma that faced God was this:



How can He forgive our sins and also carry out the justice that His law demands for violators?

God cannot ignore the fact that we have broken His holy law and that carries a severe penalty.

In Jesus Christ, the Father found One whose death would fully satisfy the demands of justice, thereby enabling Him to forgive our sins.

THE WAY OF SALVATION.



Why Jesus Came / The need for the death of Jesus
From the announcement of His conception,
the mission of Jesus was linked
to our spiritual recovery.

The angel told Joseph that the child Mary
was carrying was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
The child was to be named Jesus
"because He will save His people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:21;)

THE WAY OF SALVATION.



This redemptive theme was echoed throughout the ministry of the Lord Jesus, The Christ.

He said that He had come:-

**"to seek and to save what was lost" and
"to give His life as a ransom for many."**

(Luke 19:10; Matthew 20:28;)

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

23. “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24. being **justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption** which is in Christ Jesus;”

“25. whom God displayed publicly as **a propitiation in His blood** through faith. To **demonstrate His righteousness**, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26. for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that **He would be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Rom 3:23-26; NASB



THE WAY OF SALVATION.

23. “Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal;
24. yet now God declares us ‘**not guilty**’ of offending him
if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in His kindness
freely takes away our sins.”

“25. For **God sent Christ Jesus** to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. **He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from His wrath.** In this way He was being entirely fair, even though He did not punish those who sinned in former times.
For He was looking forward to the time
when Christ would come and take away those sins.”

“26. And now in these days also He can receive sinners in this same way, because Jesus took away their sins. **But isn't this unfair for God to let criminals go free, and say that they are innocent?** No, for He does it **on the basis of their trust in Jesus who took away their sins.**” LVB.



THE WAY OF SALVATION. SALVATION FROM SIN.

"We have all sinned." (Romans 3:23;)

"and we are all worthy of death." (Romans 6:23;)

"But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God certainly is full of grace to offer every person in every nation salvation.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11;)

God shows the depth of His love by giving us the opportunity to be saved, since we have been rebellious and sinful.

"But God demonstrates His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8;)



**When you know a pretty story,
don't you let it go unsaid.
You tell it to your children,
As you tuck them into bed.**

**When you know a wonderful secret,
you can tell it to your friends.
You can tell them that a lifetime
filled with Jesus,
is like a street that never ends.**

**So sing that, sweet song of salvation,
let your laughter fill the air,
sing that, sweet song of salvation,
let the people know that Jesus cares
sing that,**

**Sing that sweet song of salvation,
to every man and every nation,
sing that, sweet song of salvation,
and let the people know that Jesus cares!**

**Look around you, as you sing it,
there are people everywhere,
and each time they stop to listen
each song becomes a prayer.**

**And when you know a wonderful secret,
you can tell it to your friends,
You can tell them that a lifetime
filled with Jesus,
is like a street that never ends.**

**So sing that, sweet song of salvation,
let your laughter fill the air,
sing that, sweet song of salvation,
let the people know that Jesus cares
sing that,**

**Sing that sweet song of salvation,
to every man and every nation,
sing that, sweet song of salvation,
and let the people know that Jesus cares!**

THE LOVE OF GOD

ROMANS 5:6-8;



ROMANS 5:6-8;

“While we were still WEAK, at the right time Christ died for the UNGODLY.

Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man - though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.

But God shows HIS LOVE for US in that while we were yet SINNERS Christ died for us.”

ROMANS 5:6-8;

“While we were still



weak

at the right time Christ died.”

Have you ever felt you are **IN OVER YOUR HEAD?**

You find yourself doing things
that you **DON'T** want to do?

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

YOU FEEL PUSHED by peer pressure to go **ALONG WITH THE CROWD**. You **LACK** the strength to stand against them.

When I was young I was challenged to punch the glass out of a window of an old mill and I still have the scars to show for it. **WEAK AND HELPLESS, CAUGHT UP IN THE CROWD**, wanting to be **ACCEPTED**, we find ourselves doing things that **WE KNOW WE SHOULD NOT BE DOING**.

YET PAUL SAYS THAT IS WHEN GOD LOVED US!
-THAT- is when Christ was prepared to die for us!
We need to **UNDERSTAND** at that moment
DESPITE our **SIN**, **DESPITE** ourselves,
God LOVED US ANYWAY.

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

“While we were still **WEAK** at the right time Christ died for...

THE UNGODLY

You know people who you would describe as **UNGODLY**, and you may have been like that yourself, **you're a self made man or woman, you don't need GOD.**

You might even say to God I don't believe in you!
I don't want anything to do with you!
Keep out of my LIFE, / Keep out of my WAY,
SCIENCE is my god, / EDUCATION is my god.

WE are **GROWN UP** - we don't need childish beliefs anymore
I don't even believe in Santa Claus anymore.
GOD, you just don't exist and even if you DID
I STILL DON'T NEED YOU.

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

“While we were still **WEAK** at the right time Christ died for...

THE UNGODLY

Yet it was **WHEN WE FELT LIKE THAT**
and **ACTED** like that,
when we **BEHAVED** in that manner.

THAT - is WHEN GOD LOVED US!

THAT IS WHEN CHRIST WAS PREPARED TO DIE FOR US!

**Why? because WE are HIS creation,
God LOVED US ANYWAY!**

ROMANS 5:6-8;

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet

SINNERS

I know that ‘sinner’ is not a **POPULAR WORD** today, It is not **politically correct**. People say ‘I am not a liar, **I AM JUST ECONOMICAL WITH THE TRUTH!**’

From the moral high ground we say:-
I AM NOT A MURDERER.

Yet we find ourselves gossiping
 (“have you heard about Mrs Jones....”)
**WE END UP DESTROYING HER CHARACTER
AND TEARING HER REPUTATION TO SHREDS.**

ROMANS 5:6-8;

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet

SINNERS

Sometimes we sin by **doing NOTHING** when we **OUGHT TO HAVE DONE SOMETHING OR SAID SOMETHING**
James 4:17; says if you **know** what you ought to do and **fail** to do it **that is sin.**

Yet **THAT** is when God loved us.
THAT is when Christ was prepared to die for us.
Despite our **SINFULNESS**, despite our **HYPOCRISY**
God **LOVED US ANYWAY** AND ALLOWED
HIS SON TO PAY THE PRICE FOR OUR SIN.

ROMANS 5:6-8;

**WEAK
THE UNGODLY
SINNERS**

**GOD LOVES US ANYWAY
AND ALWAYS HAS DONE!**

**BUT OUR WEAKNESS! OUR ARROGANCE!
AND OUR SINFULNESS!
PLACES a BARRIER BETWEEN US and GOD.**

ROMANS 5:6-8;

**WEAK
THE UNGODLY
SINNERS**

**OUR SINS MUST BE PAID FOR, SIN SEPARATES
AND GOD KNOWS WE HAVE GOT OURSELVES
IN A HOLE AND CANNOT GET OURSELVES OUT.**

Because of His **LOVE for US**

**HE ALLOWS JESUS TO TAKE OUR PLACE,
TO PAY THE PENALTY / THE PRICE FOR OUR SIN.**

THE LOVE OF GOD

ROMANS 5:6-8;
EPHESIANS 2:4-7;



EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

4. “But God, who is **rich in mercy**, out of the **GREAT LOVE** with which **He loved us**,
5. even when we were **DEAD** through our trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved,)”
6. “and **raised us up with Him**, and **made us sit with Him** in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**,
7. that in the coming ages He might **show** the immeasurable riches of **His grace** **in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**”

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

**“But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the GREAT LOVE
with which He loved us,
EVEN when we were:-**

DEAD

through our trespasses [sins].”

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

**“But God, who is rich in mercy,
EVEN when we were:-**

DEAD

through our trespasses.”

**Most of us DO NOT APPRECIATE
what GOD SEES
when He looks at the sin in our lives.**

**We PLAN sin, we EXECUTE the SIN
and we think we have got away with it
and it does not seem so bad...**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

**“But God, who is rich in mercy,
EVEN when we were:-**

DEAD

through our trespasses.”

**WHEN GOD LOOKS at our sins, HE SEES ALL
THE DAMAGE the sin has done to us, HE SEES
THE INSIDE and ALL THE SCARS it has left.**

**That WRONG WORD, that VICIOUS ACT,
that ARROGANT ATTITUDE, THAT DESTRUCTIVE
CRITICISM! Leaves its mark on our lives
and on the lives of others.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION

DO YOU LIKE HEDGEHOGS? They may be spiky and flea-ridden but they are cute, we know when we see them the most - at the side of the road when they are **all squashed and flattened.**

When you first drive past you say **OH! what a shame,** but **AFTER A FEW DAYS** it begins to **DECOMPOSE** and the **MAGGOTS** start crawling through it and it begins to **SMELL.**

We say **WOW! SOMEBODY**
OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING about that –
it's horrible and it stinks!

We **WANT** someone to pick it up and
throw it out of our sight, it **OFFENDS US.**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

**Yet THAT is the EFFECT OF SIN ON OUR LIVES,
that is what GOD SEES in us when
SIN LEAVES ITS MARKS ON OUR SOULS!**

**And GOD'S response to OUR HORRIBLE
MISSHAPEN mess?
HE REACHES OUT IN LOVE AND
ALLOWS CHRIST TO DIE IN OUR PLACE.**

**THAT WE MIGHT BE SEEN
AS PURE AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT.
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL / ISN'T IT MARVELLOUS
GOD LOVES US ANYWAY / GOD LOVES US THAT MUCH!**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

MADE US ALIVE

RAISED US UP WITH HIM

MADE US SIT WITH HIM

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

WHAT DO YOU THINK when you go shopping you are walking down the main street and you see a scruffy looking individual and even from this distance you can smell him. He is shouting abuse at those around him caught up in the madness of his addiction.

**A WINO! = A DOWN AND OUT! =
SOME WOULD SAY
A COMPLETE WASTE OF SPACE!
Or even the SCUM OF THE EARTH,
NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.**

**Do you pass on the other side of the street?
Do you get as far away as possible?**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

WHAT WOULD YOU THINK of someone, who instead of passing by, took the man home,

Ran a **ROSE SCENTED BATH** for the man and **WHEN HE WAS CLEAN & SMELLING WONDERFUL** gave him a whole new outfit to wear!
SUIT, COAT, SOCKS, SHOES!

When he came downstairs he saw a **BEAUTIFUL DINNER!** ROAST BEEF, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, (THE BIG ONE NOT THE SMALL ONE,) **APPLE PIE AND CUSTARD.**

When he had eaten his fill and was all dressed up our friend gave him some money and let him go on his way **clean on the outside at least.**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

**WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF SOMEONE
WHO COULD DO THAT?**

ISN'T HE WONDERFUL? ISN'T HE AMAZING?

**GOD HAS DONE THAT AND MORE FOR EACH ONE OF US
WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON.**

**GOD HAS FED US SPIRITUALLY,
CLOTHED US IN THE KING'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND HAS NOT EVEN SENT US AWAY.**

**He has ASKED US TO COME AND SHARE WITH HIM
IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS,
AND CHRIST HAS GONE AHEAD
TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR EACH ONE OF US.**

EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?

ISN'T THAT MARVELLOUS?

FROM FILTHY RAGS TO SPIRITUAL RICHES

from SINNERS TO SAINTS.

**DOESN'T THAT SHOW
HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US?
DOESN'T THAT SHOW THAT
GOD LOVES US ANYWAY?**

THE LOVE OF GOD

ROMANS 5:6-8;
EPHESIANS 2:4-7;
1 JOHN 3:1;



1 John 1:1-3;

1. “SEE WHAT **LOVE** the **Father** has given **us**, that we should be **CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD**; and **SO WE ARE**.”

The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

2. “Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

3. “**And every one who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.**”

**1 John 1:1-3;
ONCE WE WERE WEAK, UNGODLY SINNERS
AND YET GOD LOVED US!**

**1 John 3:1; POINTS OUT THAT IN CHRIST
WE HAVE BEEN ELEVATED FROM THOSE
WHO WALK AWAY FROM GOD,
WHO WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH GOD.**

**TO NOW BEING THOSE IN CHRIST
WHOM HE CALLS HIS CHILDREN!**

1 John 1:1-3;

**IN CHRIST JESUS WE NOW HAVE
A SPECIAL UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.**

**PAUL IN ROMANS SAYS WE CAN CALL HIM
“Abba - father”**

**We can speak to God ANYTIME
share with Him ANY PROBLEM!**

**WHY? because He LOVES US
and allowed His Son
to pay the price for our sins.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION

**Have you ever stood outside of Buckingham Palace
and wondered what it would be like
to go in and have tea with the Queen?**

**You go up to the soldier by the gate and ask
ANY CHANCE OF GETTING IN?**

**He doesn't even bother to reply just
looks down his nose at you and then ignores you.**

**You turn round dejected
because you are dying for a cup of tea
and it would be lovely to have tea with the Queen.**

**As you turn you bump straight into
Prince Charles as he is coming up to the gate.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION

He says hello what are you doing here and you tell him you would have liked to go in for tea.

He puts his arm around your shoulder and says
COME ON THEN, COME IN WITH ME
AND WE'LL HAVE SOME TEA.

HE APPROACHES THE SOLDIER AT THE GATE, THE
SOLDIER DOES A SMART SALUTE AND
LETS YOU GO IN WITH OUT ANY QUESTIONS.

WHY? BECAUSE
YOU ARE WITH THE ONE
WHO CAN GIVE YOU ACCESS,
YOU ARE WITH THE SON!

THE WAY OF SALVATION

**WE ARE ABLE TO APPROACH
THE THRONE OF GOD**

**BECAUSE WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD,
CLOTHED IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS
OF HIS SON BECAUSE HE LOVES US
AND WE HAVE GIVEN OUR LIVES
IN TRUST AND OBEDIENCE TO HIM.**

**THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US?
THAT SHOWS GOD LOVES US ANYWAY?**

THE LOVE OF GOD

ROMANS 5:6-8;
EPHESIANS 2:4-7;

1 JOHN 3:1;

1 JOHN 4:10-11;



1 John 4:10-11;

10. “In this is love, **NOT** we loved God **but that HE loved us and sent his Son** to be the **EXPIATION** for our sins.”

11. “Beloved, **IF God so loved us, WE ALSO** ought to **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**”

1 John 4:10-11;

Just **BECAUSE WE ARE A CHILD OF GOD**
and **BECAUSE HE LOVES US ANYWAY**

does not mean that we have licence
to do what we like, because it does not matter!

NO! BECAUSE WE REALISE that God loves us,
WE respond with **LOVE** towards Him by accepting
the forgiveness and salvation He offers us.

OUR love ought to make us respond
by wanting to be **THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE.**
GOD SEES OUR POTENTIAL and **WANTS US**
TO ACHIEVE THAT POTENTIAL and therefore,
with Him on our side and cheering for us,
WE ought to want to strive to achieve that potential.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

If we never try we will never succeed!

If we never try we will never fail!

But if we try and fail in some way,

IT DOES NOT MATTER

BECAUSE GOD WILL BE THERE FOR US,

TO PICK US UP AND HELP US TRY AGAIN.

WHY? BECAUSE GOD LOVES US ANYWAY.

**HIS LOVE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US,
HE HAS PROVED THAT WITH THE CROSS.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION

God has set us the example, He is willing to forgive us but He recognizes that we need to change,
IF WE WANT A BETTER WORLD - it begins with us.

WE CANNOT CHANGE OTHER PEOPLE

Only God can, and with God's help
we can change OUR attitudes and the way
we talk to and talk about other people.

We live in a society that is **CONCERNED WITH SELF**
God challenges us to be selfless.
Society cries WHATS IN IT FOR ME!

THE WAY OF SALVATION

God challenges us to see how we can enable and empower others to reach their goals.

God challenges us to share His love with a world that so badly needs it.

BUT! We might say **WHAT WILL IT COST ME?**
IT MAY COST YOU EVERYTHING.
It has already cost God His only **SON!**

THE WAY OF SALVATION

How does God save us from our sins?

He saved us through **Jesus who paid** the penalty for **our sin**. Since we all are guilty of sin, we could not take each other's places.

Only someone without sin could suffer our punishment.

Jesus "committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:22;)

Therefore, He was qualified to take our place.

The price **God required to save us** was the **blood** of an innocent sacrifice.

"Without shedding of blood there is no remission"
(Hebrews 9:22;).

[Remission means **"the forgiveness"** of sins.]

THE WAY OF SALVATION

Though He was not guilty of committing any sin, Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross by wicked and sinful men. He suffered great pain for hours.

After He died, “a soldier pierced His side with a spear; blood and water came out” (John 19:34;) **This blood was offered for our sins.** (Hebrews 9:12)

With this blood “**Jesus washes our sins away.**” (Revelation 1:5;) **Nothing else can make us clean or remove our sins but the blood of Jesus.**

“If our sins are not cleansed by the blood of Jesus, **they will continue to separate us from God** [and all His goodness] forever.” (2 Thess 1:9;)

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The Need For The Cross

The cross of Christ vindicates God.

It shows **God** to be **just**, in that

He did what His own law demanded.

He is also the one who **justifies** and

pardons all those who have faith in Jesus.



God has never been short of sacrifices.

Rivers of blood flowed from Israel's altars,
yet they were unable to pay the price for sin
and satisfy God's justice.

Martyrs too numerous to mention gave their lives
sacrificially in the service of the Lord,
yet **not even their deaths** could pay the price of sin.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest, caught the attention of the world's press when his noble deed became known.

He was a prisoner in **Auschwitz** concentration camp. When Kolbe heard that a married man with a family had been selected for execution, he volunteered to take this man's place. **Kolbe became a substitute** so that another man might live.

Jesus became our substitute

when **He took our sins upon Himself:-**

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree."

(1 Peter 2:24;)

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The debt incurred by our sins could only be paid by an adequate sacrifice offered on our behalf.

Though two other men died along with Jesus on that day, yet **only His death** was able **to cancel our debt**.

Peter captures the concept of Christ being our substitute and Saviour in these words:-

"Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

(1 Peter 3:18;)

In a crucified Christ we see the following:-

The **love** of God, the **wisdom** of God, the **justice** of God and **a perfect sacrifice in Jesus** who has made **forgiveness** possible.

Heb 2:9; **“Should taste death.”** “A metaphor to express to die as a sacrifice, making satisfaction to divine justice, and expiating sins. Isa 53:10;

It is a metaphor allusive to the **Grecian customs**, who **put men to death by giving them a cup of poison**, as the Athenians executed Socrates.”

“All his sufferings in body and soul, which were many and bitter, are here intended, and their completion by death.”

Matt 26:39-42;

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The dilemma of mankind: SIN! Rom 6:23;

The wages of sin is spiritual separation from God.

All men have sinned. Rom 3:23;

Therefore all men stand under the penalty of death (without hope). Eph 2:12;

I am a sinner, big or little, I do not meet the standard that I was made to meet. I have gone wrong.

Because of sin I am cut off from a proper relationship with God, my maker. **Salvation is all about getting back into a proper relationship of love and righteousness with God.**

There is nothing I can do by myself to make myself right with God. God is a God of Righteousness, Justice, and Holiness. He is perfect & cannot simply overlook sin.



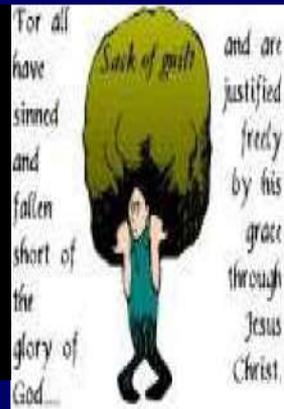
THE WAY OF SALVATION

The need of mankind: **SALVATION**.
Salvation means deliverance from Great Danger.
Preservation: Saved from destruction.

Man is saved from:-

- a) Spiritual death. Eph 2:5;
- b) Condemnation. Rom 8:1;
- c) Eternal punishment. Matt 25:46;

QUESTION - Can a man be saved from something that does not exist?
If it does not exist then it presents no danger therefore salvation is not needed.



THE WAY OF SALVATION

The errors of mankind: **TWO EXTREMES OF MEN**

All Works. _____ | _____ **All Grace.**

Man can be saved
by his own works

Man can do
nothing at all.

Salvation will depend on God's choice.

Justification by works - some modern attempts:

- a) **I will be saved** if I live a good life,
do good and try my best.
- b) **I will be saved** if I go to church, pray,
read my Bible, give to charity.
- c) **I will be saved** if I am sincere in what I believe.
- d) **I will be saved** if I go to the right church
and believe the right things.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

e) **I will be saved** because I do not kill or rob,
I try to be honest and live right.

f) **I am afraid** of going hell,
so I go to church to get me to heaven.

g) **I go to church because** it is my DUTY,
If I don't do this I will not be saved .

h) **I go to the same church** my mum went to,
if it was good enough for her I will be OK.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

Justification by "faith alone."

a) "you can do nothing, simply believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

Is there a contradiction in that statement?

b) Some say "pray that the Lord Jesus will come into your heart tonight."

THE WAY OF SALVATION

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

a) Salvation is impossible to attain by relying on our own good works:
Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:28; 2 Tim 1:9;

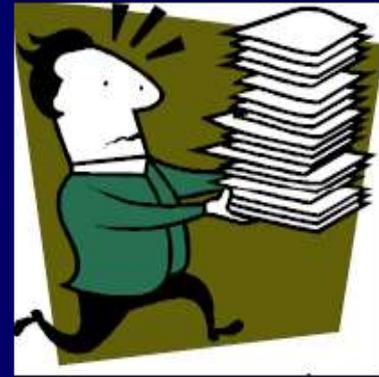
Salvation is **NOT** by "**faith alone.**"

Jam 2:14-26; Heb 5:8-9; Matt 7:21ff;

“So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. **Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all, it is dead and useless.**” Jam 2:17

“Now someone may argue, ‘Some people have faith; others have good deeds.’ I say, “I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds.” Jam 2:18

THE WAY OF SALVATION



What We Do Cannot Save Us / Not By Our Deeds.

Forgiveness is not based on our good deeds no matter how many or how honourable they are.

Forgiveness is a free, unmerited gift from God and we accept it by faith.

Yet many try to **earn** their way to heaven.

They think that God will inspect their lives based on how well they did while on earth. God will either let them into heaven or banish them for eternity.

An inescapable conclusion comes from this line of thinking: If we are contributors to our own salvation, if our works can save us, then **the death of Jesus was not only inadequate but unnecessary.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION



The apostle Paul put it this way:

"If righteousness could be gained through the law, **Christ died for nothing.**" Galatians 2:21;

Jesus came to set us free, to give us new life, not to supply us with a new set of rules and regulations to be obeyed in order to get to heaven.

The last thing we need is a religion based upon our performance; what we need is someone to give a perfect performance for us, and we find that performance accomplished in **Jesus Christ.**

The Word of God speaks clearly on this subject: It is by **grace** you have been saved, and this not from yourselves, **it is a gift** from God, **not by works,** so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9;

THE WAY OF SALVATION



The Religion of the Pharisee. Jesus pointed out the folly of trying to earn one's way to heaven when he told the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. Luke 18:9-14;

The lesson was directed to "some who were confident of **their own righteousness.**"

Two men went up to the temple to pray.

The Pharisee began his prayer by parading all his good deeds before God.

Pride filled his heart as he thanked God that he was not like those around him: robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even the tax collectors who were notorious for dishonesty.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The Pharisee continued his prayer with a reminder to God that he fasted twice each week and gave 10 percent of his income to the Lord.



The publican also prayed, but in a different tone. He stood at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven, but in true repentance said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Which of these two people was forgiven?

It was the publican, Jesus said, not the Pharisee, that found favour with God.

Why didn't the Pharisee find favour with God?

After all, he believed in God, said his prayers and lived a good life.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

Where did he go wrong?

The problem with the Pharisee was that he was trusting in the performance of his religious duties to save him.



The Pharisee didn't believe he was sinless, but felt that his good deeds, which were many, would tip the scales of God's justice in his favour.

He thought the good deeds of his life would more than compensate for his failings, and he would surely get a favourable verdict. **But he was wrong!**

The Religious Treadmill

The religious practice of the Pharisee reminds us of two children playing on an escalator.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

They were trying to go up the stairs that were coming down.
No matter how hard they tried, they failed: the stairs kept bringing them back to where they started.

Finally they got off and went over to the stairs that were moving upwards, stepped on, and let the stairs take them to the top.

How much more **LOVE** could Jesus show than to be punished for our sins and then allow **His blood to wash them** all away?

The question remains:
"How do we get our sins removed and receive eternal life?"



THE WAY OF SALVATION: Grace & Faith!

Grace & Faith at Pentecost.

Someone asks the question:-

“At Pentecost, when asked
“**what must we do?**”

can you explain why Peter did not reply...

“Why, there is nothing you can do,
it has already been done,
just accept what we have told you
and rely totally on the grace of God alone.”

THE WAY OF SALVATION:- Grace & Faith!

These are not inquisitive students striving to understand the theories and mysteries of salvation.

They are desperate souls, deeply convinced of their sin against Jesus Himself, whom they just learned is Israel's resurrected Messiah and now ascended Lord. Acts 2:22-24,36;

They are ready and willing to do whatever Jesus commands, and Peter instructs them according to the Lord's own parting commission.
Luke 24:47; Matt. 28:19;

THE WAY OF SALVATION:- Grace & Faith!
The apostle commands the conscience-stricken audience to **make a spiritual u-turn** on the inside ("**repent**") and to express that repentance individually in a tangible, physical way on the outside, ("**be baptised.**")

MAN'S PART IN SALVATION?

Although salvation comes by **the grace of God** and is **available to all**, there is a **response man must make**, otherwise all men would be saved no matter what they did, no matter what their attitudes were.

Jesus died for everyone's sins - for all the sins of every individual in the whole world. 1 John 2:2;
But not all people will be saved because many will NOT ACCEPT the TERMS of God's gift.

THE WAY OF SALVATION:- Grace & Faith!

In order to receive salvation,
we must respond in the way God requires!

Responding in the way God requires
does not mean we earn salvation
in any way by our response!

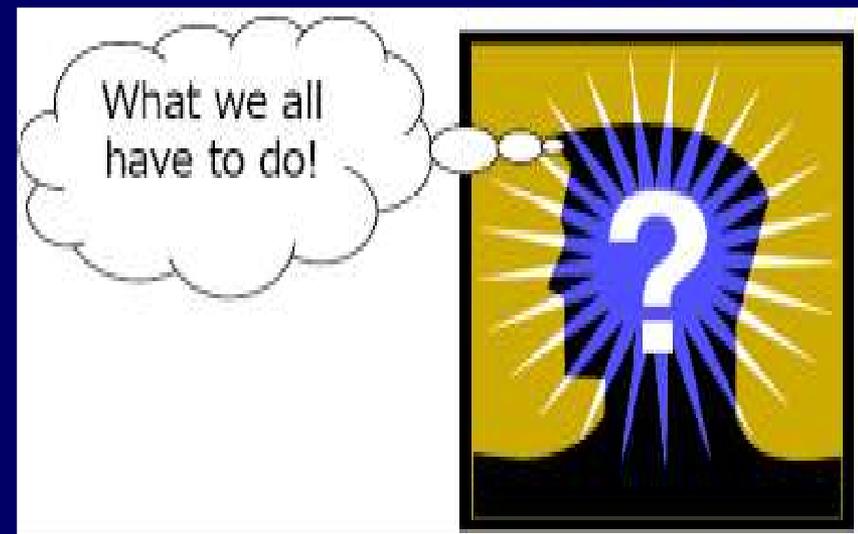
We must believe and know that God exists.
“Without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for He who comes to God **must believe that He is,**
and that **He is a rewarder of those**
who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6;



THE WAY OF SALVATION:- Grace & Faith!

We must also believe that Jesus is 'Immanuel: God with us', who came to save us from our sins.

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**" John 8:24;



THE WAY OF SALVATION:- Grace & Faith!

Salvation is by the grace of God.

Grace is goodwill or benevolence which is totally undeserved, unmerited favour, mercy.

**We are saved by Grace,
through faith, not of works.**

Eph 2:8-10; Tit 3:5; Acts 15:11;

**Therefore salvation is on God's terms,
not on ours.**

**God offers me salvation
as a FREE UNDESERVED GIFT.**

**He offers this gift NOT because I am worthy
but because He loves me.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION: Grace & Faith.
I need to accept this gift for it to be mine.

God does not force it on me.

I accept it by trust (faith), which leads to obedience.

(Doing what God says I need to do.)

The result?

The Christian life is lived

as a love response to God's great gift.

**Our continued obedience and good works
are done not in order to save us,
but because we are already saved. Not out of duty
or fear, but out of thankfulness and love.**

**NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE TO!
BUT BECAUSE WE WANT TO!**

THE WAY OF SALVATION: Grace & Faith.

**Repentance, Confession and Baptism
is our faith response to God's Grace.**

Baptism in response to the gospel
is a **specific act of submission and surrender**
to the crucified and risen Messiah.

("into the **name of [relationship with]** Jesus Christ.")

**Because Pentecost marks the beginning of
the "last days"** God will fulfill His ancient promise to
save and to give His Spirit, (His personal, powerful
Presence) to everyone who calls on the Lord.

All those whom God calls to Himself.

(Acts 2:38; Joel 2:28-32; 2Thess 2:14;)

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

These truths are not limited to the Pentecost audience, or even to Jewish people, but are applicable to men and women from all nations throughout the gospel era. (Acts 2:39;)

It is right to remember that baptism does not cause God to love us. Baptism does not make us merit salvation or earn God's forgiveness. It is not a 'work' we do that sets us right with God.

**That work was fully accomplished by Jesus of Nazareth before we ever heard of it.
JESUS PAID THE PRICE!**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Only BECAUSE Jesus finished that saving work, which both demonstrated and justified God's love for sinners, can anyone **"repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins."** using Peter's very words of instruction to his Pentecost audience. (Acts 2:38;)

There is no conflict between **grace** on the one hand, and faith, repentance and baptism on the other hand.

As long as those who respond in **faith, repentance and are baptised**, do so trusting **God's grace as shown in Jesus Christ.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Though faith is not identical with knowledge,
it is by no means devoid of knowledge.

Faith does not operate in a vacuum.

To be saved one must believe
some basic information.

**Proclaiming the gospel includes more than
imparting information, but by no means less.**

There is a basic content to the gospel,
**which includes information about God, man,
the person and work of Christ, and how His benefits
are appropriated, which we must have some
awareness of in order to exercise saving faith.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

There is an **aspect of faith** which refers to **intellectual assent to the truth** of the data or content of the gospel.

To believe that Maggie Thatcher was a Prime Minister of England means that we affirm the truth of that proposition.

We cannot have saving faith if we do not believe that the gospel is true.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

I cannot “**decide**” to believe something if my mind is not convinced that it is true.

I can “**hope**” that something questionable is true and act according to that hope.

What I cannot do is actually be convinced of a truth by a mere decision.

“**Faith**” without genuine assent is no more than credulity or superstition.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Saving faith involves personal trust.

This is usually understood as involving something in addition to the cognitive or purely intellectual element.

It involves the volitional and affective elements of human response.

It involves our repentance a change in us which change includes a change in affection, disposition, inclination, and volition.

We now choose Christ. We embrace Christ. We want to follow Christ, we flee to Christ.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Real Faith in Jesus.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him **must believe** that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6;

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Galatians 3:26-27;



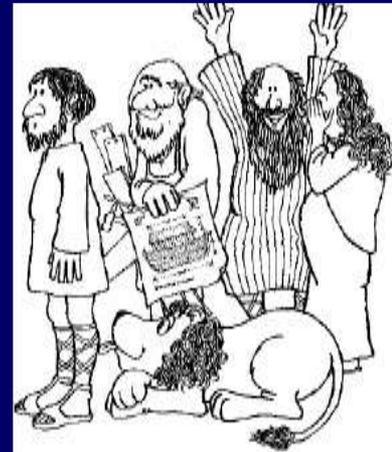
THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things."

"I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law."

"but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."

Philippians 3:8-9;



THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Faith Responds in Obedience!

Faith is essential if we are to be right with God.

But what does faith mean?

Faith means to trust, to believe, and in Abraham we have a model for that type of faith.

His life is punctuated with demonstrations of faith, trust, belief in God. He was told by God to leave his home and go to a foreign land.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:8; **That's faith!**



THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith

Faith Believes the Impossible!

God promised Abraham a son.

Time passed and the promise remained unfulfilled.

Abraham was now 99 years old and his wife

Sarah was 90. God spoke again to him
about the promise of a son.

Though surrounded by physical impossibilities,
Abraham had faith that what God said
would indeed come to pass.

And when his son Isaac
was born and was grown,
Abraham was **commanded**
to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.



"Now I know that you honor and obey God." (Genesis 22.12)

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith!

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice."

Hebrews 11:17;



"Now I know that you honor and obey God." (Genesis 22:12)

God never allowed Abraham to take the young boy's life, though **Abraham showed he was prepared to do so**, and for this reason Abraham is called **"God's friend."** James 2:23; **That's faith!**

The type of faith Abraham displayed is the kind of faith that **WE** are to have.

A faith that BELIEVES in God!

A faith that TRUSTS in God!

A faith that OBEYS God!

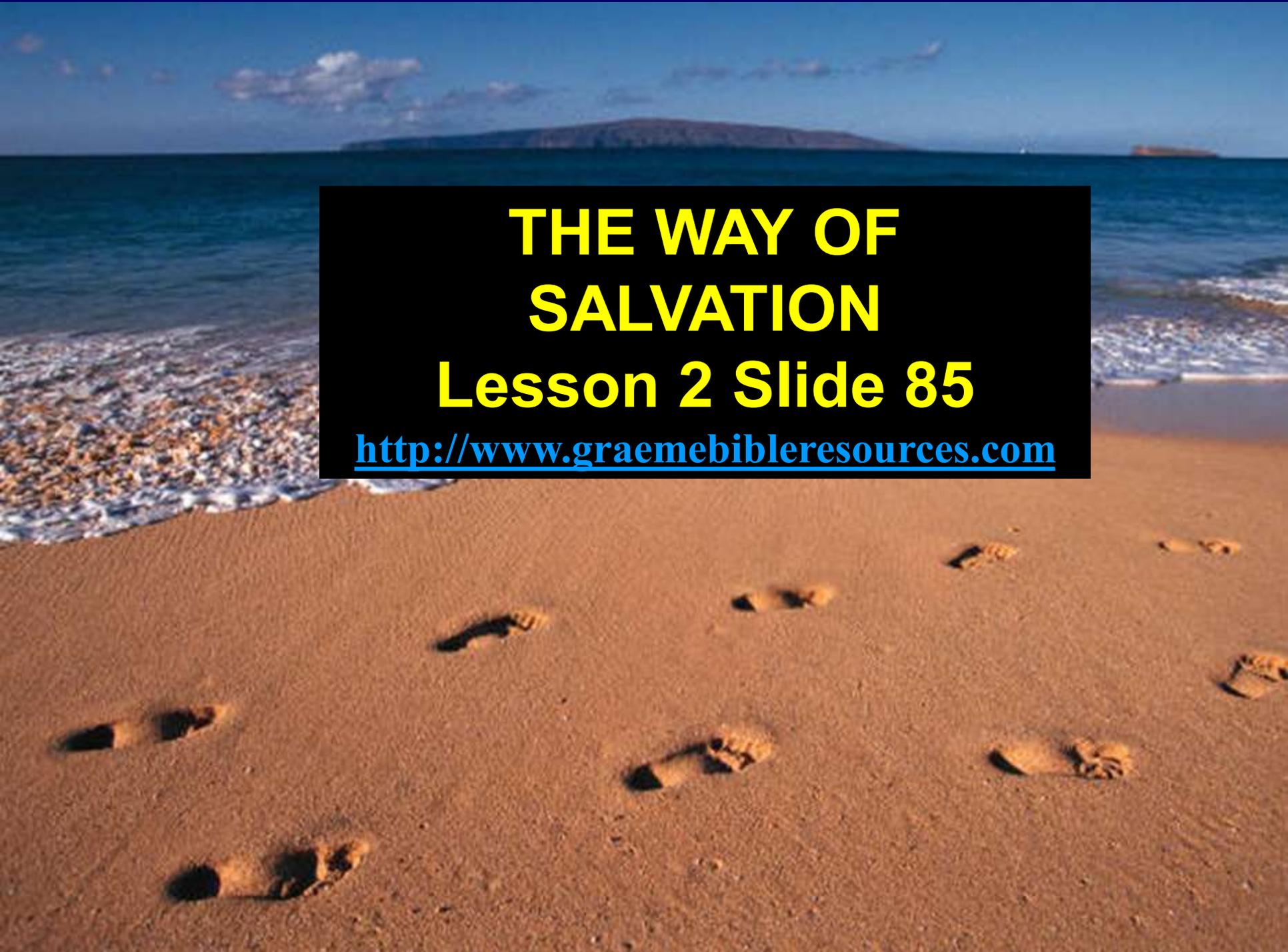
**THE WAY OF
SALVATION
Lesson 1 slide 1**

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**Next in the series:
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**THE WAY OF
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THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith!

Our **first step** to becoming reconciled to God begins with our **belief in God and in Jesus His son.**

At some point in our past, we began **hearing** about **Jesus Christ**, the son of God.

We might have **heard it** from a preacher, from our parents, maybe from our husband or wife, or we may have started studying the Bible on our own and eventually came to know the Truth.

In any case, our belief begins to develop when we began to hear about Jesus Christ.

In Romans 10:17, we are taught that **faith** in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit comes by **“hearing the Word of God.”**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith!

**When our belief begins to develop,
it begins to lead us in the direction
of a greater understanding of who God is
which will lead us to subsequent changes in our life.**

**For instance, when we began studying the Bible
we probably learned...**

**...that through belief in Jesus
we would not be condemned. John 3:18;
That through belief in Jesus
we could have everlasting life. John 3:36;**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith!

That through belief, we could have everlasting life through the name of Jesus. John 20:31;

That through belief, we would be able to overcome the world and all of its sinful temptations.

1 John 5:4-5;

That without belief, it would be impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6

**As our study progressed,
we undoubtedly saw many great examples
of those who believed in God.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Faith!

For instance, consider the example of **the Eunuch**.

Here was a man who, being taught the gospel by Philip, **believed and obeyed the teachings of Jesus Christ**. Acts 8:36-37;

We may have also learned of the example set by **Saul**, (who was later called **Paul**). Saul was a man who, upon learning the Truth, had enough faith in Jesus Christ **to repent, to turn himself to do what Jesus asked of him**. Acts 9:8-11,18;

Although this **turning** resulted in his being rejected by many of his peers, this **turning** resulted in Saul's salvation through his faith in Jesus Christ.

Or the wonderful example of the faith
of the **Philippian Jailer**. Acts 16:30-33;

Perhaps having developed a strong belief
in Jesus Christ through the Word of God,
we may develop a desire and zeal
to do whatever Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, asks us to do.

We may begin to have a growing desire
to follow Him whom we had rejected for so long.

The **purpose of our belief is to point us
in the right direction.** Our **belief**, which
was **based** upon the Word of God, **pointed us
in the direction of obedience to God, Jesus, and
the Holy Spirit, and away from sin and worldliness.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Now because of our growing faith the next thing we will want to do is to repent of our sins.

Jesus made it clear that “unless we repent, we shall all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3;

What does the word repent mean?

There are several parts to the definition of this word.

To begin with, we must understand what sin is.

The Bible has about 21 lists to help us identify sin in both attitudes and actions.

We must recognize what sin does to us. It separates us from the fellowship of God and condemns us to eternal consequences.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

**Sin also caused the innocent Jesus to be crucified;
He had to shed His blood to pay the price of our sins
to redeem us back to God.**

**Thinking about these truths should
help us to understand that sin has consequences
and that all those things we have said and done
that have hurt ourselves and others
Had an impact greater than we can imagine.**

**This should cause us to feel sorrow
for what we have done.**

**That feeling of sorrow is not repentance,
but it can lead to or bring about repentance.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Repentance is a word that has strayed far from its original meaning.

Being sorry for sin and promising never to do it again is the standard understanding most people have about repentance, but this is quite different from how the Bible defines it.

For example, a person can spend an evening consuming alcohol. The next morning, with head throbbing and nerves jumping, he stumbles toward the medicine cabinet vowing, "**Never again. I'll never touch another drop as long as I live.**"

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

**What he has expressed is remorse or regret,
but is NOT Godly repentance.**

The scripture says this about repentance:-

**"Godly sorrow brings repentance
that leads to salvation and leaves no regret,
but worldly sorrow brings death." 2 Cor 7:10;**

**Having Godly sorrow means that
we see our sins as having offended God
and for that we are genuinely sorrowful.
By repenting we make a conscious decision
to turn away from sin
and to turn our life over to God.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

An example of Repentance: Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector who heard about Jesus. Anxious to see Jesus, but prevented because of his small size, **Zacchaeus** climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus as He passed by.

Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus moved his heart to repentance. "Here and now," he said, "I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything I will pay back four times the amount."

That is Godly repentance. Because of his penitent heart and faith in Jesus, the Lord said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house." Luke 19:1-10;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

The call to repentance is a recurring theme in the scriptures. John the Baptist insisted that his disciples **"produce fruit in keeping with repentance."**

Matthew 3:8;

John wanted the people **not only to believe in Jesus the Messiah, but to demonstrate that they had turned their lives away from sin by displaying the evidence of true repentance.**

Genuine sorrow over our sins will cause us to change our way of thinking and our actions, And cause us to also ask 'What we have to do?'

John, who prepared the way for Jesus, told the people to **"bear fruits worthy of repentance."** Matt 3:6;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

In other words, there must be a change in the way we think, act and live.

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31;

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age.”
Titus 2:11-12;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Jesus commanded that "repentance and forgiveness of sins... be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Luke 24:47;

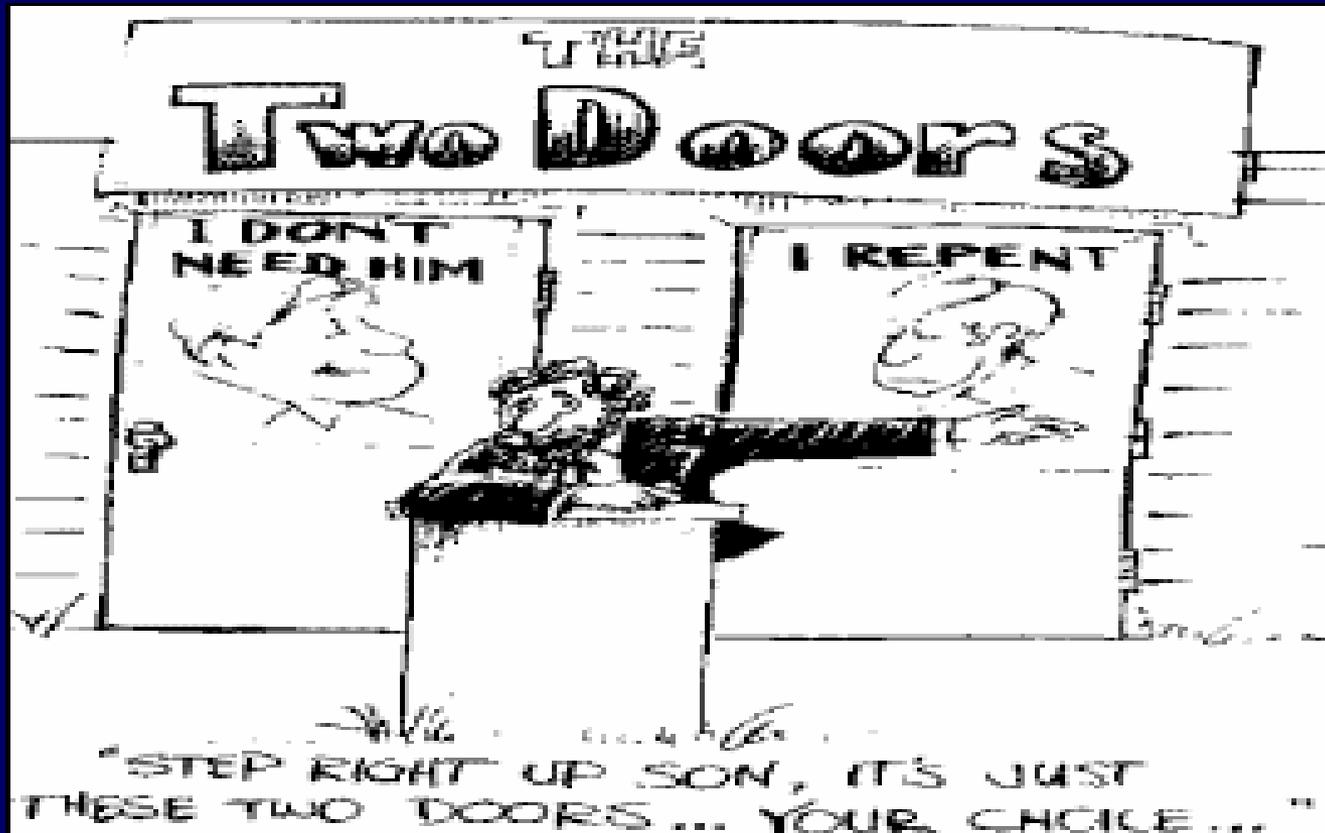
Peter told his audience that they were to "repent and be baptized" Later he told others, "Repent then, and turn to God."
Acts 2:38; 3:19;

Repentance **MUST NOT** be thought of only in negative terms: We must stop committing sins. It is much more than that.

The **positive side** of repentance is that we **decide to change the direction** of our spiritual lives and **turn to follow God**.
That is true godly repentance!

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

The Need to Repent! "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and **repentance and forgiveness of sins** will be preached **in His name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47;



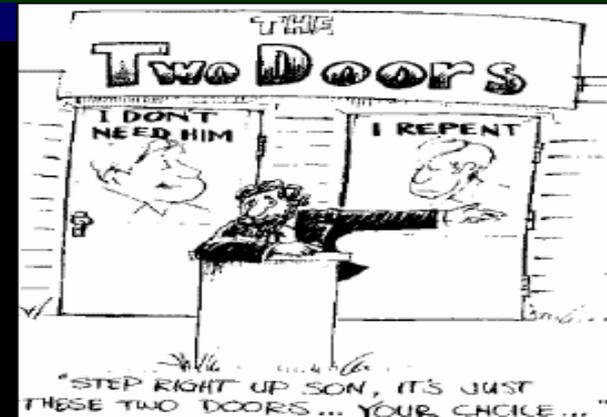
THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Repentance figured prominently in the ministries of our Lord Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and the apostles.

And today we must be faithful in calling people to repentance.

Peter replied, "**Repent and be immersed, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" Acts 2:38;

"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must **turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**" Acts 20:21;



THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

In Peter's reply, we notice that he stated first and foremost **the need for the people to repent of their sins**. We need to do this too after we had established our **belief in Jesus Christ**.

We will **want to repent of our sins** because of what we had learned about **God's grace**.

From our studies of God's Word.

We learned that **God loves us!** John 3:16-17;

We learned that **Jesus Died for us!** Rom 5:8;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

We learned that **repentance was commanded by Jesus Christ and by God.** Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30;

We learned that **repentance leads to our obedience in baptism for the forgiveness of our sins.**

Acts 2:38;

That repentance leads us to have our sins blotted out. Acts 3:19;

That repentance would help to bring about our salvation.

2 Corinthians 7:10;

That our repentance would cause great joy in Heaven.

Luke 15:7;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

**When we commit ourselves to repentance,
what does that mean?**

**When we commit ourselves
to repentance, we commit ourselves
to changing our life, our actions, and attitudes.**

**Repenting of our sins is much more than
walking down front and saying, "I am sorry."**

**True repentance begins with the desire
to STOP SINNING and START SERVING the Lord.
It requires changes in our life.**

**The purpose of our repentance
is to turn us away from sin and
turn us to a life of service unto God.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Now if we are Christians, it is crucial that **we strive to keep our back turned to sin.**

If we learn that some practice in our life is wrong, then our repentant heart ought to drive us, with God's help, **to begin working to overcome that sin.**

With a **truly repentant heart**, we will **strive to overcome the sin** that existed within our lives prior to our being saved.

**Not only because we have to,
but because we want to!**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Because our repentance often brings such a **dramatic change** in our attitudes and actions especially towards **our awareness of God** and **our willingness to begin to serve God.**

Many believe and teach that this **outward change** of our life in attitude and action means that **we must be saved at that point.**

But a changed life is not proof of our salvation because our salvation is based on God's terms not on ours.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

A friend of mine who was an atheist came in to work one day and said he had decided to quit smoking and he did – **that day – he never smoked again.**

I know many people who **do not believe in God who have **changed their lives and attitudes** for one reason or another.**

They still do not have salvation!

I know many people who in many ways live better lives than many Christians. They are nice, polite, helpful, encouraging, yet they do not believe in Jesus.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

Having a Christian attitude and disposition does not make a person a Christian.

We need to accept the grace of God through the blood of Jesus on God's terms, not ours.

The change in a persons attitude and life brought about by repentance means a change in the right direction but does not remove our sins.

Let's use as an example a mountain-climbing trip: We decide to climb a mountain.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

We load up our backpack with all the things that we need to achieve our aim, including an oxygen tank. It is quite a load to carry!

We manage to reach quite high on the mountain when we see a furious storm develop and realize that if we do not turn back now we will be in serious trouble.

We turn back (repent), make our way down to base camp. At base camp we take our backpack off change into clean clothes have a good sleep.

We waken up next morning to a brand new day. A Sherpa picks up our backpack and walks off ahead with it, leaving you to walk unencumbered, to enjoy the view and the walk home.

No example is perfect but if we imagine that as we climb through life achieving various goals. **we collect a lot of sins** along the way, **filling our backpack with wrong living and guilt.**

Then we **hear about God**, we read His word and **read about His Grace**, we realize that we are in trouble, and we decide to **turn back (repent)** to God.

As we change our direction and make our way back to God changing some of our old habits, attitudes, and actions...

...we are still carrying our back pack, our load of past sin and guilt!

Only Jesus blood can wash away our sin but we have not got that far on our journey towards salvation yet.

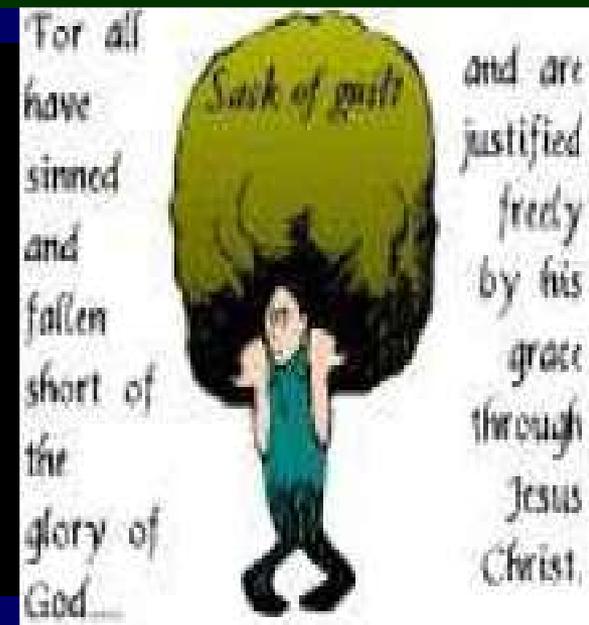


THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Repentance!

We have found God's grace, responded by faith, and repentance, but is there more we still have to do in response to God's grace in order to be cleansed from our sins?

If after you repented you never committed another sin in your life you would still be carrying the burden of your past sins.

While our repentance / change / affects many areas of our life, the first act of our repentant heart means that we ought to **make our belief known through obedience to the teachings of Jesus.**



THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

**In other words, we ought to confess
our belief in Jesus Christ.**

**If we are ready to change the way we live,
(doing God's will instead of our own),
then we should be ready to confess
before men that Jesus is the Son of God.**

Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; 1 Timothy 6:12;

Confession might involve us standing
in front of some people and
saying **“Yes”** to the question.

**“Do you believe that Jesus Christ
is the Son of God?”**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

However, our **confession** actually begins when we decide to act upon our belief in Jesus Christ and does not end with our baptism.

The confession of our belief in Jesus begins because **we want to be saved from our sins** and **continues after we are saved.**

Consider the example of one who confessed his belief in Jesus Christ prior to his being immersed.

In **Acts 8:26-39**; we learn about the conversion of the eunuch. Beginning in verse 31, we see Philip beginning to **teach** the Eunuch **about Jesus Christ.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

When **Philip** and the **Eunuch** came to some water, the Eunuch, based upon Philip's teachings regarding Jesus Christ, asked, **"See, here is water. What hinders me from being immersed?"** v. 36;

Philip replied, **"If you believe with all your heart, you may.** To that, the Eunuch replied, **"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."** v. 37;

After hearing the Eunuch's confession of his belief in Jesus, Philip took him down into the water and baptized him.

Acts 8:38-39;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

What we see with **the Eunuch** is a natural step following one's belief and repentant heart to be willing to confess your belief in Jesus Christ and be buried with Him in baptism.

How was Philip to know that the eunuch was ready to be baptized if the eunuch had not told him that he believed? **When the Eunuch** stated **his belief in Jesus Christ**, he was simply **confirming his belief in Jesus Christ**.

The Eunuch's actions were in line with the teachings of the inspired teachers, such as The apostle Paul who wrote in Romans 10:9-10;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, for with the heart man believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10;.

If we include Rom 10:17;

We have Hearing, believing and confession of belief in Jesus all combined in this passage.

Is it possible for a person to confess his/her belief in other ways?

Most certainly! Every time a person takes a stand for the Truth and overcomes sin, he/she is showing his/her belief in Jesus Christ.

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

In Acts 2:38; we see Peter saying nothing about belief or confession.

Are we to conclude that the three thousand people who were saved on the day of Pentecost did not confess their belief in Jesus Christ? **Certainly not.**

The fact that they asked the question, “Men and brethren, **what shall we do?” revealed their belief in Jesus Christ.**

When they repented and were baptized, they were acting upon their obvious belief in Jesus Christ.

When we decide to become a child of God, we take the step of **confessing our belief in Jesus Christ.**

This step may be in specific words and / or in **our obedience to Jesus’ command to be baptized.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

Our confession at that point should set the precedence for the rest of our life.

We must continue to confess Jesus Christ before men. Here are some of the benefits of confessing our belief in Jesus Christ.

By confessing our belief,

Jesus will confess us before His Father in Heaven.

Matthew 10:32;

However, the reverse is just as true.

If we fail to confess our belief in Jesus, then He will deny us to His Father. Matthew 10:33;

If we will continue to confess Jesus Christ before men, then God will continue to dwell in us.

1 John 4:14-15;

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Grace & Confession!

If we were to **walk away** from the Lord now,
ceasing to confess our belief in Him.

We need to understand that a day will come
when **all will confess the name of Jesus Christ.**

However, at that point, **our confession** will
come **too late** to satisfy the needs of our soul.

Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:11;

The purpose of our confession is to
set a precedent for the remainder of our life.

We must strive to never fail
in SHOWING our FAITH in Jesus Christ.
Not because we have to but because we want to!

**We must strive to show our faith
in Jesus Christ, whether it is in word or in action.**

**“And whatever you do or say,
let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus,
and come with him into the presence of God
the Father to give Him your thanks.”**

Colossians 3:17;

**A Christian is the perfect person
to confess the name of Jesus Christ.**

**People will read our lives
before they read the Bible
They will be looking at us
before they look at God.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Biblical Baptism?

God has provided us a Saviour in Jesus Christ.

Through His grace He offers us the pardon or forgiveness of our sins. And that gift of forgiveness cannot be earned by anything we do.

Our faith must be in the perfect sacrifice which Jesus offered to the Father for our sins.

When Peter preached the gospel on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit convicted people of their sinful condition and their need for forgiveness.

They cried out to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Peter said to them, "Repent and be immersed, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Those who were immersed had their **faith** in the **sacrifice of Jesus** for their **forgiveness.**

They did not trust in themselves or in what they were doing, but trusted in what Jesus had done on their behalf.

Faith and baptism are combined in Mark 16:16; in which Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."



THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Notice that **salvation occurs after a person both believes and is baptised.**

It is not a matter of doing one or the other; **both are necessary before sins can be washed away.**

The New Testament **book of Acts** contains several accounts of people being **saved from their sins** as **the gospel spread** into the entire world.

The very first gospel sermon was preached on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had ascended into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11;

After the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles.

Acts 2:1-4;

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Their faith was not in a sacrament, but **in a Saviour.**
From Pentecost onward, the church proclaimed
forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ.

Those who **believed** that message
were **baptised in [into] His name.**

"But when they [the Samaritans] believed Philip
as he preached the **good news of the kingdom
of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they
were **immersed**, both men and women." Acts 8:12;

"And many of the Corinthians
who **heard** him
believed and were **immersed.**"

Acts 18:8;

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Even the apostle Paul "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on His name." Acts 22:16;

In immersion, we are being identified through our faith with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

In our immersion, we contact the BLOOD of Christ and through that blood we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In our immersion, we are making a distinctive break with the world and our former manner of life and committing ourselves unto Jesus as the Lord of our lives.

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

**The solution to the problem of sin is the same today.
Anyone who wants to be forgiven of sins
must repent and be immersed.**

**It is not the water that cleanses us.
Jesus washes away our sins
in His own blood. Revelation 1:5;
He washes our sins away
when we are baptized
into a relationship with Him.
Matt 28:19-20; Acts 22:16; Gal 3:26-29;**

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

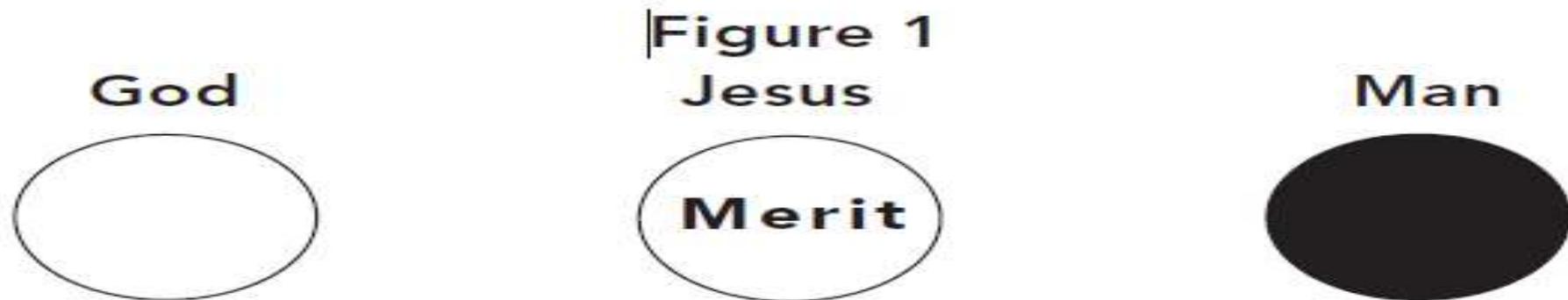
**At our baptism and through it
our contact with the blood of Christ,
God “counts”**

**or “reckons” us JUST by legally transferring
the righteousness of Christ to our account.**

**This involves
the transfer of Christ’s merit to us.
Christ’s righteousness
is assigned to us and is counted for us.**

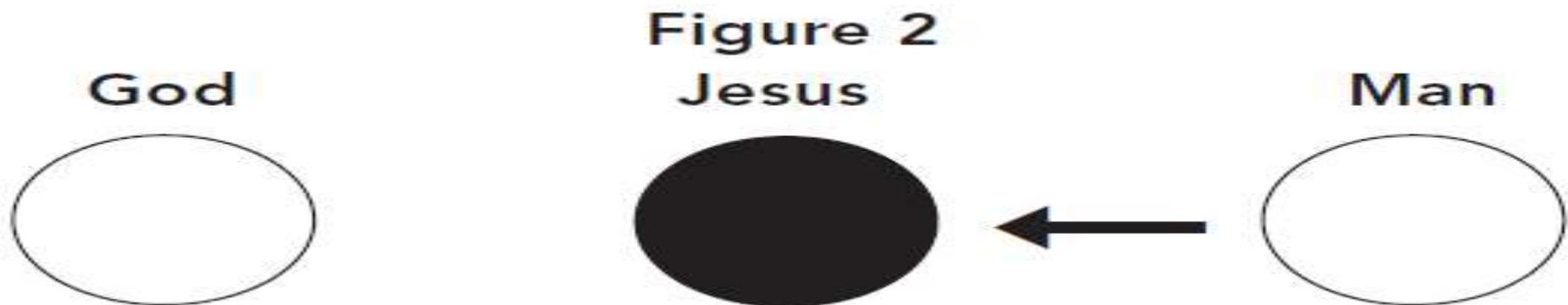
THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Our redemption is grounded in a double imputation by which our sins are transferred to Christ in the atonement and His righteousness is transferred to us. We can illustrate this double transfer by the following chart:-



The **three circles** in Figure 1 show **God's circle** having **no marks** inside of it, representing **His purity** without blemish. The circle representing **Jesus** likewise has **no black marks** within it, representing **his sinlessness** and perfect obedience, **his perfect merit**. The circle representing **man** is **shaded black**, representing the **radical pollution of sin** in our lives.

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.



In Figure 2 we see the **change in the circle of Jesus** in that now **His circle is covered by sin.**

The arrow from man's circle to Jesus' circle illustrates that **the sin of man is transferred to Jesus.**

This is what takes place on the cross. In the atonement, God lays upon Jesus our sins. Jesus is the Lamb without blemish who receives our blemishes by imputation.

He is our substitute, so that God pours out the wrath of His judgment on Christ who vicariously accepts the imputation of our guilt and sin.

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

On the cross **Jesus** was **just in Himself** and **sinner by imputation**. When Scripture speaks of Jesus becoming sin for us, it **does not mean that He became in Himself a sinner**. If that were the case, He would not have been worthy to save himself, let alone us.

On the cross **Christ paid the price for our sin**. This was **both a work of expiation and propitiation**.

By **expiation** He “**took away**” our sins from us. By **propitiation** He **satisfied the justice of God** by **undergoing the penalty for our guilt**.

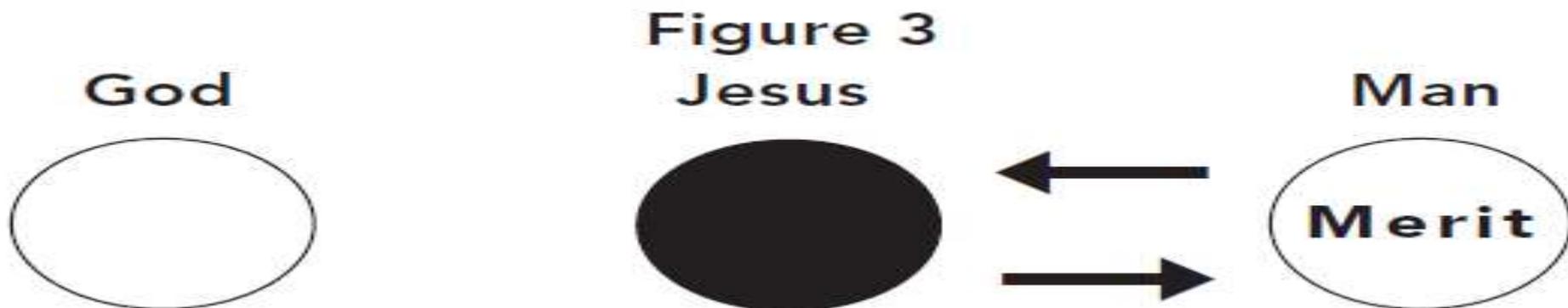
THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

The **imputed righteousness** for man that was brought about by this sacrifice was **not automatic** or all men would be saved **we needed to respond to this sacrifice on our behalf.**

To have our sins punished for us in Christ is to leave us now innocent in the sight of God.

Salvation requires more than innocence. It demands **positive obedience** to the Law of God. This is why **what is required is not merely a single imputation but a double imputation.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.



In Figure 3 we see that **the circle of man is now clean and righteous.**

The **lower arrow** pointing from Jesus to man represents the transfer of the righteousness and merit of Jesus to us.

In **justification** not only are **our sins imputed to Jesus** by God, but **His righteousness is imputed to us.** By **imputation** we possess the **righteousness of Jesus** in the sight of God.

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

**We are now acceptable to God
not because we are righteous but because
we have accepted the righteousness of Christ
through the way that God has asked us to:-**

**Through our acceptance
of the proclamation of the gospel by faith.**

**This is not faith alone
it involves all that is involved
in mans response to the gospel.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

**Why does God wait until our baptism
to justify and save us?**

Part of the reason is that
Jesus has given us a commandment;
Are we willing to obey it? Matt 28:18-20;

**“There is also an antitype
which now saves us, Namely immersion
(not the removal of the filth of the flesh,
but the answer of a good conscience toward
God,) through the resurrection of Jesus.”**

1 Peter 3:21;

THE WAY OF SALVATION. – Grace & Baptism.

Baptism is similar to marriage. A couple begin dating, fall in love and plan to marry. In their vows, they commit themselves to each other for life.

God then joins them together in this new relationship of husband and wife.

Likewise, baptism marks the beginning of a new relationship with God.



THE WAY OF SALVATION.

To have the hope of eternal life:

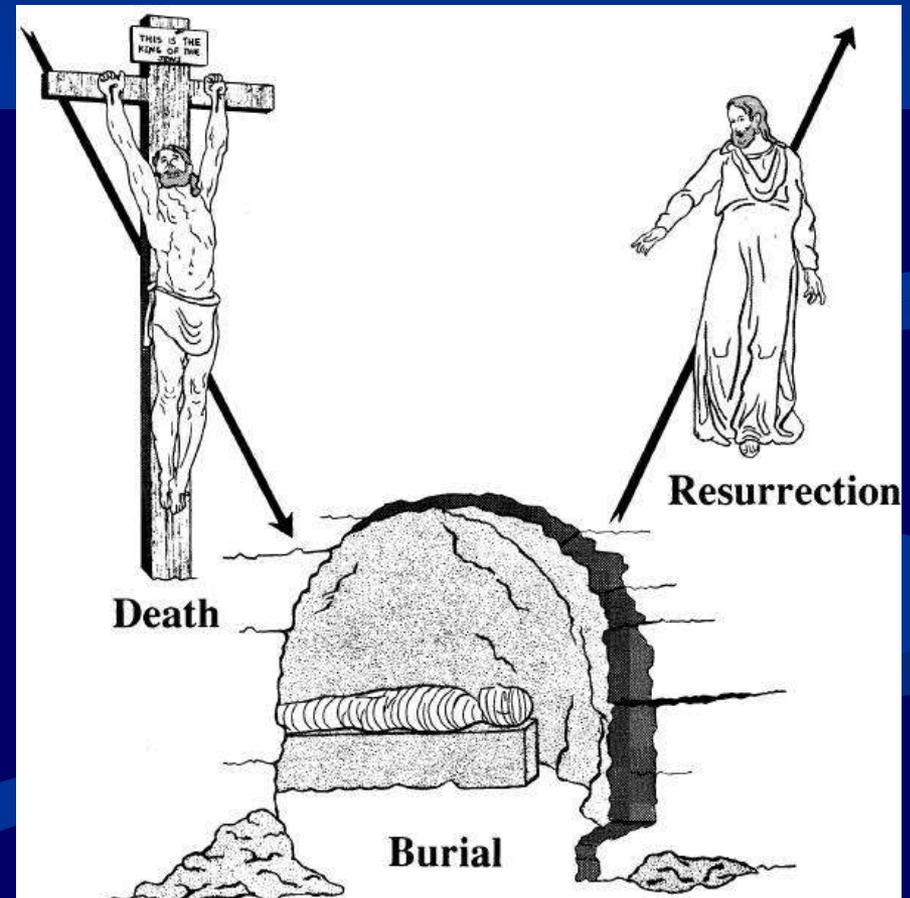
We need to **BELIEVE** what Jesus did for us.

He **DIED** for our sins.

He was **BURIED**.

He was **RAISED**.

1 Cor 15:1-4;



THE WAY OF SALVATION

To have the hope of eternal life:

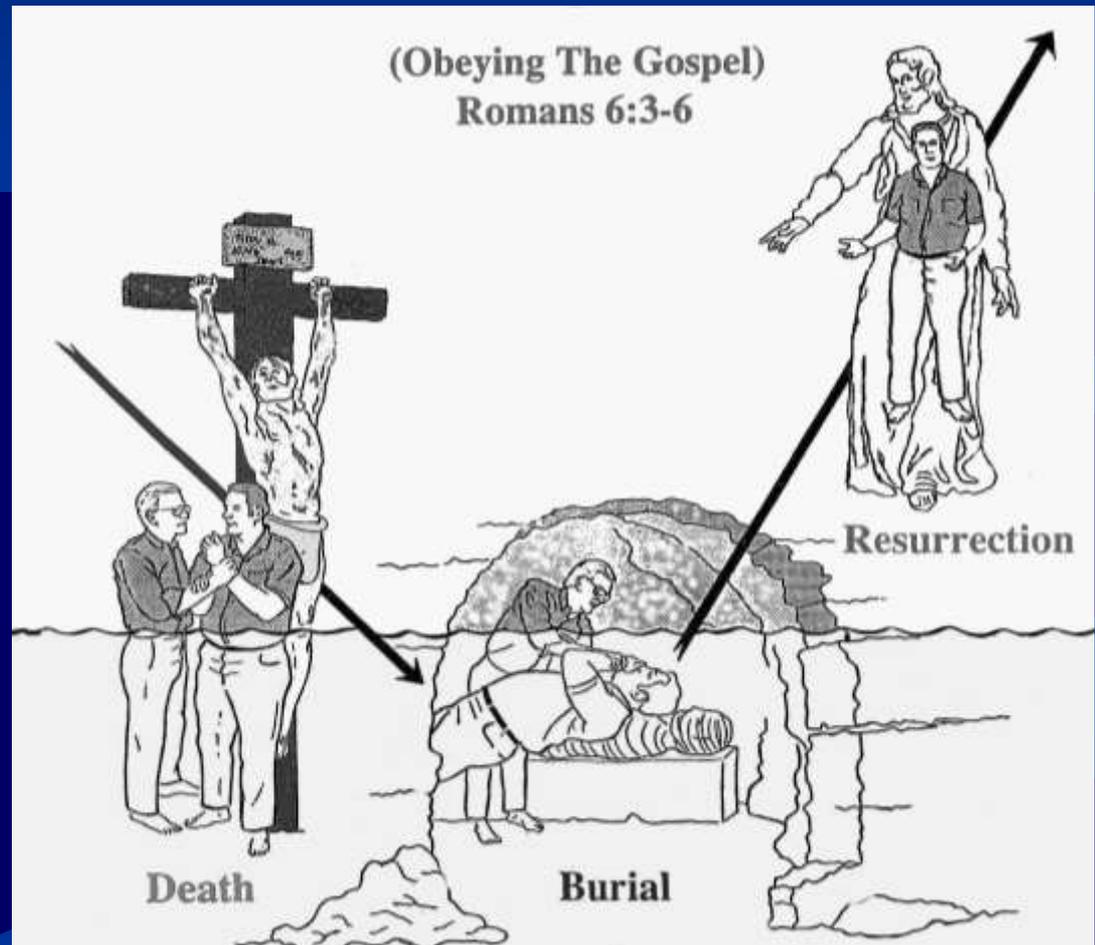
We need to DIE with Jesus.

Be BURIED with Him in Baptism.

We need to be UNITED with Him.

We will be RAISED like Him.

Rom 6:3-4;



THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Only **Two** Possibilities on Receiving Forgiveness of Sins.

SALVATION IS UNCONDITIONAL.

If true: God saves everybody. Romans 2:6-8;

OR He arbitrarily saves some and condemns others.

Acts 10:34-35;

SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL

If true: God saves those who trust in His grace and **accept His terms for salvation.** Hebrews 5:8-9;

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, **He became to ALL THOSE who OBEY Him the source of eternal salvation.**”

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Agrippa answered, “In short, you are doing your best to persuade me to become a Christian.”

Matt 26:28;

We need to hear about God’s grace revealed in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Hearing the gospel, **responding to the truth of the gospel**, obedience to the faith, doctrine.



THE WAY OF SALVATION.

**We have dug a hole too deep
for us to get out of by ourselves.**

God's Justice (the need to condemn sin.)

God's Mercy (God's desire to save us.)

**Is met in the sacrifice of Jesus,
His death burial and resurrection.**

We call this God's GRACE!

**Without the Grace of God we would
be lost forever because of our sin.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

**We need to understand that we are sinners.
We need to understand that despite our sin
God loves us.**

**We need to hear the gospel!
(the good news)
that Jesus died for us,
Jesus died in our place.**

**“So faith comes from what is heard, and what
is heard comes through the word of Christ.”**

Rom 10:17;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

“Brothers, I am telling you the Good News which I've already told you. You accepted it and you are still staying with it. If you hold onto the Good News which I told you, then, **through it, you are being saved,** unless you believed it for nothing!” 1 Cor 15:1-4

“First of all, I passed on to you the same thing which was passed on to me: Christ died for our sins. (The Scriptures told about this before it happened.) He was buried and he was raised from death on the third day. (The Scriptures foretold this, too.)”

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Faith is our **RESPONSE** to hearing the gospel, the good news, it means we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who died for our sins.

“That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for **UNLESS** you believe that I am who I say I am, you will die in your sins.” John 8:24;

“You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God and that He rewards those who sincerely look for Him.”

Heb 11:6;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Repentance is faith in action, a response to our believing the gospel and that God wants to save us through the blood of His son. It means a change of will and attitude, a change of direction away from our old way of life and past sins.

“Those times of ignorance God viewed with indulgence. But now **He commands all men everywhere to repent.**” Acts 17:30;

“First, in Damascus, I began to tell Jews that they should **change their hearts. I told them to turn back to God.** I also went to Jerusalem and to the area around Judea and **I said,**
‘Change your lives and do things. This will show that you have truly changed your hearts.’ Acts 26:19-20;

“Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.**” 2 Cor 7:10;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Confession of our faith, our belief in Jesus dying
in our place is again our faith in action
Making public acknowledgment of our belief.

“If you confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord”
and if you believe in your heart that God raised
Jesus from death, you will be saved.” Rom 10:9-10;

“Keep contending in the noble contest of the faith;
seize hold on eternal life, to which you were called
when you confessed the good confession
in the presence of many witnesses.” 1Tim 6:13;

“Many people, even some of the leaders, believed in Jesus.
But they would not say that they believed,
because they were afraid of the Pharisees. They didn't
want to be thrown out of the synagogues.” John 12:42;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Baptism, Immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ is again our faith in action this time resulting in THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR PAST SINS!

“Then Peter answered, “Change your hearts and each one of you must be **immersed by the authority of Jesus the Messiah, so that your sins may be forgiven. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**” Acts 2:38;

“Now, don't wait any longer. Rise up, **get yourself immersed and get your sins washed away, trusting in His name.**” Acts 22:16;

“You were **buried with Christ by immersion. You were also raised with Christ through believing** in the power of God who raised Christ from death.” Col 2:12;

Becoming a Christian is the same as:-

Becoming a disciple Acts 11:26;

“When he found Saul, Barnabas brought him to Antioch. Saul and Barnabas taught a large crowd. For a whole year they met with the congregation.

In Antioch, **God called the disciples “Christians” for the first time.**

Becoming a member of the Lord’s body the church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13;

“The body is a unit, but it has many parts. All of the many parts of the body make up one body. Christ is the same way.”

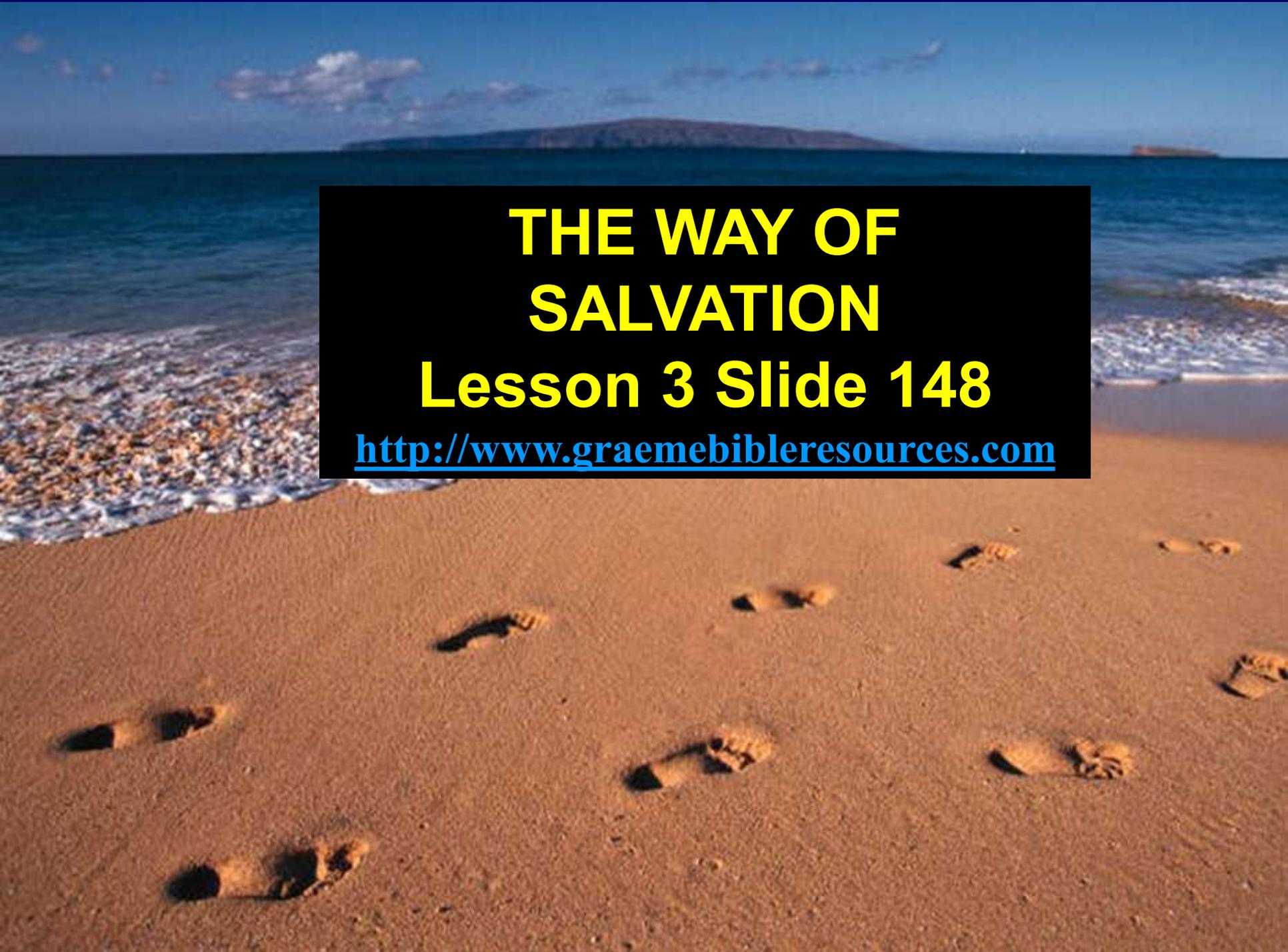
**THE WAY OF
SALVATION
Lesson 2 Slide 85**

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**Next in the series:
THE WAY OF SALVATION
Lesson 3 Slide 148**



**THE WAY OF
SALVATION**
Lesson 3 Slide 148

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Why become a follower of Jesus?

Is it just to be saved from sin?

Is it just to change the direction of our lives?

Is it just to belong to some congregation?

Is it just so that we can have a hope of heaven?

**Becoming a follower of Jesus
is about **A RELATIONSHIP.****

It is a **relationship based on **LOVE.****

It is **motivated by the fact that **God LOVES US.****

Despite our Sinfulness!

Despite our Selfishness!

Despite our Arrogance and Pride!

Why become a follower of Jesus?

Becoming a Christian is not about following a recipe although there may be a recipe involved. It is about falling in LOVE with Jesus!

It has intellectual aspects.

We need to understand that Jesus is ALIVE. That He EXISTS. That He is GOD.

That He is an AUTHORITY!

That WE need to SUBMIT OUR LIVES TO HIM!

That He HAS the POWER to SAVE!

These are things that Jesus HAS revealed about Himself but He calls us not just because of the facts! He calls us into a RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

Why become a follower of Jesus?
Becoming a Christian is not just about memorising certain facts, it is about submitting our lives into a relationship with God.

He wants to be with us! He wants to share in ALL our struggles and challenges!
He sees EACH of us as special and wants to share time and eternity with us.

Jesus proclaims He is the Shepherd and we are the sheep!

The Father in Heaven is OUR FATHER
We ARE His CHILDREN.

JESUS is the BRIDEGROOM
WE are the BRIDE!

Why become a follower of Jesus? Jesus is KING we are His SUBJECTS.

All these relationships
are positive not negative.

Shepherd / Sheep - Care concern for the flock.

Father / Children - A good father not a tyrant.

Bridegroom / Bride - A good husband to be.

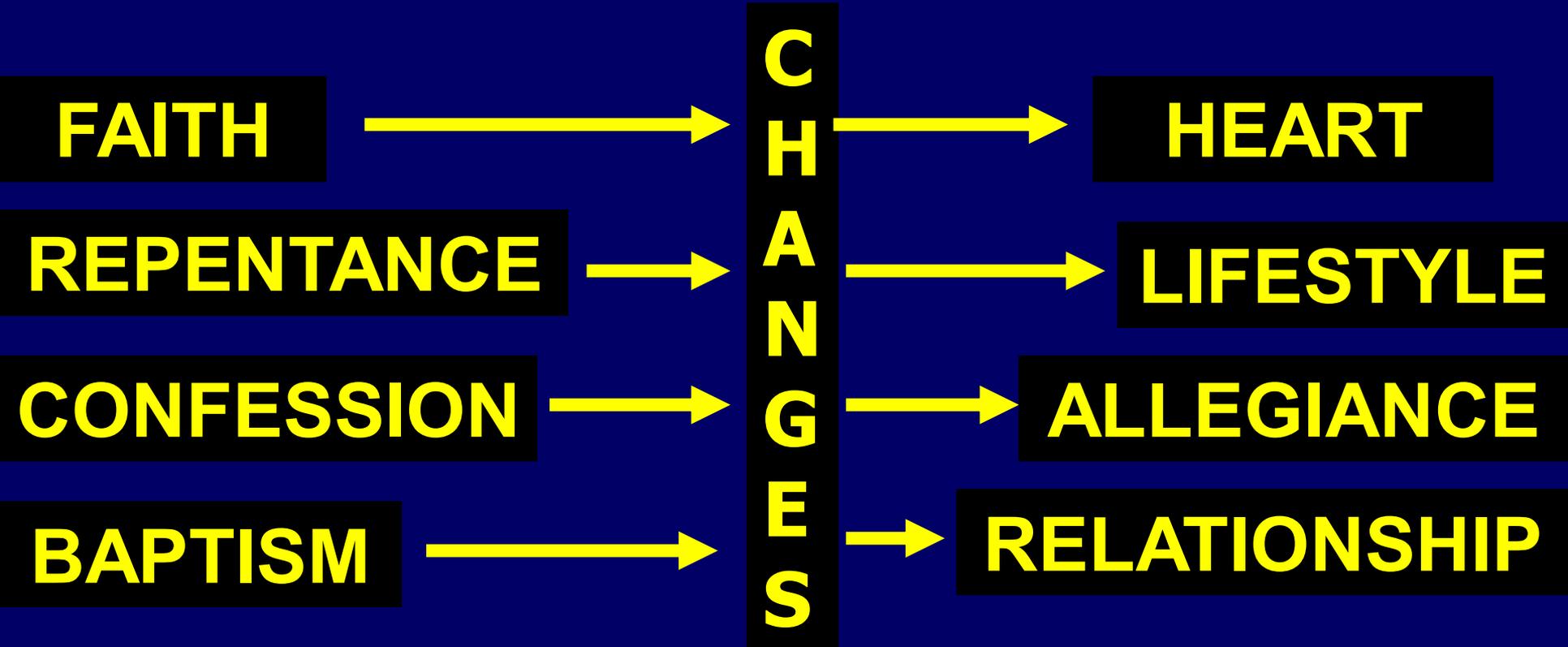
King / Subjects - One who rules well in all things
to benefit His people

Being a follower of Jesus challenges us to grow to
be like Him, to be at one with Him in thought in deed.

To even be prepared to embrace joyfully
the trials and tribulations that may come to us
as we proclaim our love for Him and serve Him.

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

What Changes What?



THE WAY OF SALVATION.

The Bible is explicit in its instructions on the subject of becoming one in Christ and a member of His body, His family the Church.

Despite this
there is much confusion in the religious world.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS THE CHRIST.

- A. You must **be born again.** Jn 3:3-5;
- B. Must **be converted.** Matthew 18:1-3;
- C. The **great commission.** Matthew 28:18-20;
Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-49;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

TAUGHT BY FIGURES.

- A. The New Birth** John 3:1-17;
- a) **Begotten.** 1 Pet 1:23-24; Jam 1:18; 1 Cor 4:15;
- b) **Born of water and Spirit.** Jn 3:5; Gal 3:26-27;
Acts 2:36-41; Rom 6:4-6;
- B. Marriage to Christ.** Eph 5:23-30;
- a) **Acquaintanceship** John 6:44-45;
- b) **Love.** 1 Jn 4:19;
- c) **Ceremony.** Gal 3:26-27;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES.

Saved by grace of God. Eph 2:8-9;

Saved by the Gospel. Rom 1:16-18;

Saved by the Blood of Christ. Rom 5:9;

Saved by the foolishness of preaching. 1 Cor 1:21;

Must hear in order to believe. Rom 10:17;

Must believe or die in Sin. Jn 8:24; Mk 16:16;

Must repent and be converted. Acts 3:19-23;

Lk 13:3-5;

Must by faith be baptised into Christ. Gal 3:26-29;

Rom 1:5; 6:1-6; 16:25;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Must be purified by obedience. 1 Pet 1:22;

2 Tim 3:15-17; John 17:17;

Made free from sin by obedience. Rom 6:16-17;

Must be led by the Spirit. Rom 8:14; 1 John 4:6;

Must be washed, justified, sanctified.

1 Cor 6:9-11; 1:2;

Rev 1:6-9; Acts 22:16;

FIRST CENTURY EXAMPLES.

A. On the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:14-49;

a) What they heard. Death, Burial, and resurrection,
and exaltation of Jesus. Acts 2:22-36;

b) What they were told to do. Believe beyond
a doubt?, “repent, and be baptised.” Acts 2:36-38;

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

c) The consequences of this:

**They received forgiveness of sins,
and the gift of the Holy spirit.**

**Acts 2:38; and were added to the body of believers.
(The church / kingdom / family of God.)**

**When men believe the word of God
and obey the will of God, their sins are pardoned
and God accepts them as His own children.**

**They are added
to the body of the saved and enjoy privileges
and share the responsibilities of that relationship.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Some New Testament examples of individuals who became **CHRISTIANS** by meeting the terms of God's Grace and forgiveness:

The Jews in Jerusalem.

Acts 2:1-47;

The Samaritans.

Acts 8:5-12;

The Ethiopian Eunuch.

Acts 8:26-39;

Saul of Tarsus.

Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16;

Cornelius and his household.

Acts 10:1-48;

Lydia and her household.

Acts 16:14-15;

The Philippian jailer and his household.

Acts 16:25-34;

Crispus and his household.

Acts 18:7-8;



<u>Conversions in Acts.</u>	Heard	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptised
Acts 2:36-41; Pentecost.	Yes		Yes		Yes
Acts 4:4; Five thousand.	Yes	Yes			
Acts 8:5-13 Philip in Samaria	Yes	Yes			Yes
Acts 8:26-40; The Eunuch.	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Acts 9:1-19; Saul to Paul	Yes				Yes
Acts 10:1-48; 1st Gentiles.	Yes	Yes			Yes
Acts 11:19-21; Greeks.		Yes	Yes		
Acts 13:6-12; Proconsul.	Yes	Yes			
Acts 14:1; Jews/Greeks.	Yes	Yes			
Acts 16:12-16; Lydia.	Yes				Yes
Acts 16:16-33; Jailer.	Yes	Yes			Yes
Acts 18:8; Crispus & others.	Yes	Yes			Yes
Acts 19:1-7; Other People.	Yes	Yes			Yes
Acts 22:1-16; Paul's story.	Yes	Yes			Yes

HOW TO BE SAVED ACCORDING TO Billy Graham!

Extract from Billy Graham's web site and his Steps to Peace with God.

How to receive Christ?:

Admit your need! (I am a sinner)

Be willing to turn from your sins (repent)

**Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross
and rose from the grave.**

**Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in
and control your life through the Holy Spirit.
(Receive Him as Lord and Saviour.)**

Suggested prayer: Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness.
I believe that You died for my sins.
I want to turn from my sins.

HOW TO BE SAVED ACCORDING TO Billy Graham!

Extract from Billy Graham's web site and his Steps to Peace with God.

Suggested prayer continued:

**I now invite You to come into my heart and life.
I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Saviour.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Signature _____

Date _____

**If you prayed this prayer, the Bible says...
"For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord
will be saved." Romans 10:13;**

**Billy Graham believes:
Prayer + Ask = Saved!**

HOW TO BE SAVED ACCORDING TO Billy Graham!

How does this ADVICE on how to be saved match up against the COMMANDS of Jesus?

And against the Holy Spirit's examples in the historical book of Acts?

Book of Acts	Sinner's Prayer	Heard	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptised
Pentecost	NO	Yes		Yes		Yes
Five thousand	NO	Yes	Yes			
Philip	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes
The Eunuch	NO	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Saul to Paul	NO	Yes				Yes
1st Gentiles	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes
Greeks	NO		Yes	Yes		
Proconsul	NO	Yes	Yes			
Jews/Greeks	NO	Yes	Yes			
Lydia	NO	Yes				Yes
Jailer	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes
Crispus	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes
Other People	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes
Paul's story	NO	Yes	Yes			Yes

Matt 28:19; "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptising** them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38; "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be **baptised** into the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 8:12; "But when they believed **Philip** preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being **baptised**."

Acts 8:36; As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being **baptised**?"

Acts 22:16; "Now why do you delay? Get up and be **baptised**, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

James 2:24; "Don't you see that a person is righteous because of his actions? He **CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE.**"

**Are we
Saved (justified)
by FAITH ALONE?**

**Jesus says NO!
Peter says NO!
Philip says NO!
Ananias says NO!
James says NO!**

**Why do they all
mention baptism
if faith alone
is sufficient?**

THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Why do so many
GOOD! HONEST! RELIGIOUS! GOD FEARING!
preachers and teachers get it so wrong?

Why is the religious world
in such a confused mess?

Jesus said something
to the Pharisees which could
just as easily apply today...



God's Way or Man's Way? Mark 7:6-9;

“Jesus said to them, how right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written...”

“These people honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. It does no good for them to worship Me. They teach rules made by men.”

“You have forgotten about God's command and you are obeying the old rules of man.” Jesus continued to speak to them, **“You have a clever way of rejecting God's command, so that you may keep your traditions.”**

**IMPORTANT
QUESTION**

**AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS
FORGIVEN?**

Washed in the BLOOD

**SINS FORGIVEN
RECEIVE
INDWELLING
HOLY SPIRIT**

SAVED

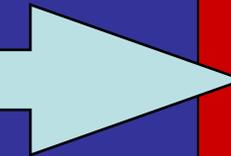
**NEW MAN
(REBORN
IN CHRIST)**

**be baptized
confess
repent**

believe

hear

TIME LINE

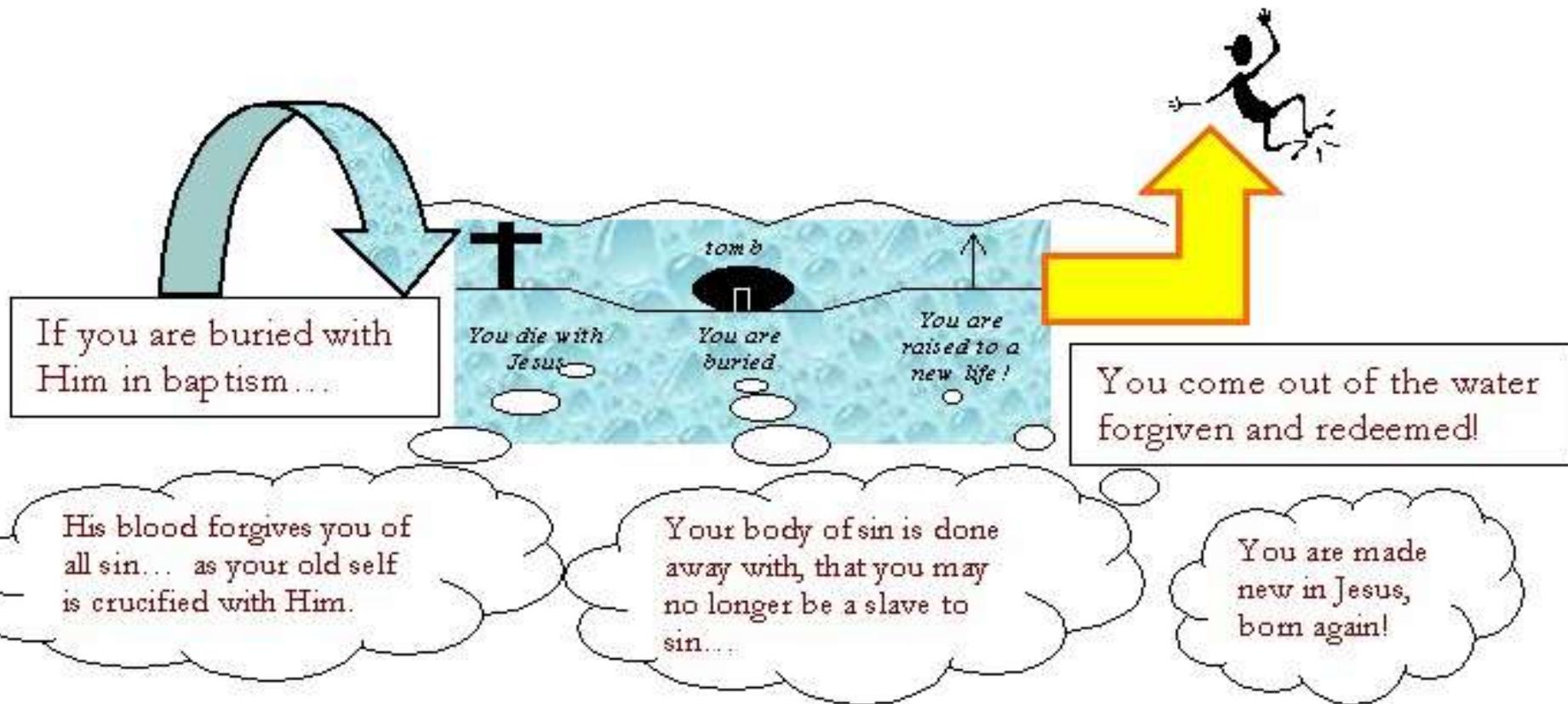


**OLD MAN
(LOST IN SIN)**

**Saved by God's Grace
Through the Blood of Jesus**

The Gospel re-enacted. Through the blood of Christ our baptism brings us into a relationship with God.

You see all three elements of the Gospel are represented in baptism: **Jesus' death vs our death** to self, **Jesus' burial vs our burial** in the watery grave of baptism, **Jesus' resurrection vs our being raised up** to live a new life.



When was the apostle Paul saved / forgiven / and received the indwelling Spirit?

Chapter 9

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

AC 9:5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

AC 9:7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

AC 9:10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

AC 9:11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

AC 9:13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

AC 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

AC 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹

**Was Paul saved
on the Damascus
road?**

**FOR
THREE DAYS
Paul was:-
BLIND!
DID NOT EAT!
DID NOT DRINK!
WAS PRAYING!**

When was the apostle Paul saved / forgiven / and received the indwelling Spirit?

Chapter 22

AC 22:6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

AC 22:8 " 'Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

" 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁹ My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

AC 22:10 " 'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.

" 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

AC 22:12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

AC 22:14 "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

FOR THREE DAYS

Paul was:-

BLIND!

DID NOT EAT!

DID NOT DRINK!

WAS PRAYING!

WHAT SINS DID Paul

have to wash away

after three days

If he had been saved,

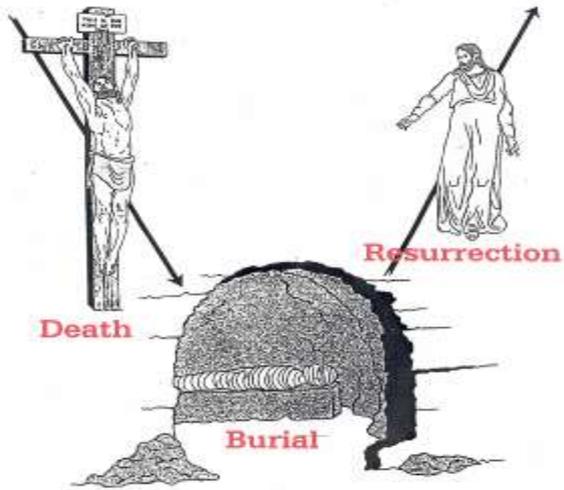
forgiven, received

the Spirit, on

the Damascus road?

The Gospel Enacted

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

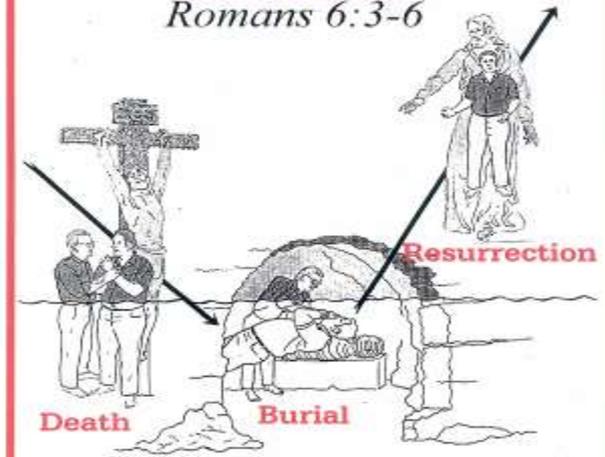


What happens
at the point
of Baptism?

Rom 6:3-4;

The Gospel Re-enacted In Baptism

Romans 6:3-6



We are **placed "into Christ."** (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27;)
We're **associated with the death of Christ.** (Col 2:12;)
We **receive the forgiveness of our sins.** (Acts 2:38;)
We are **raised to a new life.** (2 Cor 5:17; Col 2:12;)
We **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** (Acts 2:38;)

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Is Baptism an OPTION or a COMMAND?

**Men can deny many things,
but will never erase from the Bible the fact
that if a person wants to be a Christian, baptism
is a COMMAND of JESUS therefore ESSENTIAL.**

Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16;

Acts 2:37-41; 8:12; 8:35-38; 22:16;

Romans 6:1-6; 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17; etc.

There is no need to argue with God.

What is the problem with men today?

Why is it that they love to contradict the will of God?

**We will not be baptised
if we do not believe it necessary
and commanded by Jesus Christ.**

**It is important to note that
baptism ALONE does not save us.**

**To say that baptism alone saves us
would be like saying that faith alone saves us
or that repentance alone saves us.
NEITHER would be what God says in His word.**

**Our obedience to Jesus' command to be baptised
works WITH our belief, WITH our repentant change
AND WITH the confession of our faith to save us.**

THE WAY OF SALVATION - Summary

God's terms of grace.

Salvation is found in the Gospel. Rom 1:16;

a) **The Gospel is to be Believed.** 1 Cor 15:1-6;

b) **The Gospel is to be Obeyed.** 2 Thess 1:8;

c) **The Gospel is to be Preached.** Mark 16:15-16;

Salvation is for ANYONE who accepts the Gospel.

1 Tim 2:3-4;

Salvation is made available by God's grace;

it is obtained through man's obedient faith response

Salvation is possessed NOW

by those who are IN Christ.

1 John 5:13;

THE WAY OF SALVATION

WRONG CONCEPTS

I can earn / merit salvation.

I must keep the law or I will be lost!

I must go to meet with my brothers and sisters out of duty!

I must obey God out of fear.

I still feel guilty because I still sin.

BAD NEWS

RIGHT CONCEPTS

Salvation is a free gift!

God in Jesus kept the law for me!

I go to meet with my brothers and sisters out of thankfulness!

I want to do His will because I love Him.

I still sin but I trust in His forgiveness.

GOOD NEWS

THE WAY OF SALVATION- Summary

The purpose of God's grace: To offer us a way of **escape** from the ultimate consequences of our sins and help us back to a relationship with our God.

The purpose of our belief: To direct us to **faithful obedience** to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of our repentance:

To turn us to Jesus Christ and His teachings, turning away from our sinful activities of the past and stay away from them in the future.

The purpose of our confession:

To show that we believe in God and Jesus Christ and are not ashamed of our belief.

The purpose of baptism: to allow the blood of Christ to wash away the sins of our past life, to be saved, to receive the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. 1 Peter 3:21; Revelation 1:5;

It is at the point of baptism that God cleanses us from our sins by the blood of Jesus and adds us to the body of Christ, the church.

It is that from which we **rise to walk in a new life**, serving God, living faithfully until our bodily death, and granting us everlasting life with God.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

**When we look at the
religious world today
there seems to be
so many conflicting answers to
questions and so much confusion.**

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

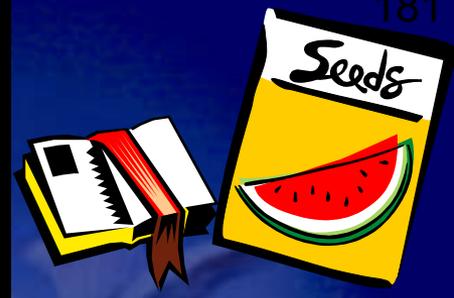


**IS TO SHOW US THE WAY / GUIDE US THROUGH
THE WORD / TO HELP US GET BACK TO GOD.**

Conclusion:

*“The seed is
the Word of God”*

Luke 8:11;



The Bible Alone → *A Christian.*

Bible + Methodist Discipline → *A Methodist.*

Bible + 39 Articles → *Church of England.*

Bible + Catechism → *Catholic Church.*

Bible + Baptist Manual → *A Baptist.*

Bible + Book of Mormon → *A Mormon.*

**If you add any other book of Rules to the Bible
you end up with a different gospel and a different religion.**

AFTER LIFE TIME GUARANTEE!

There is a company called **Snap-on Tools**.
If you buy a screwdriver from them
they give you a **life time guarantee!**

You can go down to the **Pound Shop**
and **buy a screwdriver** which **looks** the same
as a **Snap-on screwdriver** and most days
will seem to allow you to do everything with it
that a Snap-on screwdriver will do.

But if you break the **Snap-on screwdriver**
they will replace it **for free** because
they promised a lifetime guarantee.

If you break the one from the pound shop
You have to BUY another one.

HOME WORK!

Make a chain reference on Salvation.

Matt 28:19-20; Eph 2:6-8; Rom 6:23; 1 John 5:13;
John 3:16,36; Heb 5:8-9; Mark 16:16;

Having referenced the scriptures above
make a list of the main points
which they teach concerning salvation.

Read Hebrews chapter 11 and see if they had
"**faith alone**" or an "**obedient faith?**"

JESUS IS ALIVE!

GRACE

LOVE OF GOD

FAITH

JUSTIFICATION BY GOD

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

THE WORK OF H/SPIRIT

CONVICTION OF SIN

CONFESSION

**The WAY of
SALVATION
INVOLVES**

BAPTISM

THE WORD OF GOD

SANCTIFICATION

MERCY

REPENTANCE

REMAINING FAITHFUL

**THE WAY OF
SALVATION
Lesson 3 Slide 148**

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**Next in the series:
What is Faith?**