

Finding Light in the Darkness

Session 18: Major Doctrines, part 3

Man, Sin, and Salvation

Slide Notes, Sonny Bowman

Man

Lies About Man

- Man evolved
- Man is god
- Man is good
- Society and environment cause of man's bad actions
- It's all about me

Elton Trueblood: "The greatest unhappiness... comes from focusing attention on ourselves"

Creation of Man

- Created by God – Gen 1:26-27, Mat 19:4-6
- From earth and breath of God – Gen 2:7
- Perfect, all was good – Gen 1:31
- Not good to be alone, woman – Gen 2:18-24
- Enjoyed relationship with God – Gen 2:16-17, 2:19, 2:22, 3:8-9
- Dominion over earth – Gen 1:26-28
- Job, tend the Garden of Eden – Gen 2:15

Not good because never had been aloneness before. A perfect man and woman in a perfect world

Genesis 1:26-27 — Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (NLT)

Matthew 19:4-6 — "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." (NLT)

Genesis 2:7 — Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. (NLT)

Genesis 1:31 — Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!.... (NLT)

Genesis 2:18-24 — Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’ ” This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. (NLT)

Genesis 2:16-17 — But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” (NLT)

Genesis 2:19 — So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. (NLT)

Genesis 2:22 — Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. (NLT)

Genesis 3:8-9 — When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” (NLT)

Genesis 2:15 — The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. (NLT)

Jesus and Creation

- **Jesus was there – Jn 1:1-4, 14**
- **Referenced creation as the foundation of marriage – Mat 19:4-6**

Jesus should know. He is God, and He was there!

John 1:1-4 — In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. (NLT)

John 1:14 — So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son. (NLT)

Matthew 19:4-6 — “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.” (NLT)

But What About Evolution?

- **Not a fact, not even a good theory**
- **Many scientist switching to Intelligent Design**
- **A philosophical position, not observable science**

- **Real science states life only comes from life**
 - ♦ **No spontaneous generation**
 - ♦ **Yet required for evolution to happen**
- **Clip: Richard Dawkins from Expelled movie**

Macro evolution – the belief that all living creatures today came from a single living cell through a process of increasing complexity guided by natural selection.

Many scientist switching to a theory of Intelligent Design since it explains the evidence better.

Biggest problem is getting life started!

Recommend: *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* by Dr. Michael Denton, an evolutionist.

Video clip from movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* by Ben Stiller

Anyone heard of Richard Dawkins, one of today’s prominent atheists and evolutionists?

No one knows how life got started, because the laws of science say you cannot get life from non-life.

Dawkins willing to accept that an alien life form may be out in the universe somewhere and created us. But not willing to accept a god out there somewhere who created us. Any intelligent designer except for God. That’s a philosophical belief system, not science.

Male and female had to evolved together to reproduce.

Takes more faith to believe evolution than creation.

God is Not Hidden!

- **For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. — Romans 1:20 (NLT)**

Circular Reasoning

- **Man was either created or he evolved**
- **People start w/ assumption there is no God**
- **If there is no God, only evolution is possible**
- **Since man exists, he had to have evolved**
- **Therefore...**
- **Evolution is a proven fact!**
- **Since evolution is a fact, there is no God**

No God for whatever reason they have, don’t like him, etc.

Evolution now used in schools, colleges, museums, and TV, etc., to prove that there is no God. Extremely hostile to Christianity!

Pardon me. This is circular reasoning and invalid. You cannot use an assumption to prove the assumption! Of course, they also think that atheism is a fact.

I appreciate Michael Denton's candor on this in his book, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*.

If I found that the Bible was a myth and Jesus didn't rise from the dead, I still would not believe in evolution. It is just not good science!

Nature of Man

- **Eternal Being**
- **Designed for love relationship with God – Mat 22:36-40, 1 Jn 4:19-20, Gal 4:6-7**
- **Free Will – 2 Cor 8:3, Lev 22:29**
- **Three-parts**
 - ♦ **Spirit – inner, eternal man - pneuma**
 - ♦ **Soul – thoughts, emotions, feelings - psuche**
 - ♦ **Body – outer, physical, touchable – soma**

Your body is like a space suit. It is the earth suit that permits your spirit and soul to function on this earth.

Will talk about salvation of each part: spirit, soul, and body later in the section.

Love is valuable only when freely given. There must be a real opportunity to not love for true sharing of love relationship. Therefore, God gave man a free will to choose and a choice to obey or rebel.

Matthew 22:36-40 — “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (NLT)

1 John 4:19-20 — We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? (NLT)

Galatians 4:6-7 — And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 8:3 — For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. (NLT)

Leviticus 22:29 — And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer *it* of your own free will. (NKJV)

Fall of Man – Genesis 3

- **Only one thing forbidden in Eden**
- **Satan lied “You will not die!”**

- **Man believed Satan's truth claim**
- **Man rebelled against God – “sin”**
- **Sin brought death: spirit, soul & body**
 - ♦ **Spiritual death instantly**
 - ♦ **Mental decay over time**
 - ♦ **Physical death over time**
- **Death infected all of creation**
- **Satan became god of this world – 2 Cor 4:4**

Fall – from perfection and dominion. Many things man could do, only one he could not. Needed to have a choice if he was to have true free will. With the fall of man, sin damaged God's creation and it was no longer good.

Satan hijacked dominion of this world that previously had belonged to man.

2 Corinthians 4:4 — Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. (NLT)

The Fall Did Not Surprise God

- **Free will requires real possibility of bad choice – Deut 30:19-20, Josh 24:15**
- **True love requires freedom to not love**
- **God had redemption plan ready from the very beginning**
 - ♦ **... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. — Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)**

Though God knew man would choose poorly, still had to give him the opportunity, or there could be no real love relationship between man and God.

Love is valuable only when given freely.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 — “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life....” (NLT)

Joshua 24:15 — But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” (NLT)

God Provided a Savior

- **For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. — 1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)**

- **But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. — Galatians 4:4 (NLT)**

Jesus' redemption was not "plan B" for God! There was only ever one plan!

Summary of Man

- **Created by God in "Our image"**
- **All creation was originally good**
- **Man did not evolve**
- **Man is an eternal being with free will**
- **Three parts: spirit, soul, and body**
- **Man sinned, bringing death into creation**
- **God provided a Savior to bring life**

Sin

Lies About Sin

- **There is no such thing as sin**
- **Sin is outdated concept**
- **Sin is no big deal**
- **It only affects me**
- **I can control it**
- **My sin is too bad to be forgiven**

The word "sin" has been removed (along with other significant words) from the *Oxford Junior Dictionary* designed for children. The following is from an article at www.dailymail.co.uk ...

'Nowadays, the environment has changed. We are also much more multicultural. People don't go to Church as often as before. Our understanding of religion is within multiculturalism, which is why some words such as "Pentecost" or "Whitsun" would have been in 20 years ago but not now.'

The volume is aimed at seven-to-nine-year-olds.

Words removed from the Oxford Junior Dictionary:

NATURE: Bluebell, budgerigar, cygnet, dandelion, gerbil, goldfish, guinea pig, kingfisher, magpie, marzipan, minnow, newt, piglet, primrose, starling, willow, wren.

CHRISTIANITY: Carol, cracker, holly, ivy, mistletoe, abbey, altar, bishop, chapel, christen, disciple, monk, nun, pew, saint, sin

HISTORY: Coronation, duchess, duke, emperor, empire, monarch, decade

Words added:

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: Blog, broadband, MP3 player, voicemail, attachment, database, chatroom, analogue, incisor, square number, trapezium, food chain

SOCIETY: Celebrity, tolerant, vandalism, negotiate, interdependent, drought, biodegradable, bilingual

POLITICS: Citizenship, EU, euro, committee, democratic

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1092668/Is-sin-Christian-words-deleted-Oxford-dictionary.html>

What is Sin

- **Breaking God's law – 1 Jn 3:4,**
- **Violating God's nature or character – 1 Jn 5:17, Jam 4:17**
- **Choosing your way over God's**

Man's sin caused the fall of man and corruption of God's good creation.

1 John 3:4 — Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. (NLT)

1 John 5:17 — All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death. (NLT)

James 4:17 — Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. (NLT)

Consequences of Sin

- **Brings death – Rom 6:23**
 - ♦ **Spiritual death – Eph 2:1, 5**
 - ♦ **Mental depravity – 2 Tim 3:8**
 - ♦ **Physical decay – Gen 3:19**
- **Damages relationship with God – Isa 59:2-3, Ps 66:18-19**
- **Hardens us – Heb 3:13**
- **Enslaves us – Pr 5:22, Rom 6:16, 20**

Makes you unavailable to God.

Romans 6:23 — For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

Ephesians 2:1 — Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. (NLT)

Ephesians 2:5 — that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) (NLT)

2 Timothy 3:8 — These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. (NLT)

Genesis 3:19 — By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.” (NLT)

Isaiah 59:2-3 — It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Your hands are the hands of murderers, and your fingers are filthy with sin. Your lips are full of lies, and your mouth spews corruption. (NLT)

Psalms 66:18-19 — If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. (NLT)

Hebrews 3:13 — You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. (NLT)

Proverbs 5:22 — An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. (NLT)

Romans 6:16 — Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. (NLT)

Romans 6:20 — When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. (NLT)

Salvation

Lies About Salvation

- **Man does not need salvation**
- **Salvation comes by being good**
- **Salvation comes by religion**
- **You lose salvation when you sin**
- **I’ve crossed the line and can’t be saved**
- **There are many paths to God**

Spirit, Soul and Body

- **Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. — 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NLT)**
 - ♦ **Spirit – inner, eternal man - pneuma**
 - ♦ **Soul – thoughts, emotions, feelings - psuche**
 - ♦ **Body – outer, physical, touchable – soma**

Remember? Man was created as a three-part being.

The Fall Affected Each Part

- **Spirit died – Gen 2:17, Eph 2:1, 1 Cor 15:22**

- **Mind was darkened – Rom 1:21, Eph 4:18**
- **Body decays – 2 Cor 4:16, 2 Cor 5:4**
- **Each part was affected by the Fall**
- **Each part is saved in Jesus**

Genesis 2:17 — but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:1 — And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (NKJV)

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

Romans 1:21 — Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. (NLT)

Ephesians 4:18 — Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 4:16 — That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:4 — While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. (NLT)

The Initial Step of Salvation

- **If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” — Romans 10:9-10, 13 (NLT)**

Salvation of Your Spirit

- **Replaced at faith – John 5:25, Eze 11:19, 36:26-27**
- **Born again – Jn 3:3-8**
- **Spiritually alive - Rom 8:10, Eph 2:1**
- **A new creation – 2 Cor 5:17**
- **Perfect forever – Heb 10:14**
- **Righteous – Rom 8:10, 10:10**

John 5:25 — “And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. (NLT)

Ezekiel 11:19 — And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. . . ., (NLT)

Ezekiel 36:26-27 — And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you.
(NLT)

John 3:3-8 — Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” ... Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.” (NLT)

Romans 8:10 — And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:1,5 — And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, - even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:17 — This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (NLT)

Hebrews 10:14 — For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy. (NLT)

Romans 10:10 — For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (NLT)

Salvation of Your Body

- **Though you are saved, your body is still dying**
 - ♦ Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. —
2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT)
- **Body receives life at the resurrection when Jesus returns – 1 Cor 15:35, 42-44, 48-54, 1 Thes 4:13-17, Phil 3:20-21**
- **Until then, present body as a living sacrifice, using it to serve Jesus – Rom 12:1, 1 Cor 6:20, 9:27, Rom 6:12, 1 Thes 4:3-8**

Keep your body, your earth suit, in good shape so it serves you well as you serve the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:35, 42-44 — But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” — It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15:48-54 — For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. (NLT)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 — ..., we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died ... when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell

you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 6:20 — for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. (NLT)

Romans 6:12 — Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. (NKJV)

Salvation of Your Soul

- **A lifelong process – Jam 1:21**
- **Transformed through Word of God and godly choices – 1 Pet 1:9, 22, Rom 12:2**
- **Goal: To know God and His ways**
 - ♦ **Think like God thinks**
 - ♦ **See like God sees**
 - ♦ **Love like God loves**
 - ♦ **Value what God values**
 - ♦ **Act like God acts**
- **When Jesus returns, will be completed – 1 Cor 13.12**

James 1:21 — So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. (NLT)

1 Peter 1:9, 22 — The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. – You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. (NLT)

Romans 12:2 — Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 13:12 — Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. (NLT)

The Big Vote! When born again, you spirit will always choose to follow God. Your body usually chooses what feels good, is easy, or pleasant—in most cases it chooses to not follow God.

Your soul casts the deciding vote. If unrenewed, your soul tends to vote with your body. As you renew your mind to the things of God, you soul will more often vote with your spirit to follow God. The key to godly living is renewing your mind/soul.

The Heart

- **Believe from the heart – Rom 10:9-10**

- **Where you really believe**
- **Mind contains lots of truth claims.**
 - ♦ **Some you know are false (advertising)**
 - ♦ **Some you think are true, but are false**
 - ♦ **Some are true, but you don't really believe it**
- **Moving truth to your heart**
 - ♦ **Work of the Holy Spirit – Jn 16:13-14, 1 Cor 2:10-12**
 - ♦ **Faith, by Word/Truth of God – Rom 10:17, Jn 17:17**
 - ♦ **Meditating – Ps 119:11, Pr 4:20-22, 1 Tim 4:12-16**

The “haunting question” from The Truth Project: “Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?”

Romans 10:9-10 — If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (NLT)

John 16:13-14 — When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 — But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. (NLT)

Romans 10:17 — So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (NKJV)

John 17:17 — Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (NKJV)

Psalms 119:11 — I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (NLT)

Proverbs 4:20-22 — My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 4:12-16 — Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. (NKJV)

God Looks at the Heart

- **The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” — 1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)**
- **God sees that people are dead when they look alive to us**

- **God sees born again people righteous even when they don't look so good to us**

Identification with Christ

- **At salvation, our spirit is joined with Jesus**
 - ♦ **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. — 1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)**
- **His history becomes yours and yours became His**
 - ♦ **Jesus bore our sins on cross – 1 Pet 2:24, Isa 53:11, 2 Cor 5:21**
 - ♦ **We have His righteousness – 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Cor 1:30-31**

1 Peter 2:24 — He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. (NLT)

Isaiah 53:11 — When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:21 — For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 — God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.” (NLT)

In Christ You Are...

- **Crucified – Gal 2:20, Rom 6:5-7**
- **Dead – 2 Cor 5:14, Col 3:3**
- **Buried – Rom 6:3-13, Col 2:9-13**
- **Raised – Eph 2:5-6, Rom 6:3-13, Col 2:9-13**
- **Made Alive – Col 2:9-13, Eph 2:5-6**
- **Seated in Heavenly Places – Eph 2:5-6**

Enlightening to pay attention to Scripture when it speaks about us, “in Christ,” “with Christ,” “in Whom,” etc.

Galatians 2:20 — My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. (NLT)

Romans 6:5-7 — Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. (NLT)

Colossians 2:9-13 — For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and

because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. (NLT)

Ephesians 2:5-6 — that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (NLT)

Righteous in Christ by Faith

- **Believe and accept God's offer – Rom 10:9-10**
- **Cannot add to it by being or doing good – Gal 3:1-3**
- **From death to life – Jn 5:24, Rom 6:13**
- **From dark to light – Acts 26:18, Col 1:13**
- **New spirit – Eze 11:19, 36:26, 2 Cor 5:17**

Romans 10:9-10 — If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (NLT)

Galatians 3:1-3 — Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? (NLT)

John 5:24 — "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. (NLT)

Romans 6:13 — Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. (NLT)

Acts 26:18 — to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.' (NLT)

Colossians 1:13 — For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, (NLT)

Ezekiel 11:19 — And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, (NLT)

Ezekiel 36:26 — And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Therefore, if anyone *is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (NKJV)

Salvation Needed

- **Man guilty of sin – Rom 3:23**
- **Wages of sin is death – Rom 6:23**
- **Man is spiritually dead – Eph 2:1, 5**
- **Man cannot deliver himself – Rom 3:20, 5:6, Gal 2:16**

Penalty is severe, cut off for eternity

Romans 3:23 — For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (NLT)

Romans 6:23 — For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

Ephesians 2:1, 5 — Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. — that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) (NLT)

Romans 3:20 — For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. (NLT)

Romans 5:6 — When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. (NLT)

Galatians 2:16 — Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." (NLT)

Not by Man's Efforts

- **Good works can't fix it**
 - ♦ **Break one, a lawbreaker – Jam 2:10**
 - ♦ **Not by works – Rom 3:20,28, Eph 2:8-9**
- **Religious rites can't fix it – Heb 10:1-4**

James 2:10 — For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. (NLT)

Romans 3:20, 28 — For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. — So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. (NLT)

Ephesians 2:8-9 — God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (NLT)

Hebrews 10:1-4 — The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time,

and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (NLT)

Why Jesus is the Only Way

- Debt must be paid – justice
- Good works can't solve the problem
- Religious rites can't solve the problem
- Only sinless Jesus could be a sufficient substitute
- He's the only way that works!
 - ♦ Jesus didn't come to make bad people good
 - ♦ He came to make dead people alive

Salvation Like Marriage

- Married the instant pronounced
- Still married when don't feel like it
- Still married when you argue or hurt one another
 - ♦ Don't have to get remarried
 - ♦ But need to confess & repent to reestablish the relationship
- Still married if commit adultery.
 - ♦ Spouse has option to get divorce, but not automatic if sin against spouse

It's all about relationship

Death of Believers

- Absent from body, present w/ Lord – 2 Cor 5:6-8
- Live with Jesus forever – 1 Thes 5:10
- Dying is even better than living – Phil 1:21-24
- Not all die, some transformed at resurrection, all victorious over death – 1 Cor 15:51-54
- In Jesus, victory over sin & death – 1 Cor 15:57

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 — So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. (NLT)

This verse the fallacy of teachings about “soul sleep” where the spirit/soul of a person is in a non-aware, sleep-like state between physical death and resurrection of the body.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 — Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. (NLT)

Philippians 1:21-24 — For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 — But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15:57 — But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NLT)

Death of Children?

- **Sin not imputed where no law**
 - ♦ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. — Romans 5:13 (NKJV)
- **When law came, sin revived and I died**
 - ♦ For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. — Romans 7:8-9 (NKJV)
- **Jesus welcomed children**
 - ♦ But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." — Matthew 19:14 (NLT)

Impute = to credit to a person or a cause

Summary of Salvation

- **Salvation is for your spirit, soul, & body**
- **Salvation manifests differently for each part**
- **Believers are in union with Jesus**
 - ♦ Crucified, dead, and buried
 - ♦ Raised, made alive
 - ♦ Debt paid, fully righteous
- **Salvation not by good works or religion**
- **Jesus is the only way that works**
- **Believers have victory over sin & death**

For More Information

- **BB #5 – Right with God**
- **BB #6 – Spirit, Soul, and Body**

- **BB #8 – Forgiven to Forgive**
- ***Head Braking Grace* (CDs in Life Sources)**
- ***The Truth Project* course (Focus on the Family)**
- ***Unlocking the Mystery of Life* (DVD)**
- ***Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Michael Denton**
- **www.life4square.com**

BB = *Building Blocks of Life* (available on www.life4square.com)