

A3 - Salvation

Study 1 - A Personal Necessity

BIBLE READING:

**Genesis 1: 26-27; 2: 7-9, 15-17;
3: 1-13, 22-24**

KEY VERSE:

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

Romans 5: 12

If some people are trapped in a burning building, or are aboard a sinking ship, they need to be rescued because they are in great danger; everything possible must be done, without delay, to save them!

The Bible’s message to us is that there is another sense in which we ALL need to be saved. We speak of it as ‘being saved from our sins’. Apart from this experience, we cannot be followers of the Lord Jesus in this life, nor can we enter Heaven in the next life. It follows, then, that ‘salvation’ is a very important subject, and we should try to understand what the Bible has to say about it. Let us go back to the very beginning.

God is our Maker. We are like one huge family, descended from the first man, Adam. The account of how God made Adam, as the most special part of His whole creation, is found in **Genesis chapters 1 and 2**.

Because Adam and his wife, Eve, were so special, God set clear boundaries for them; He told them what they could do, and what they could not do. He warned them that to disobey Him would have the most serious consequences. **“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.” (Genesis 2: 16-17)**

At first all went well; Adam and Eve were living happily in the Garden of Eden. But when the test came, they failed! They yielded to Satan’s temptations and disobeyed God. They became ‘sinners’, and now were no longer happy in the presence of God; indeed, their feeling of guilt was so great that they tried to hide from God. In a sense, they were ‘dead’ from the moment they disobeyed, and they found themselves ‘cut off’ from God, and later were expelled from His presence.

Adam is the head of the human family. His act of disobedience has affected all of us. In his ‘fall’, we have all ‘fallen’! In **Romans 5: 12** we read: **“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man (i.e. Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”**. We are all ‘children of Adam’ in the sense that we come from a ‘family’ whose ‘head’ chose Satan’s way, in preference to God’s way. This is one of the chief reasons why we need to be saved. By our natural birth we are joined to the first man, Adam, and therefore every one of us is a sinner. The penalty of sin for us, as for Adam, is death: **“For the wages of sin is death”**. (Romans 6: 23) This means, then, that salvation is a personal necessity, if we are to escape God’s judgment upon sin.

Have you ever wondered why there is so much evil and wrong-doing in the world? Why do people everywhere lie, cheat, lust and murder? Why do even the best people so often fall when faced by temptation? The Bible’s explanation is that these things are the ‘fruit’, coming from a sinful ‘root’. Because our very nature is sinful, we inevitably fail to come up to God’s standard for us. In God’s sight we are all sinners.



In summary, then, salvation is a personal necessity because of:

1. WHAT WE ARE

‘children of Adam’, our fallen ‘head’.

2. WHAT WE HAVE DONE

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3: 23)

It is impossible for us to save ourselves from our sins, but the good news is that God has provided a way of salvation for us. We shall study this more in the lessons that follow.

This is the first of three units on Salvation.

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Study 2 - A Costly Provision

BIBLE READING:

Romans 5: 6-11

KEY VERSE:

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4: 12

To carry out a rescue can be very costly! Think of the cost of saving miners who are trapped hundreds of feet below ground, or seamen whose ship has foundered in a violent storm. We can never put a price on the courage and devotion shown by those who put their lives at risk to save others.

In this study, we shall focus on something greater - the “salvation” which God has provided at immense cost, to rescue sinners

SALVATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY GOD.

It is impossible for us to save ourselves from our sins. We are totally unable to change our sinful nature. In spite of all human skill and cleverness, we are without strength to bring about a deliverance from our sins: **“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”** (Romans 5: 6) If we are to be saved, our only hope is in God!

SALVATION IS ROOTED IN GOD’S LOVE FOR US.

God is absolutely pure and holy. He must, therefore, condemn our sin, and punish it with its proper penalty. But it is equally true that He loves each one of us and wants to save us. **“God our Saviour ... desires all people to be saved ...”** (1 Timothy 2: 3-4) Read also **John 3: 16**. In His provision of salvation for us, He has found a way of punishing our sin, and yet saving us!

SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE.

The word ‘grace’ means ‘undeserved favour’. In making salvation available to us, God is showing us favour which we do not deserve. As sinners, we all deserve His punishment! But the good news is that we can be freed from punishment and come into unlimited favour with Him by grace alone. **(Ephesians 2: 8-9)** Our own efforts, either at being good or doing good, can have no place in obtaining salvation from God!

SALVATION IS IN, AND THROUGH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Salvation from sin is not found in religious rules or ceremonies, but in a living Person, the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. His very name ‘Jesus’ (which means ‘Saviour’) was given to Him because **“He will save His people from their sins”**. (Matthew 1: 21) Paul and Silas said, **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved”**. (Acts 16: 31) Look again at what Peter said in the Key Verse.

SALVATION IS PROVIDED BY HIS DEATH FOR OUR SINS.

It is when we think about the Lord Jesus dying on the cross at Calvary, that we begin to understand how costly our salvation is. In order to save us, the Lord Jesus, who had no sins of His own, died for our sins. **(1 Corinthians 15: 3)** This means that He bore the penalty which we deserved. Because He did this, we do not need to bear it! Instead of having to suffer the penalty of sin, which is death, we can have God’s gift, which is eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. **(Read Romans 6: 23)**



We should never think that it was an easy thing for God to provide salvation for us. It cost Him more than we can ever know, to give His own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die that we might be saved from our sins. In **1 Peter 1: 18-19** we read that we are saved, **“not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ...”**. For us, salvation is FREE (as we shall learn in our next study), but for God it was so COSTLY.

This is the first of three units on Salvation.

Answer Sheet

A3 - Salvation

Study 1 - A Personal Necessity

Name: _____ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: _____

1. In what way do we all need to be saved?

☐ /3

2. Read *Genesis 1: 26-27* and write a sentence to say what is special about mankind as created by God.

☐ /3

3. Read *Genesis 2: 15-17*, and write down:

a) two tasks which God gave Adam to do.

b) one thing which Adam was forbidden to do.

☐ /3

4. The study says, 'when the test came, they failed!' Read *Genesis 3: 1-6* and explain in what way they failed.

☐ /4

5. In what way did Adam and Eve's sin change their relationship with God?

☐ /2

6. In what way does Adam's sin affect the whole human race?

☐ /2

7. Read *Romans 6: 23*:

a) Explain in your own words what is meant by the 'wages of sin'. _____

b) What do 'the wages of sin' lead to? _____

c) What is the 'free gift of God'? _____

☐ /3

8. Write TRUE or FALSE after each of these statements.

Salvation is a personal necessity:

a) because we are all children of Adam. _____

b) only for very wicked people. _____

c) because we all have come short of God's glory. _____

d) for Jewish people only. _____

e) for me. _____

☐ /5

THINK: Think about the consequences of living in a fallen world. What evidences of it are you most aware of?

TOTAL = ☐ /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 2 - A Costly Provision

1. How would you answer a person who says that he can save himself from his sins and thereby make himself ready for going to Heaven?

 /4

2. Explain what 'grace' is.

 /3

3. Some people say, 'there are many ways of being saved from our sins.' How would Peter's words in *Acts 4: 12* contradict such a statement?

 /3

4. Write TRUE or FALSE after each of these statements.

- a) Eternal life is the reward for those who try their best.
 b) Eternal life is the gift of God.
 c) Jesus bore the penalty of our sin.
 d) We can be saved by attending religious ceremonies.
 e) It was costly for God to provide salvation for us.

 /5

5. Read *John 3: 16*. What does this verse tell us about:

- a) God's love.
 b) The provision that God has made for our salvation.
 c) God's way of salvation.

 /3

6. In what way is the death of the Lord Jesus an essential part of God's plan for delivering sinners from their sins?

 /4

7. The personal sinlessness of the Lord Jesus is one of the greatest teachings of the Bible. Summarise what the apostles Paul, Peter and John said about Him:

- a) He _____ no sin.
 b) He _____ no sin.
 c) In Him _____ no sin.

2 Corinthians 5: 21

1 Peter 2: 22

1 John 3: 5

 /3

THINK: As Christians we often thank God for our salvation.
 Which aspects of salvation are you particularly thankful for?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 3 - A Present Possession

1. What 'price' did the Lord Jesus 'pay' for our salvation? Support your answer, if possible, by a verse from the Bible.

 /3

2. Answer the following questions:

a) Explain the difference between a 'prize' and a 'gift'.

b) Which of these two words (prize or gift) describes God's salvation?

c) According to **Ephesians 2: 8**, what are the two processes involved in a person being saved?

 /5

3. Explain as clearly as you can why it is not possible for us to be saved by our 'good works'.

 /4

4. Put a ✓ or a X beside the following statements to indicate whether they are right or wrong.

a) The Bible meaning of 'believe' is 'trust'.

b) No one can be sure about being saved until this life is over.

c) God will save us in exchange for our 'good deeds'.

d) God's salvation becomes ours when we repent of our sins and trust the Lord Jesus.

e) Being baptised is the same as receiving salvation.

f) Salvation is associated with joy.

 /6

5. Write the question and answer from **Acts 16: 30-31**.

Question:

Answer:

 /2

6. Write out a statement from the Bible which shows that it is foolish to put off receiving God's offer of salvation to a future date.

 /1

7. In **Acts 20: 21** Paul sums up the gospel which he had preached to both Jews and Gentiles (or Greeks). What were the two main parts of his message?

1)

2)

 /4

THINK: Think about your own personal story of how you received the precious gift of salvation and how you would relate this to a friend.

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

A3 - Salvation

Study 4 - A Powerful Life-change

1. Explain briefly who the Holy Spirit is and how He is involved in the life of a believer.

 /6

2. The Key Verse states that Christians should “walk” in a manner worthy of their calling.

a) What does the word ‘walk’ mean in this verse?

b) By whom have they been called?

 /2

3. Look at these other references in *Ephesians* and find six characteristics which should be evident in a Christian’s walk. (*Ephesians 4: 2-3; Ephesians 5: 2, 8, 15*)

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

v)

vi)

 /6

4. Put TRUE or FALSE after each statement:

a) A Christian never sins.

b) The two natures in the Christian work together.

 /2

5. Answer the following questions:

a) In what two ways can a Christian feed the new nature?

b) How should a Christian deal with the old nature?

c) When a Christian knows he has done wrong, what should he then do? Refer to **1 John 1: 9**.

 /6

6. Think about these three statements. ALL THREE are Biblically CORRECT!

Match each one with the Bible reference which states this truth.

Conor says, ‘I was saved from my sins when I believed that Jesus died for me.’

Hebrews 7: 25

Alice says, ‘I am being saved every day because Jesus lives for me.’

Hebrews 9: 28

Josh says, ‘I shall be saved when Jesus comes again for me.’

2 Timothy 1: 8-10

 /3

THINK: Think about your experience of the Christian life. In what way has it been life-changing for you personally?

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Study 3 - A Present Possession

BIBLE READING:

**Isaiah 12: 1-3; Ephesians 2: 4-10;
2 Timothy 1: 8-10**

KEY VERSE:

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Isaiah 12: 3

You probably own something which is your special possession. Someone else may have the same thing but you enjoy being able to say, “This is MINE!”

It's like that with salvation! For each of us, it becomes a precious, personal possession, if, and when, we accept it.

God has done His part, by providing salvation in the Lord Jesus, as we saw in Study 2. Now the question is, ‘How does it become ours?’ There are some important things to understand:

1. SALVATION IS A GIFT.

Everything necessary to save us from our sins has been done by the Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection. It is as though He ‘paid for’ our salvation by giving His life for us. Now He offers it to us as a free gift. **(1 Timothy 2: 5-6)**

2. SALVATION IS NOT A REWARD OR A PRIZE FOR OUR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

We may be inclined to think that, if we do good, God will ‘pay us back’; by forgiving our sins. This, however, is NOT what the Bible teaches. Our sin has spoiled us so completely that even the best things we do can never be accepted by God. Paul writes in **Ephesians 2: 8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works”**. When the Bible says, **“not a result of works”**, it means we cannot be saved on the basis of good deeds which earn us favour with God.

3. SALVATION IS RECEIVED BY FAITH WHICH IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY REPENTANCE.

The readiness to admit our sinfulness and to turn away from it is called ‘REPENTANCE’. You will find in the Bible that God calls upon all to repent. **(Acts 17: 30)** People who sincerely repent, respond readily to the good news that the Lord Jesus died for their sins!

Our faith in the Lord Jesus is meaningful when we find out, from God's Word, that we are sinners, and we are truly sorry about the wrong we have done.

‘Faith’ in the Bible means ‘trust’ or ‘belief’. The terms upon which God gives us His salvation are that we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus. **(Acts 20: 21)** This means that we are to put our trust entirely in Him, believing that He died for our sins. This is stated very clearly in **Acts 16: 30-31**.

You may wonder why salvation is ‘by faith ALONE’. There are TWO important points to remember:

1. The work which Jesus did for us upon the cross is so perfect that it does not need anything added to it by us! **(Hebrews 10: 14)**
2. Even the best we do is spoiled by sin and cannot be accepted by God. **(Isaiah 64: 6)**



4. SALVATION IS A PRESENT POSSESSION.

Do we have to wait until we die to know if we are saved? No, indeed! God assures us that the very moment we repent and believe the Gospel, we are saved. Many Bible verses speak of our salvation as an accomplished fact. **(Ephesians 2: 8-9 and 2 Timothy 1: 8-9)** In the light of these, a person is not being boastful or presumptuous when he or she says, ‘I am saved’, or ‘God has saved me by His grace, through the Lord Jesus Christ.’

A precious possession! Each of us should ask, ‘Have I personally received God's great salvation?’ If not, why not take the gift He is offering you NOW? **“Behold, NOW is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6: 2)**

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Study 4 - A Powerful Life-change

BIBLE READING:

**Ephesians 1: 12-14; 4: 1-3;
Titus 2: 11-14**

KEY VERSE:

**“I... urge you to walk in a manner
worthy of the calling to which you
have been called.”**

Ephesians 4: 1

A rescue is often the act of a moment, as when a person is pulled from a burning building, or from a crashed vehicle. The remainder of the rescued person's life, however, may be totally changed as a result of what happened. The rescue has become a turning point.

That is how it is with God's salvation. A person reaches a 'cross-roads' in life, repents of sin, believes in the Lord Jesus and is saved. From that point on, things are different. The Gospel which is described as **“the power of God for salvation”** has impacted the new believer's life. (*Romans 1: 16*) He is **“a new creation”** in Christ. (*2 Corinthians 5: 17*)

We will now look at the fundamental factors in this changed life.

1. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is an amazing truth that the Person of the Holy Spirit, equal with the Father and the Son comes to live in, and with, a believer at the moment of salvation. The Christian's body is **“a temple of the Holy Spirit.”** (*1 Corinthians 6: 19*) *Ephesians 1: 13* describes being sealed by the Holy Spirit to make us secure in our relationship in Christ. The Spirit witnesses to us that we are children of God. (*Romans 8: 16*) The work of the Holy Spirit is evident in many aspects of a believer's life – e.g. in teaching, in guiding, in strengthening and making us more like Christ.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

We learn from the Bible how people, who are saved, should behave. Believing in the Lord Jesus should affect how we live EVERY DAY of the week! This is what Paul means when he writes to the Christians at Ephesus about their 'walk'. (*Ephesians 4: 1-3, 17; 5: 1-2, 5: 8, and 5: 15*) He places a strong emphasis on the Christian's walk or lifestyle and how salvation should impact upon every aspect of our lives.

This life-long regulating of our lives by the Bible means we need to read it regularly. If you have been saved, and have not been reading His Word, NOW is the time to begin! Read at least a little bit every day, and soon you will find that

salvation initiates a process of spiritual growth in your life. (*Colossians 2: 6-7*)

The Holy Spirit and the Bible work together, guiding us into a lifestyle which is pleasing to God. Being saved does not mean that we never again face temptation or commit sins. There is a spiritual conflict in the life of a Christian; the reason for this is that he is a person with TWO natures. In receiving the Lord Jesus, he has been given new life - a new nature which desires to please God, but his former old nature - sinful and fallen - is still with him! Because of this, a 'war' rages unceasingly. The important thing is to 'feed' the new nature by submitting to the Holy Spirit and obeying the Word of God. At the same time, we must 'starve' the old nature, by turning away from all that we know to be sinful.

3. THE RISEN SAVIOUR

A third factor in the enjoyment of our salvation is the realisation that our Saviour lives! HE DIED FOR US (*Romans 5: 8*) but it is equally true that HE LIVES FOR US. (*Hebrews 7: 25*) He is NOW in Heaven, an exalted and glorified Saviour, and He acts there in our interests. Because of His activity there on our behalf, we can experience an on-going salvation day by day. He helps us to have victory over Satan and temptation. We would never have this salvation if the Lord Jesus had not been raised from the dead.



4. THE IMPORTANCE OF FUTURE SALVATION

The knowledge that our Lord Jesus is coming again for us motivates us to live a holy life and to serve Him in whatever way we can. (*1 John 3: 1-3*) When He comes again, our salvation will be complete, because we shall lose forever our old, sinful nature and become like the Lord Jesus. (*Philippians 3: 20-21*)

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