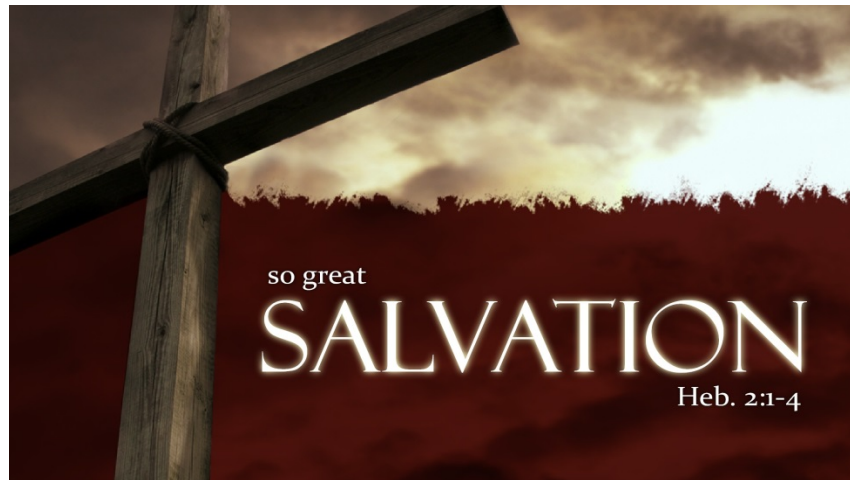


BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBER LESSON #1 – SALVATION



Introduction

Have you ever had someone ask you, Are You Saved? Your response may have been saved from what? If you were talking to a believer they were probably inquiring about your relationship with Jesus and the impact this decision has had upon your life on earth and your eternal destination. This lesson will answer questions such as why we need to be saved; the process of being saved and the understanding that this is a free gift from God.

LESSON

When we first hear the word 'Saved', a number of things may come to mind. Depending on one's background, Jesus may not be the immediate thought. One may respond; I go to Church, I am a really good person, I don't do anything wrong (e.g. smoke, drink, run around, cheat, gamble). None of these things can save or un-save us. Jesus is the main object of our Salvation. We cannot be saved by any other method or person. Jesus is our Savior and our rescuer.

Salvation is the act of being saved; it provides protection from destruction, danger or great calamity. Appropriately in theology it is defined as, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting life with Christ. This is the great salvation which was brought about by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [Bible Dictionary KJV]

Why Salvation? The Bible tells us that we have all sinned; we have all committed evil acts (Romans 3:10-18). As a result of our sin, we deserved God's anger and judgment. The only just punishment for sins committed against an infinite and eternal God is an infinite punishment (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15).

How can one be saved? The fact that you are reading this document implies that you have or are considering surrendering your life to Jesus. Perhaps you walked the aisle and gave your hand to the Pastor, Deacon or Minister. That's a good start! To complete the process: Admit that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and confess that Jesus is Lord.

These statements of faith will begin the supernatural work of salvation within the heart of every believer. The Bible teaches that *whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved* and whoever believes in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead shall be saved. Jesus' death was total payment for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus paid the price so that we would not have to. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved that His death was sufficient to pay the penalty for our sins. That is why Jesus is the one and only Savior (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)!

Prayer of Salvation: If you want to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, make the following declaration to God. Only believing in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross will save you from sin. This prayer is simply a way to express to God your faith in Him and thank Him for providing salvation to all.

[Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. I believe in my heart that you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and that you rose from the dead on the third day. Forgive me for all my sins and transgressions. Cleanse me with your blood, wash me in your Word, and come into my heart. I commit my life to you today and I receive you as my Lord, and my Savior. I pray this prayer in the name of Christ Jesus. **I believe I am saved! Thank you Lord! Amen.**]

Assurance of Salvation: Praise God! You have been born of God! You have been given a **new nature** and that comes with **new desires**. So you do not “keep on sinning,” 2 Corinthians 5:17(KJV) ¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. The process of ‘being saved’ is ongoing as we live out our faith and dependence upon the Lord.

Forever Saved: This question has been debated by scholars around the word. It is our belief that one who has placed faith in Jesus Christ cannot lose their salvation. Salvation is the gift of God, and God’s gifts are “irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). A Christian cannot be *un-newly* created. The redeemed cannot be unpurchased. Eternal life cannot be temporary. God cannot renege on His Word. Scripture says that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

While we believe “once saved always saved”, disobedience without repenting can create a poor quality of life resulting in unnecessary hardships. We trust the word of God, which states “being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ”. [Philippians 1:6]

We are kept by the power of God through faith. A “Christian” is not a person who has said a prayer or walked down an aisle or been raised in a Christian family. While each of these things can be a part of the Christian experience, they are not solely the components which make a Christian. A Christian is a person who has fully trusted in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and therefore possesses the Holy Spirit (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8–9).

How does salvation impact life?

Many people view Salvation/Christianity as attending church, performing rituals, and/or not committing certain sins. Some may even consider it to be boring and uneventful. Jesus came to give us life and to give it to us more abundantly. Our quality of life radically changes when we rely upon and seek direction from God. He has a perfect plan for every life, which He will reveal to us as we pray and adhere to the word of God.

Consequently, when we go our own way, without direction from God, we fall into the trap of sin, danger and experience harmful situations, which could have been prevented had we prayed and asked God to direct our path. It is a joy to be called a child of God. Our heavenly Father desires to give us everything we need to live a joyful life on earth and in heaven. Let’s talk to him daily and depend upon him faithfully. Rejoice and again I say rejoice!

REVIEW:

Write true or false to the following statements:

1. _____ I am saved because I try to live a good life. I take care of my family. I work to make sure they are secure. I try to treat everybody right.
2. _____ I am saved because I try to make the right decisions.
3. _____ I am saved because I try to do the right things. I mean I do try to practice the golden rules.
4. _____ I am saved because I was baptized when I was young and now I am just rededicating myself to the church.
5. _____ I am saved because I believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus died on Calvary's cross when he took my sins upon himself and nailed it to the cross. The blood that he shed is proof that my sins have been dealt with.

Name

Date