

# **Soteriology – The Study of Salvation**

God's plan of redemption for all people: justification by faith alone, sanctification, propitiation, and the atonement.

1. The following subjects will be addressed this course:

THE FALL OF MAN (SIN)

LAW AND GRACE

REPENTANCE

FAITH

JUSTIFICATION

ELECTION

ADOPTION

SANCTIFICATION

ETERNAL SECURITY

THE MARKS OF A TRUE BELIEVER

2. Reading Assignments and Summaries:

Week 1, Pages 127 to 134

Week 5, Pages 156 to 160

Week 2, Pages 225 to 230

Week 6, Pages 161 to 170

Week 3, Pages 139 to 150

Week 7, Pages 171 to 176

Week 4, Pages 151 to 155

1. **Assignment:** What does it mean “ye are fallen from grace”?

**Galatians 5:4** “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

**Please Note:** Use your Bible interpretation skills first before consulting commentaries or discussing it among yourselves.

2. Memory verses:

Week 2 & 3, Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-14

Week 4, Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Week 5, Memory Verse: Romans 6:1-2

Week 6, Memory Verse: Romans 5:1-2

Week 7, Memory Verse: Romans 13:14

# A. WHAT IS SALVATION?

## Turn to: Titus 2:11

- a. Salvation simply means to be rescued and redeemed. It is the complete deliverance that God provides through the person and work of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Salvation is God given us the Victory over sin and death through His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:55-57* “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- c. What does Salvation Cover?

- 1) Salvation covers terms such as:
  - Regeneration, adoption, sanctification, and glorification.
- 2) Salvation covers the whole life-span of a person:
  - God forgives their Past, God sanctifies their present, and God secures future.
- 3) Salvation covers the whole being of a person:
  - Their Spirit, Soul, and body.

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

- d. We must understand that before God ever created man, He was completely aware of the fact that man would sin and rebel against Him and would be corrupted before His presence.

**Question:** So why did God create man knowing that they would fall into sin?

- 1) God made man for His glory and pleasure. – Revelation 4:11
- 2) God made man with a free-will to choose God. – Joshua 24:15
- 3) God made man with the plan and purpose to save them from their sinful ways, and so they would walk Holy and blameless before Him. – Ephesians 1:4

**Note:** The Doctrine of Salvation is also a Subject that is misunderstood... There are many that teach that “Salvation” is by works. Others teach Salvation can be lost. Still others believe that repentance from sin is not necessary for their Salvation. There is growing belief that God has elected some to salvation.

## 1. False Conceptions

**Note:** There are a few false conceptions in respect to man's Salvation.

### a. Salvation is attained by works

- Most religions and cults emphasise a works based Salvation.
- Religion say "DO"; the Bible Says "DONE".

**Note:** There is something in the "Sinful nature of man" that endeavours to seek to earn salvation through their own merit.

- 1) When Adam and Eve sinned they both attempted to cover their shame with the works of their own hands.
  - 2) When the rich young ruler asked the question, "*Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*" it only revealed his heart. He perceived that he could do good deeds to inherit eternal life.
  - 3) The Philippian Jailor thought that he had to do something in order to be saved when he said, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*"
- If you ask a person today how they can get to heaven, 90% of the time the answer would be, "By being a good person".
  - The "Works-based Salvation" is taught in many facets, but all leading to one single goal – man can get right with God by their his own goodness.

### b. Calvinistic Election

- The Doctrine of Election is clearly seen in the Scriptures, but can be misunderstood and misinterpreted by some Christians.
- Calvinistic Election conveys the idea that God chooses some people for Salvation, and others for eternal damnation. People do not have any say in the matter regarding whether they want to be saved or not.
- **The question has to be asked again, "Did Jesus die for all people or only for the elect?"**

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

**Quote:** "The atonement of Jesus Christ is unlimited in its *invitation*, but limited in its *application*."

**Quote:** "The atonement is *sufficient* for all men and *efficient* for all who believe.

*1 Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."*

### c. Universal Salvation

- Universal Salvation denotes “that all people will be saved one day”
- People honestly believe that because of His love God will not send anyone to Hell.
- This flawed concepts robs God from his Justice.

**Note:** The “Sinful nature of man” distorts the character of God regarding His Holiness.

- Also, there are those who say, “It does not matter what a person believes. All roads lead to the same place, and to the one God”.
- **John 14:6** is one of the most hated verses in the Bible as it destroys this concept.

## 2. The Fall

- **Note:** The reason why God promised and planned Salvation was because of the fall of man.

### a. The Descent of Sin.

#### 1) The Fall of Spiritual Beings.

- i. Lucifer – The sin of “Pride” filled the heart of Lucifer.

*Isaiah 14:12-15* “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

- ii. Fallen Angels – The sin of “Rebellion”

*Jude 1:6* “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”

*2 Peter 2:4* “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”

**Question:** Why isn't there a plan of Salvation for the fallen Angels?

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#### 2) The Fall of Adam and Eve

- i. It is important to understand that Adam and Eve were sinless before the “Fall”
- Adam and Eve were created perfect, sinless beings and given a free will.
  - The sin of Adam and Eve was based entirely on their own choice, motivated by evil and the cunning deception of Satan.
  - The evil came from outside influence and not from inward corruption.

- ii. When Adam fell into sin he lost his innocence and holiness, but he did not lose his knowledge of God.
- There is a God-consciousness in all men. Even the devote atheist has eternity edged in his heart.
- In others words, all men are fully aware that there is something greater and more powerful than themselves.

***Ecclesiastes 3:11** “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”*

### 3) The Fall of Man

***Romans 5:19** “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners...”*

- **Question:** Are we sinners because we sin or do we sin because we are sinners?
- **Answer:** Both, we are sinners by birth/nature and we are sinners by choice.

#### 1) By Birth

***Psalms 51:5** “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

***Psalms 58:3** “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”*

#### 2) By Choice

- **Question:** After Adam, who was the next man we see specifically commit sin? \_\_\_\_\_

***Genesis 4:6-8** “And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? (7) If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (8) And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.”*

**Question:** Did Cain have a choice? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** God warns Cain that if he chose to disobey His commands, SIN, is very ready and waiting to pounce, and would take full control and fulfil his heart's desire. Cain was able to offer a sacrifice to God by faith if he submitted himself to God.

***Proverbs 1:27-29** “When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. (28) Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: (29) For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:”*

## **b. The Depravity of Man**

- 1) Depravity means that people are corrupted by sin, and we are bent to do that which is evil.

**Romans 3:10-12** “As it is written, *There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*”

- 2) Depravity means that we are unable to please God in the flesh.

**Isaiah 64:6** “*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*”

**Robert J Sargent** “*Depravity has produced a total spiritual inability in the sinner, in the sense that he cannot by his own volition change his character and life to make it conform to the law of God, nor change his fundamental preference for self and sin to supremely love for God.*”

- 3) Depravity does not mean the inability to respond by faith.

- **Note:** God calls the sinner to repent and believe.

**Mark 1:15** “*And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*”

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

**Question:** What two things does God use to help a person see their need for Christ?

**John 16:8** “*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*”

**Romans 10:17** “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

- If God calls a person to repent and believe, and they are unable to do so, then that would be an unreasonable request.

**John 3:18** “*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*”



Note: There are two other main terms used in Scripture that refer to sin.

- 1) **Transgression** = “To go beyond”, “to exceed the limit”, “to violate the law” to break God’s rules and laws.

*Matthew 15:3-4* “But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? Vs 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.”

*Psalm 51:2-3* “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. (3) For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

- King David broke two of the commandments: Adultery and Murder.

*1 John 3:4* “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

### ***This Term relates to a HOLY LAW***

*William McDonald* “There is also a difference between sin and transgression. Transgression is a violation of a known law. Stealing is basically sinful; it is wrong in itself. But stealing is also a transgression when there is a law that forbids it. “Where there is no law there is no transgression”

- 2) **Iniquity** = “Lawlessness”, “Wickedness”, “Crookedness”

- It is a distortion of what is right, and causes a predisposition in man to commit and repeat the same sin that initially caused the corruption.

*Acts 8:22-23* “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (23) For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.”

**Bond of iniquity** - That is, that it has the control over you and “binds” you as a captive.

**d. Other Bible Definitions that refer to sin.**

1) Rebellion (To go against)

- To go against God and His Word.

**Genesis 2:16** “*And the LORD God commanded the man...*”

- It is to act independently of God.
- To deny any accountability to God.
- It is to wilfully disobey and dishonour the ways of God.
- Rebellion is devilish.

**1 Samuel 15:23** “*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*”

2) Disobedience

**Robert J Sargent**, “*Disobedience is knowing what is right and not doing it (omission), and/or knowing what is wrong and doing it (commission).*”

**Colossians 3:6** “*For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*”

**James 4:17** “*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*”

3) Unrighteousness

- This is when a person commits an unjust and a wrongful act.

**1 John 5:17** “*All unrighteousness is sin...*”

**William McDonald** “*Sin is lawlessness, the rebellion of the creature's will against the will of God. Sin is not only doing what is wrong but the failure to do what one knows to be right (Jam\_4:17). Whatever is not of faith is sin (Rom\_14:23). This means that it is wrong for a man to do anything about which he has a reasonable doubt. If he does not have a clear conscience about it, and yet goes ahead and does it, he is sinning.*”

4) Trespass

- To trespass means to enter an area that is forbidden.
- We are able to trespass against others and as a result be indebted to them.

**Matthew 6:14** “*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*”

5) Faults and offenses

- Wrongdoing which causes injury/hurt to others either by word or deed.

**James 5:16** “*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*”

**Galatians 6:1** “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

**Romans 4:25** “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

6) Unbelief

- Doubting God and His ways. It is the opposite of Faith.
- But, it is also choosing not to follow after God and His ways.

**John 16:8-9** “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me;”

e. **The Damage of sin (Sin causes a lot of problems)**

- From Genesis to Revelation we see the damage sin has caused.

1) The Corruption in Spiritual Places

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

2) The Curse and Corruption of Earth

**Genesis 3:18** “Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

**Romans 8:22** “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

3) The Curse and Corruption in the Animal Kingdom

**Genesis 3:14** “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:”

4) The Curse, Corruption, Confusion, Sickness and Depression in Man.

- Sin brings forth absolute chaos. Notice the cry of David.

**Psalms 38:3-9** “There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. (4) For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. (5) My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. (6) I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. (7) For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh. (8) I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. (9) Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.”

f. **The Destruction of sin (Death)**

*Romans 5:12* “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

- **Sin brings forth three kinds of death**

1) Sin brings forth **spiritual death**

- The unsaved people are spiritually dead to God, they have no fellowship with Him.

*Isaiah 59:2* “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

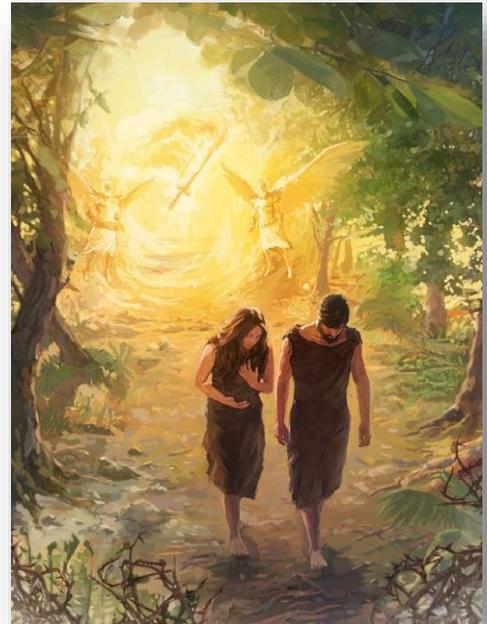
- When Adam and Eve sinned they were banished from the Garden of Eden.

*Genesis 3:24* “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

“**So he drove out the man**” - Three things are noted here by **Clark**

- i. God’s displeasure against sinful man, evidenced by his expelling him from this place of blessedness;
  - ii. Man’s unfitness for the place, of which he had rendered himself unworthy by his ingratitude and transgression; and,
  - iii. His reluctance to leave this place of happiness. He was, as we may naturally conclude, unwilling to depart, and God drove him out.
- Everyone is responsible for their own personal sin.

*Ezekiel 18:20* “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”



**Note: Sin can affect man’s knowledge of God.**

- In Romans 1:18-32 we read of this departure; verses 21-23 give the downward steps:

**There is a progression sinful departure of the knowledge of God.**

**Romans 1:18-19** “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”

**Romans 1:21** “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

**Romans 1:22** “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”

**Romans 1:25** “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

**Note:** People wilfully make their own decision to exclude God from their entire life.

**Romans 1:28** “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

**William McDonald** “This verse gives deep insight into why evolution has such enormous appeal for natural men. The reason lies not in their intellects but in their wills. They do not want to retain God in their knowledge. It is not that the evidence for evolution is so overwhelming that they are compelled to accept it; rather, it is because they want some explanation for origins that will eliminate God completely. They know that if there is a God, then they are morally responsible to Him.”

**Note:** The further away people move from the True Living God — the more depraved culture becomes.

God Showed them



They Knew God



Became Vain



Heart darkened



Became fools



Worship other gods



Reprobate mind

## 2) Sin brings forth **physical death**

*1 John 5:16-17* “If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. (17) All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.”

*Micah 6:13* “Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.”

## 3) Sin brings forth **eternal death**.

### i. **The Current Penalty of Sin abiding upon the unsaved**

- Condemned already — John 3:18.
- Under the wrath of God — John 3:36, Romans 1:18
- No Eternal life — I John 5:11-12.
- Completely Lost — Luke 15:4-10
- Spiritually dead — Ephesians 2:1,5; 1 Timothy 5:6.
- Absolutely Guilty — James 2:10.
- Alienated — Ephesians 2:12.

### i. **The Future Penalty of Sin executed upon the unsaved**

- Everlasting Punishment — Matthew 25:46
- Eternal Judgment — Hebrews 6:2
- Everlasting Destruction — 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Philippians 3:19
- Perdition — Philippians 1:28; Hebrews 10:39; 2 Peter 3:7
- Eternal Damnation— 2 Peter 2:3; Matthew 23:33; Mark 3:29
- Eternally Separated from God.

*2 Thessalonians 1:8-9* “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

### g. **The Deliverance from sin**

*Romans 6:23* “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Note:** The whole purpose of the birth of Christ was that He would save people from their sin.

*Matthew 1:21* “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

*Luke 19:10* “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”