

SALVATION

The Sovereign Grace of Our Triune God

*What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31*

Summer, 2010
Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Schedule	4
Memory Assignment: 1 Peter 1:3-9	5
Hymn: "Complete in Thee"	6
Lesson 1: Remember Now Thy Creator!	7
Genesis 1-2	
2: Thou Shalt Surely Die!	8
Genesis 3	
3: In Adam All Died	9
Romans 5:12-21	
4: The Bondage of Sin	10
Micah 7:1-6; Romans 3:10-18; 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3	
5: The Grace of God	11
Ezekiel 36:16-32; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:4-10	
6: Chosen by the Father	12
John 6:32-40, 44; Romans 8:28-30; 9:6-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15	
7: The Son of God	13
Luke 2:1-21; John 1:1-14	
8: The Good Shepherd	14
John 10:1-30	
9: The Great High Priest	15
Hebrews 7-8	
10: The Blessed Hope	16
1 Corinthians 15:12-58	
11: Born of the Spirit	17
John 3:1-21	
12: The Indwelling Spirit	18
John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30	
13: Preach the Gospel!	19
Ezekiel 37:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5	

INTRODUCTION

This booklet will guide us through a study of the great doctrine of salvation. This is a study which should delight every child of God as we consider again how the amazing grace of God found a way to deliver His people from the fierce wrath of God's justice and make them partakers of eternal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Since this is the chief work by which God glorifies Himself (John 17:4), a study of the grace of our Sovereign Lord ought to occupy us throughout our lives. We cannot know too much of the grace of God, only too little.

Our approach in this study will be to consider the role of each member of the Godhead in the work of redemption. We will begin as the Bible itself begins, with a consideration of God as Creator. This establishes God as Sovereign over the destiny of His entire creation, including man who is the apex of His work, created in the very image of God. We will then turn to consider the rebellion of this creature and the well-deserved condemnation that followed. It is important to fully understand the hopeless dilemma that fallen man finds himself in. He is unworthy of anything more than the full measure of the wrath of God, and unable to extricate himself from this condemnation. This is an essential starting point in the study of salvation because failure to fully understand man's hopeless state of absolute bondage to sin will certainly hinder our ability to understand the wonder of the story that follows: the sovereign grace of the Triune God.

Without ever explaining why, Scripture makes it clear that God, in love, has determined in eternity past, to provide a perfect redemption for sinful man. Each member of the Godhead has particular responsibilities in this work. The Father originated the redemptive plan. The Son executed the plan. The Holy Spirit applies the plan.

In infinite love, the Father determined to save a particular people from among fallen mankind by the bloody sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son. He did so in a manner which perfectly preserves and displays all the attributes of God. Only Infinite

Wisdom could design a plan in which the wrath of God is justly and fully dispensed and the goodness of God fully expressed so that utterly corrupt men and women are transformed into the very image of the holy and righteous eternal God. The success of this work is never in doubt from design to execution to application because it depends only upon the omnipotent, eternal God.

The plan of salvation rests upon the astonishing and wonderful work of the Son of God. He humbled Himself and entered the human race, fully man, apart from sin, to accomplish the will of the Father. His life, death and resurrection are the means by which God is able to provide salvation for His people from their sins. In His exalted presence before the Father, He pleads the merits of His blood on behalf of the people of God. The expectation of the ages is that Christ will soon come and receive the people of God into His presence eternally, perfectly clothed in His Own holiness, forever delivered from sin and death.

The Spirit of God accomplishes the will of the Father by administering the work of the Son in each one of God's chosen people. Where the Word of God is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit finds the people of God, fast bound in sin, and causes them to be born again, so that they can see and enter the kingdom of God by faith in Christ. He seals the people of God so that their participation in the work of Christ is eternally certain.

It is our purpose in this study to become more familiar with this great doctrine of salvation. God is glorified as we study this doctrine, and that alone should suffice. But we also need to proclaim this message of the grace of God. A final lesson will focus on our duty to proclaim this wonderful message of the incomparable grace of God and help us develop a clear concise formulation of the Gospel. May God grant that we increase in our understanding of the Gospel and increase in our boldness in proclaiming the grace of our Triune God's great salvation.

Schedule

The Sovereign God

June 6 Lesson 1: Remember Now Thy Creator!
Genesis 1-2

Man

June 13 Lesson 2: Thou Shalt Surely Die!
Genesis 3

June 20 Lesson 3: In Adam All Died
Romans 5:12-21

June 27 Lesson 4: The Bondage of Sin
Micah 7:1-6; Romans 3:10-18; 8:5-8;
1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3

God the Father

July 4 Lesson 5: The Grace of God
Ezekiel 36:16-32; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:4-10

July 11 Lesson 6: Chosen by the Father
John 6:32-40, 44; Romans 8:28-30; 9:6-24;
2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

God the Son

July 18 Lesson 7: The Son of God
Luke 2:1-21; John 1:1-14

July 25 Lesson 8: The Good Shepherd
John 10:1-30

August 1 Lesson 9: The Great High Priest
Hebrews 7-8

August 8 Lesson 10: The Blessed Hope
1 Corinthians 15:12-58

God the Holy Spirit

August 15 Lesson 11: Born of the Spirit
John 3:1-21

August 22 Lesson 12: The Indwelling Spirit
John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:1-17;
2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30

The Evangelist

August 29 Lesson 13: Preach the Gospel!
Ezekiel 37:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Memory Assignment

1 Peter 1:3-9

- ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which according to his abundant mercy
hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*
- ⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible,
and undefiled,
and that fadeth not away,
reserved in heaven for you,*
- ⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God
through faith unto salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- ⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice,
though now for a season, if need be,
ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*
- ⁷ *That the trial of your faith,
being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,
though it be tried with fire,
might be found unto praise and honour and glory
at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- ⁸ *Whom having not seen, ye love;
in whom, though now ye see him not,
yet believing,
ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*
- ⁹ *Receiving the end of your faith,
even the salvation of your souls.*

Complete in Thee

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Talmadge J. Bittikofer

1. Com-plete in Thee! no work of mine May take, dear Lord, the place of Thine;
2. Com-plete in Thee! no more shall sin, Thy grace hath con-quer'd, reign with - in;
3. Com-plete in Thee - each want sup - plied, And no good thing to me de - nied;
4. Dear Sav-iour! when be - fore Thy bar All tribes and tongues as - sem - bled are,

Thy blood hath par - don bought for me, And I am now com - plete in Thee.
Thy voice shall bid the tempt - er flee, And I shall stand com - plete in Thee.
Since Thou my por - tion, Lord, wilt be, I ask no more, com - plete in Thee.
A - mong Thy cho - sen will I be, At Thy right hand, com - plete in Thee.

Yea, jus - ti - fied! O bless - ed thought! And sanc - ti - fied! Sal - va - tion wrought!

Thy blood hath par - don bought for me, And glo - ri - fied, I too, shall be!

Lesson 1: Remember Now Thy Creator! Genesis 1-2

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

God created the heavens and the earth. As Creator, He is sovereign over all of His creation, including man whom He made in His own image.

1. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
2. Briefly record what God did on each day of creation.
Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

Day 7:
3. How did God create man?
4. Why did God create woman?
5. How did God create woman?
6. Where did God put man?
7. What instructions did God give to man?

Lesson 2: Thou Shalt Surely Die! Genesis 3

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-4

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

Satan tempted Eve to disobey God, and Eve invited Adam to join this rebellion. God cursed all three and drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

1. How did Eve answer the serpent's first question?
2. What did the serpent say would happen if Eve would eat the fruit of the tree?
3. Why did Adam and Eve eat the fruit of the forbidden tree?
4. What was the first result of this act of disobedience?
5. What explanation did Adam and Eve give to God for their disobedience?
6. What curse did God pronounce upon the serpent?
7. What curse did God pronounce upon the woman?
8. What curse did God pronounce upon the man?
9. Why did God drive Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden?

Lesson 3: In Adam All Died Romans 5:12-21

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-5

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

Sin and death entered the human race through Adam. As the sin of Adam is imputed to all of his posterity, so the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to all of the people of God.

1. How did sin and death enter the world?
2. What is the meaning of the phrase at the end of verse 12 ("because all sinned")?
3. How do we know that sin was in the world before the days of Moses?
4. What was "Adam's transgression"?
5. What is the point that Paul is making about "Adam's transgression" in verse 14?
6. Write down all the things that happened as a result of one man's offence or disobedience.
7. Who is affected by the sin of Adam?
8. When do we become worthy of eternal damnation before God?
9. What is the comparison made between Adam and Christ?

Lesson 4: The Bondage of Sin
Micah 7:1-6; Romans 3:10-18; 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-6

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

<i>Man the sinner is totally depraved. He will not seek God because he is spiritually dead. He is incapable of knowing or pleasing God. He is dominated by Satan.</i>

Micah 7:1-6

1. How does Micah describe mankind?

Romans 3:10-18

2. How does Paul describe the character and conduct of mankind?

3. How does Paul describe man in his relationship to God?

Romans 8:5-8

4. What two kinds of people does Paul describe?

5. What does Paul say about the carnal mind or those who are "in the flesh"?

1 Corinthians 2:14

6. What disability does the natural man have, and why?

Ephesians 2:1-3

7. What was the former condition of those to whom Paul is speaking?

Lesson 5: The Grace of God
Ezekiel 36:16-32; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:4-10

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-7

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

The Creator of heaven and earth has designed the work of redemption for His Own glory. Thus, eternal life is granted to hopelessly depraved and divinely condemned men and women by the sovereign will of God. Salvation comes by the grace of God alone.

Ezekiel 36:16-32

1. Why did God scatter His people among the nations?

2. Why did God gather His people from among the nations?

3. What did God say that He would do when the people were brought back into the land?

Ephesians 1:1-14

4. What are some of the spiritual blessings for which Paul praises God?

5. Why has God blessed us so wonderfully?

6. What does Paul say about the glory of God?

Ephesians 2:4-10

7. Why did God come to us when we were dead in our sins and make us alive in Christ Jesus?

8. What does it mean that we are saved "by grace"?

9. How does God show "His workmanship"?

Lesson 6: Chosen by the Father

John 6:32-40, 44; Romans 8:28-30; 9:6-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-8

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

God has sovereignly chosen specific individuals to be saved. This choice was made by God before the foundation of the world and without regard to the merit of the individual. The result of this choice is that the individual believes in Jesus Christ and is eternally saved.

John 6:32-40, 44

1. What did Jesus say about bread?
2. What did Jesus say about those who come to Him?
3. What is the will of the Father?

Romans 8:28-30

4. Whom does God glorify?

Romans 9:6-24

5. How was the "purpose of God according to election" seen in Old Testament history?

6. What did Paul tell us about God's mercy?

7. Why did Paul use the illustration of the potter?

8. What did Paul say about "vessels of wrath" and "vessels of mercy"?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

9. Why did Paul feel bound to thank God for the Thessalonian believers?

Lesson 7: The Son of God
Luke 2:1-21; John 1:1-14

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: “Complete in Thee”

The Son of God Who, as the Second Person of the Trinity, is fully God, entered the human race and became fully man, apart from sin, to glorify the Father by saving His people from their sins.

Luke 2:1-21

1. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?
2. What happened while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem?
3. What did the “angel of the Lord” announce to the shepherds?
4. What did the shepherds do after they had seen the Child?
5. Why was the Child given the name “Jesus”?

John 1:1-14

6. How do we know that the Word is truly God?
7. What are we told about John?
8. What happened when “the true Light” came into the world?
9. What are we told about the Word in the last verse of this passage?

Lesson 8: The Good Shepherd John 10:1-30

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. He died on the cross to save His people from their sins.

1. What is the difference between the shepherd of the sheep and a thief or a robber?
2. How do the sheep respond to the shepherd?
3. Why does Jesus describe Himself as the door?
4. What is the difference between the Good Shepherd and an hireling?
5. What did Jesus tell us about His death in this passage?
6. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' teaching?
7. Why did the Jews fail to believe that Jesus is the Christ?
8. What did Jesus tell us about His sheep in this passage?
9. What did Jesus tell us about the Father in this passage?

Lesson 9: The Great High Priest Hebrews 7-8

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

Jesus is the Great High Priest of the order of Melchizedek. He is superior to the priesthood of Aaron. He mediates the New Covenant and saves eternally those who come to God by Him.

1. Who was Melchizedek? (See also Genesis 14:18-20.)
2. Why was the priesthood of Melchizedek superior to the Levitical priesthood?
3. Why was it necessary for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek?
4. How did Jesus come to be the High Priest?
5. What does Jesus do as the High Priest?
6. What advantages are mentioned that Jesus has over a Levitical priest?
7. Why is the ministry of Jesus "more excellent" than any other high priest?
8. What are we told about the "first covenant" in these two chapters?
9. What is the "New Covenant"?

Lesson 10: The Blessed Hope 1 Corinthians 15:12-58

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: “Complete in Thee”

<i>Jesus was raised from the dead, and He is coming again. When He comes, the dead in Christ will be raised and the living in Christ will be changed. Mortality will be replaced by immortality as all of His people will bear the image of the resurrected Christ. Death will be destroyed.</i>
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1. What would it matter if there were no resurrection?
2. Why did Paul refer to Christ as “the firstfruits”?
3. What will happen at “the end”?
4. How would Paul’s behavior change if the dead did not rise?
5. How did Paul explain the nature of the resurrection body?
6. What are the similarities and the differences between Adam and Christ?
7. What was the “mystery” that Paul told them?
8. What is the victory for which Paul was thankful?
9. How should the hope of the resurrection affect us?

Lesson 11: Born of the Spirit John 3:1-21

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: “Complete in Thee”

In order to have eternal life, sinners must be born spiritually. The Holy Spirit sovereignly does this work of regeneration so that sinners may see and enter the Kingdom of God. It is by this new birth that we are enabled to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have everlasting life.

1. What did Nicodemus think about Jesus?
2. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus about being born?
3. How did Jesus answer Nicodemus' question about being born a second time?
4. How does the wind illustrate being born of the Spirit?
5. Why did Nicodemus, a “teacher of Israel,” not understand what Jesus was telling him?
6. Why did Jesus speak of the Old Testament event in which Moses lifted up the serpent?
7. How did God show His love for the world?
8. What did Jesus say about believing in the Son?
9. What did Jesus say about “light and darkness”?

Lesson 12: The Indwelling Spirit
John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:1-17
2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: “Complete in Thee”

<i>The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer.</i>
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John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15

1. Why does the Holy Spirit come to us?

2. What does the Holy Spirit do when He comes to believers?

3. What will the Holy Spirit do to the world?

Romans 8:1-17

4. What is “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”?

5. What is the condition of the “carnal mind”?

6. In whom does the Spirit of Christ dwell?

7. What does the Holy Spirit do within us?

2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30

8. Who is sealed by the Holy Spirit?

9. What is the sealing of the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 13: Preach the Gospel!
Ezekiel 37:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

MEMORY: 1 Peter 1:3-9

HYMN: "Complete in Thee"

God has determined to save His people from their sins through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must know and speak the Gospel in simplicity and power.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

1. How does this passage illustrate the manner in which sinners are saved?

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

2. Why did Paul place such a high priority on preaching?

Review:

3. What does it mean that man is "dead in trespasses and sins"?

4. What do the three members of the Godhead do to bring about the salvation of sinners?
Father:

Son:

Holy Spirit:

5. What is necessary for men to do in order to be saved?

6. Write out a brief presentation of the Gospel.

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