

Jesus Saves



A doctrinal study of man, sin and salvation

*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
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Introduction

Jesus saves! To many this simple statement is just a religious slogan on a bumper sticker or perhaps a placard at a sporting event. At best, it might reflect the religious diversity of our country. At worst, it symbolizes mindless religious fanaticism. In fact, these two words express a truth that is infinitely profound. It is truth that, while mysterious to the most intelligent and well-trained human mind, is of profound significance to all men. This simple statement announces the only solution to a problem of immense proportions, the wide chasm between God the Creator and man the creature. It is an infinite distance because at one pole is God in all His holiness and at the other, man the sinner. The absolute righteousness of God renders the span impassible by sinful man. The only bridge for this gap is found in the truth of this simple statement: Jesus saves.

You would think that such a wonderful message would be eagerly received, if not eagerly sought, by men who face death daily. But this is not so! While the Bible speaks of this message as the wisdom of God, it also tells us what human experience confirms. Man considers the salvation of Jesus as foolishness. How can this be?

In a real sense, this question shows ignorance of the truth about the work of salvation. It shows failure to understand the great width of "the mighty gulf that God did span." Man, the sinner under the sentence of eternal damnation, is constitutionally hostile to the very concept of God and scorns the very thought that he might need salvation. God, Who is perfect in holiness, is under no obligation to deliver His depraved creature from His perfect justice. The wonderful story in the Bible is that God did just that by Jesus Christ at Calvary. The more informed should ask, "How can *this* be?"

It is the purpose of this study guide to answer this second question. We will begin by looking at man as he was created in the beginning. He was made in the image of God and given a place of dominion and honor over creation. He had fellowship with God. Tragically, he rebelled and came under the curse of God. He lost all

spiritual capability and is now unable to seek or know God. Ignorant of his plight, he faces the sure eternal wrath of God after his life on earth is ended. This desperate condition cries out for a solution, but there will be none from man's side.

But Jesus saves! The amazing truth about God is that He determined in eternity past to glorify Himself by producing an incredible solution to this hopeless situation. This work of salvation is accomplished by the sovereign power of the Triune God.

God the Father chose a people for Himself from among the fallen race. God the Son entered the human arena by becoming a man. Sinless, Jesus bore the sins of the people of God. He suffered the eternal wrath of God in their place. His justice satisfied, God raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him at His own right hand where He pleads the cause of the redeemed and awaits the coming Kingdom of God on earth. God the Spirit overcomes the power of the curse by quickening those who will believe. All this is done before the fallen creature has made any move toward reconciliation with God. It is pure grace.

Because of this, the elect of God hear, understand and respond to the Gospel call. At the very moment the sinner realizes his desperate condition, he perceives the gift of salvation that is offered to him by faith in Jesus Christ. Even the faith to receive deliverance is a gift of God. With new life, the child of God daily seeks to walk worthily of his calling, absolutely secure in his eternal destiny. At peace with God, he will be forever with Jesus.

Jesus saves. This is an incomparable truth. The simplicity of the statement obscures the wonderful activity of the Triune God. At the same time, nothing could state the truth more precisely or more eloquently. Jesus saves all who come to God through Him. The wonder of this simple statement ought always to amaze us. As we seek a greater understanding of this magnificent work, we must increase in praise and thanksgiving to God our Savior.

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SCHEDULE

June 2	Created in the Image of God Genesis 1-2
June 9	Driven from the Presence of God Genesis 3
June 16	All Have Sinned Romans 1:18-32; 5:12-21
June 23	The Bondage of Sin Micah 7:1-6; Romans 3:9-19, 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3
June 30	The Gracious Elector Ephesians 1:3-12; 2:4-10; John 6:35-40, 44; Romans 9:6-24
July 7	Jesus, the God-Man Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-8
July 14	One Sacrifice for Sins Forever John 10:11-18; Hebrews 9:11-28; 10:1-18
July 21	Christ is Risen from the Dead! 1 Corinthians 15
July 28	You Must be Born Again! John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3, 23
August 4	Justification by Faith Alone Matthew 19:16-26; John 3:9-21; Romans 3:21-31
August 11	The Perseverance of the Saints Romans 8
August 18	Walk Worthy of Your Calling Ephesians 4
August 25	Preach the Gospel! Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1 *And you hath he quickened,
who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
- 2 *Wherein in time past
ye walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air,
the spirit that now worketh
in the children of disobedience:*
- 3 *Among whom also
we all had our conversation in times past
in the lusts of our flesh,
fulfilling the desires of the flesh
and of the mind;
and were by nature the children of wrath,
even as others.*
- 4 *But God, who is rich in mercy,
for his great love wherewith he loved us,*
- 5 *Even when we were dead in sins,
hath quickened us together with Christ,
(by grace ye are saved;)*
- 6 *And hath raised us up together,
and made us sit together
in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*
- 7 *That in the ages to come
he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace
in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*
- 8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God:*
- 9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- 10 *For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.*

At Calvary

William R. Newell

Daniel B. Townner

1. Years I spent in van - i - ty and pride, Car - ing not my Lord was
2. By God's Word at last my sin I learned; Then I trem - bled at the
3. Now I've given to Je - sus ev - ery - thing; Now I glad - ly own Him
4. O the love that drew sal - va - tion's plan! O the grace that brought it

cru - ci - fied, Know - ing not it was for me He died On Cal - va - ry.
law I'd spurned, 'Til my guilt - y soul im - plor - ing turned To Cal - va - ry.
as my King; Now my rap - tured soul can on - ly sing Of Cal - va - ry.
down to man! O the might - y gulf that God did span At Cal - va - ry.

Mer - cy there was great and grace was free, Par - don there was mul - ti -

plied to me, There my bur - dened soul found lib - er - ty — At Cal - va - ry.

Lesson 1: Created in the Image of God Genesis 1-2

Memory: Ephesians 2:1

Hymn: "At Calvary"

God created man in His own image on the last of the six days of creation. From the first man's rib, God made the first woman to be his helper. He blessed them and gave them dominion over all of His creation. After He finished His work, God pronounced it to be very good.

1. Briefly record what God did on each of the six days of creation.

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

2. What did God say about the creation of man?
3. How did God create the first man?
4. Why did God create the first woman, and how did He do it?
5. Where did God place the first man?
6. What did God tell man about his life in the Garden of Eden?

Application: How was man the most blessed of all of God's good creation?

Lesson 2: Driven from the Presence of God Genesis 3

Memory: Ephesians 2:2 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Adam rejected God's command and ate the forbidden fruit. By this act, sin and death entered God's good creation. Because of this sin, man and all creation came under the curse of God. God drove the condemned sinners from the Garden and His presence.

1. How did Eve answer the serpent's first question?
2. What did the serpent say would happen if Eve ate the fruit of the tree?
3. Why did Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit?
4. What happened to Adam and Eve as a result of their disobedience?
5. How did Adam and Eve explain their disobedience to God?
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 Adam?
9. Why did God drive Adam and Eve out of the Garden?

Application: How is God's grace seen in this sorry account of man's rebellion?

Lesson 3: All Have Sinned

Romans 1:18-32; 5:12-21

Memory: Ephesians 2:3 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

All men share the guilt of the sin of Adam. Therefore, at birth, everyone is a condemned sinner. From birth each one goes on to live a life of sin and rebellion against our holy Creator. God looks upon the human race and finds that there is "none righteous, no not one!"

Romans 1:18-32

1. How do men demonstrate their ungodliness and unrighteousness?
2. Why are men called fools?
3. What did God do to this sinful race?
4. How do men respond to the righteous judgment of God?

Romans 5:12-21

5. How did sin enter the world?
6. What was Adam's transgression?
7. What happened as a result of Adam's disobedience?
8. What is the role of the Law?
9. What comparison did Paul make between Adam and Christ?

Application: Why do all people in every generation deserve the wrath of God?

Lesson 4: The Bondage of Sin
Micah 7:1-6; Rom. 3:9-19, 8:5-8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3

Memory: Ephesians 2:4 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Man in sin has no spiritual capabilities. He does not seek God. He does not understand God. He cannot please God. His natural bent is hostility toward God. Even the very best human is evil in the sight of God. Man is spiritually dead and incapable of delivering himself from this condition.

Micah 7:1-6

1. How did Micah describe the condition of man?

Romans 3:9-19

2. How did Paul describe the condition of man?

Romans 8:5-8

3. What two kinds of people did Paul describe?

4. What did Paul say about the carnal mind, or those who are "in the flesh"?

1 Corinthians 2:14

5. What did Paul say about the natural man and the spiritual things?

Ephesians 2:1-3

6. How did Paul describe the former condition of the Ephesian church?

Application: Is the will of man free? Explain.

Lesson 5: The Gracious Elector

Ephesians 1:3-12; 2:4-10; John 6:35-40,44; Romans 9:6-24

Memory: Ephesians 2:5 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

The work of salvation is a free act of the sovereign will of God for His own glory. All who are saved are saved because they were chosen by God before the foundation of the world. God determined to save the elect by faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-12

1. What are some of the spiritual blessings for which Paul praised God?

2. Why did God bless us so wonderfully?

3. What did Paul say about the glory of God?

Ephesians 2:4-10

4. Why did God make us alive (quicken us) together with Christ?

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

John 6:35-40, 44

6. What lesson did Jesus teach about bread?

7. What did Jesus teach about the will of the Father?

Romans 9:6-24

8. What lesson is illustrated by the two sons of Isaac?

9. What did Paul teach about the mercy of God?

Application: Why is the doctrine of election important?

Lesson 7: One Sacrifice for Sins Forever John 10:11-18; Hebrews 9:11-28; 10:1-18

Memory: Ephesians 2:7 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Jesus died a substitutionary death for the people of God. By His one sacrifice, He fully satisfied the righteous justice of God. His death completely removed the sins of His people forever and guarantees the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him.

John 10:11-18

1. What is distinctive about the Good Shepherd?

2. What did Jesus say about His life?

Hebrews 9:11-28

3. Where did Christ go, and what did He take with Him?

4. What is accomplished by the blood of Christ?

5. What did the first covenant (the Law of Moses) teach about blood?

6. How is Christ greater than the high priest of the first covenant?

Hebrews 10:1-18

7. Why did the sacrifices of the Law of Moses have to be repeated?

8. What is the result of the one offering of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

9. What are the terms of the New Covenant?

Application: Did the death of Christ remove all sins of all people? Explain your answer.

Lesson 8: Christ is Risen from the Dead!

1 Corinthians 15

Memory: Ephesians 2:8 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

The capstone of the Gospel is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave three days after His death on the cross. His resurrection displays the completion of His redemptive work and guarantees the ultimate glorification of the people of God.

1. What was the Gospel message that Paul delivered to the Corinthians?
2. What is the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
3. What did Paul teach about Adam and Christ?
4. What did Paul teach about the reign of Christ?
5. What lesson did Paul teach from observations of animal life and the heavenly bodies?
6. How does our natural body compare with our resurrection body?
7. Why is it necessary for the resurrection to occur?
8. What was the mystery that Paul told the Corinthian church?
9. How did the hope of resurrection affect Paul?

Application: Why is the resurrection of the body essential to the Gospel message?

Lesson 9: You Must be Born Again!
John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3, 23

Memory: Ephesians 2:9 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Men who are spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins must be made alive spiritually. This work of regeneration, called the "new birth," is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. In order to understand the Gospel and receive salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, you must be born again.

John 3:1-8

1. What did Nicodemus think about Jesus?

2. What did Nicodemus need?

3. What is required before we can see or enter the Kingdom of God?

4. What are the two kinds of birth?

5. How does the wind help us to understand the new birth?

Titus 3:5

6. How are we saved?

James 1:18

7. How do we become the firstfruits of God?

1 Peter 1:3

8. Why did Peter bless God?

1 Peter 1:23

9. How are we born again?

Application: Are we born again by faith? Explain your answer.

Lesson 10: Justification by Faith Alone

Matthew 19:16-26; John 3:9-21; Romans 3:21-31

Memory: Ephesians 2:10 and review

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Since all men everywhere and in every generation have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, no one can do anything to get salvation. Salvation must be and is a gift of God. It is graciously bestowed on all those who believe in Jesus Christ. Justification is by faith alone.

Matthew 19:16-26

1. What is required in order to have eternal life?

2. What did the young man lack in his quest for eternal life?

3. What point did Jesus make to His disciples when the young man left?

John 3:9-21

4. Why is the Son of Man likened to the serpent in the wilderness?

5. What happens to those who believe in the Son of God?

6. What did Jesus teach about light and darkness?

Romans 3:21-31

7. How is the righteousness of God obtained?

8. What do all men have in common?

9. How can God be the God of the Gentiles as well as the Jews?

Application: What does it mean that justification is by faith alone?

Lesson 11: The Perseverance of the Saints Romans 8

Memory: Review Ephesians 2:1-10

Hymn: "At Calvary"

Since our salvation is the result of a sovereign work of our omnipotent God, and since He has not withheld even His own Son in providing this salvation, nothing can prevent our final participation in His glory. We persevere in the faith because He perseveres in His grace.

1. How can we be delivered from sinful living and live righteously?
2. Compare living in the flesh and living in the Spirit.
3. How is the Spirit Who lives in us described?
4. What is the effect of having the Holy Spirit within us?
5. What is the hope of the believer?
6. Why is the intercession of the Holy Spirit so wonderful?
7. How could Paul be so confident that all things work together for good for the believer?
8. Why was Paul so certain that no one can be against us?
9. What was Paul's view of the love of Christ?

Application: What does it mean that we wait for our hope with perseverance (Romans 8:25)?

Lesson 12: Walk Worthy of Your Calling Ephesians 4

Memory: Review Ephesians 2:1-10

Hymn: "At Calvary"

God's great salvation is complete. We must respond by walking worthy of our calling. We must seek to understand the truth accurately and proclaim it in love. We must put away sin and put on the new man. We do not add to His work, but grow more and more like Christ, our Head.

1. What is a walk worthy of our calling?
2. How did Paul demonstrate the unity of the faith?
3. What differences are there in the Christian community?
4. Why are there different positions in the Church?
5. How do the Gentiles live?
6. What must we put off, and what must we put on?
7. What specific instructions are given about each of the following?
 - Our neighbor:
 - Our anger:
 - The devil:
 - Our work:
 - Our speech:
 - The Holy Spirit:
 - One another:

Application: How can we walk worthy of the calling with which we are called?

Lesson 13: Preach the Gospel!
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5

Memory: Review Ephesians 2:1-10

Hymn: "At Calvary"

God has determined to save His people by the preaching of the Gospel. It is our privilege and duty to go into all the world with the simple yet powerful message of Christ crucified. It is a message of foolishness to sinful men, but the power of God to those who are being saved.

Matthew 28:16-20

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Acts 1:4-8

2. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem?

3. How did Jesus answer the disciples' question about the restoration of the Kingdom?

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5

4. What did Paul say about the message of the cross?

5. What did Paul say about the wisdom of the world?

6. What is the effect of the Gospel upon the Jews, the Gentiles, and the called?

7. Why has God called the foolish, the weak, and the base things of the world?

8. What has God done to guarantee that He alone will get glory in our salvation?

9. How did Paul describe his ministry among the Corinthians?

Application: Why is the Gospel so offensive to men?