

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE #1

Eph. 2:4-10 / 1 Cor. 15:1-4 / John 3:3, 14-18

CONFIRMING YOUR SALVATION FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN

Before we begin to study the principles of living life as a Christian who is saved from the penalty of sin and is going to heaven, let us confirm that we are indeed saved and ensure that we also know how to lead another person to saving faith in Christ.

The following three passages of God's Word clearly state and summarize the gospel (the good news) of the salvation that is found by trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ. They speak of the three essential aspects of this salvation, represented by the words **grace**, **Christ**, and **faith**. Note them as you read, for it is by **God's grace alone**, through **Christ's work alone**, and by **our faith** in Christ's work on our behalf **alone**, that any person is saved from the wrath to come.

*“You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.*

***But God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together **with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**, and raised us up **with Him**, and seated us **with Him** in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His **grace** in kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**.*

*For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” — Eph. 2:1-10*

Again, please note the focus in the verses above on **God's grace**, **Christ's work** on our behalf, and **our faith** in this work. The following verses use the word GOSPEL as a summary of these concepts.

*“Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** (the good news) which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain...*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **that Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” — 1 Cor. 15:1-4*

The following verses are words spoken by our Lord Himself as He emphasizes that we must trust in and rely upon His work for us at Calvary or face the judgement to come. He preached the good news of salvation!!

*“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that **whoever believes in Him may have eternal life**. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes in Him** should not perish, but have eternal life.*

*For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who **believes in Him** is not judged; he who **does not believe** has been judged already, because he **has not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” — John 3:14-18*

UNIT STUDY SESSION #1:

In preparation, read and study the above scriptures and their presentation of the gospel of salvation. Come prepared to discuss them and the following related questions and issues:

Confirming Your Salvation: Discussion Topics

Let us confirm that:

1. We know what the gospel is.
2. We know what God's grace, Christ's work, and my faith are, and can explain them.
3. We know what is required to be saved, and therefore what "believe" means.
4. We know what the most common error is regarding salvation.
5. We know the distinction between salvation from the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin.
6. We know what the apostle John said in 1 John is the evidence that we are indeed saved.
7. We know what eternal life is. Can it be lost?

Removing Doubts About Salvation: Discussion Topics

It is not uncommon for a person to experience doubts about their salvation. There are a number of reasons and we must learn the biblical remedies for them. Have you experienced doubts because of any of these?

1. Our incorrect expectation that we, as a Christian, would not experience suffering or hardship, or that these would become less and not worse after my salvation.
2. Our failure to say "no" to temptations and sin. What do I do when I fail and sin?
3. Our lack of knowing God and His Word well when we accepted Christ, perhaps as a child, and now wonder if what we did was adequate to be saved.
4. Our insecurity because we have accepted the lie that we can lose our salvation.

An Invitation To Be Saved From The Penalty Of Your Sin

If you have never confessed your sin and accepted, by faith, what Christ has done for you to fully atone for your sins, or if you have responded in some way to the gospel in the past, but still have doubts about your salvation, please read and respond to the gospel invitation below.

-Salvation occurs when we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior from sin.

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in sanctification.”
— Romans 10:9-10

-Salvation occurs when we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for our eternal salvation.

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
— John 3:36

-Salvation occurs when we humble ourselves before God in recognition of our sinfulness and cry out to Him to save us.

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses.”
— Psalm 107:19

Prayer for Salvation

“Thank You, God, for loving me, a sinner, and for sending Your Son to pay the penalty for my sin. Right now I put my trust in His death and resurrection for my salvation and receive the eternal life that You offer me through Him. Thank you for hearing this prayer, for cleansing me of all of my sin through Christ’s blood, and accepting me now as Your child. Teach me and direct me through Your Word and Your Spirit to discover Your purpose and will for my life. Amen.”

UNIT STUDY SESSION #2:

Sharing The Gospel With Others: Preparation For The Study

In preparation for the second study session please do the following:

1. Read Mt. 24:14 and answer this question: Whose responsibility is it to fulfill this?
2. Review and evaluate your own sharing of the gospel and be prepared to share about it.
3. Remember your own salvation and how the Lord reached you. Be prepared to share.

Leading Another Person To Christ: Discussion Topics

Please comment on the following statements or questions regarding their usefulness in leading a person to Christ.

1. You must get a person lost, before you can get them saved.
2. If you were to find yourself standing before God, and He was to ask you why He should allow you into His heaven, what would you say?
3. Can you share the gospel using the following 5 words and the concepts associated with them? God, Man, Sin, Christ, Faith. In one minute?
4. Can you share the basic truths of the gospel using the following words: justified, regenerated, indwelt, empowered, glorified.
5. Sharing your personal testimony is an excellent way to share the gospel.
6. Asking questions like, "Are you a Christian", and "Have you accepted Christ as your Savior", can be very good, but be skeptical if the answer is "yes".
7. It is enough to act like a Christian and wait for people to ask about it.

Commitments

I am led to make the following commitments as a result of this study:
