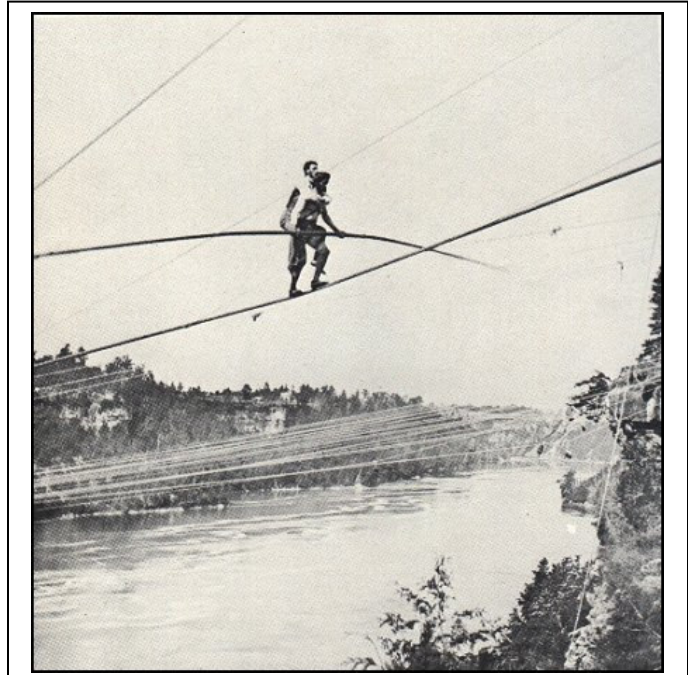


Lesson 17 – Important Words of Salvation

We are used to using a lot of Bible words to explain salvation. Do you know what those words really mean? If you know the vocabulary of salvation, you will have a clear understanding of what salvation is, what it isn't, and how to explain it.

1. Salvation a nutshell

- a. Every person who ever lived – except Jesus – was a sinner. – Rom. 3:23
- b. All sin deserves the condemnation of God – Rom. 6:23
- c. Jesus came and took the condemnation and punishment we deserve – Rom 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21
- d. Jesus is the only way, because He is the only One who died for our sins – John 14:6
 - i. The way is narrow, because a person must come to God through Him – Acts 4:12
 - ii. The way is wide enough for anyone who will come – Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1
 - iii. The way is potentially wide enough for all, because He died for everybody – 2 Cor. 5:15
 - iv. The way is narrow, because few find it – Matt. 7:14
- e. We have eternal life when we have Jesus – 1 John 5:11-13
- f. We have Jesus when we have received Him – John 1:12
 - i. **Repentance** – Acts 3:19
 1. Definition: a change of mind
 - a. About sin
 - b. About Christ
 2. Repentance is a turning to Christ to believe in Him.
 - ii. **Faith** – John 3:16; Rom. 4:5; Titus 3:5
 1. More than believing in Jesus as a historical Person – James 2:19
 2. More than believing



An Illustration of Saving Faith

In the 1860's, a tightrope daredevil known as "The Great Blondin," announced that he would walk across the Niagara Falls Gorge on a tightrope. Over a period of time, he made many performances over the Gorge.

One account tells of his crossing the Gorge to greet a cheering crowd. He asked the crowd, "How many of you believe I can cross safely with a man on my back?"

The crowd cheered, and many should out, "I do!"

Then he startled the crowd by issuing the challenge, "OK, who would like to go with me?"

The crowd grew strangely silent. Nobody volunteered to go. Finally, one man volunteered. "I'll go," he shouted out. And out they went – clear to the other side.

The question is – everybody said he believed Blondin. What they meant was, they believed he *could* carry a person across the Gorge. But they weren't ready to trust him to do it.

A lot of people are like that. They believe some or all the facts about Jesus. It isn't enough to believe *about* Jesus. Salvation involves turning from trusting anything – good works, religion, baptism, a church, or anything else. It involves putting complete trust in Jesus, just as the volunteer put his trust in Blondin to get him across the Gorge.

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the facts about Christ

3. Believing with the heart – Romans 10:9-10
- iii. The result is **Conversion** *epistréphō*, to turn [to the Lord] – Acts 3:19
 1. From being a lost sinner to a saved sinner
 2. From being a child of the devil to a child of God – John 8:44
 3. From being a (fill in the blank) to a Biblical Christian.

2. The concept of Salvation

a. **Sin** – Gr. *Hamartía*

- i. Greek word means “missing the mark.” missing the true end and scope of our lives, which is God. An offense in relation to God with emphasis on guilt.
- ii. Sin is anything we do that disobeys or displeases God.
- iii. It does not matter how small a sin may seem to us, it is still wickedness in the eyes of God.
- iv. When we sin, we miss God’s plan for our lives.
- v. Sin can destroy a person’s life
 1. Alcoholism
 2. Children born out of wedlock
 3. Crime, victims and punishment
 4. AIDS and other STD’s (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)
- vi. Do not ever excuse sin in your life. It is never OK to sin against God for any reason. – 1 John 1:7-9

b. **Salvation, Saved** – Gr. *sōzō*

- i. Deliverance from the power of sin
- ii. Deliverance from the eternal consequence of sin

c. **Gospel** – Greek – *euaggelion*

- i. The Greek word means “Good News.”
 1. *eu* = good; *aggelion* = message, or news
 2. We get the words *evangelism* and *evangelist* from the Greek word for *Gospel*.
- ii. The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus came, died for our sins and rose again from the dead, so we don’t have to pay for our own sins.
- iii. The old English word meant “God’s spell,” or “God’s news.” (It doesn’t mean He will put a spell on you!
- iv. The Gospel is defined in 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
 2. He was buried.
 3. He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

d. **Christian**

- i. The sociological and demographic definition of *Christian* is “someone who is identified with a church that claims to follow Christ, regardless of denomination”

An Acknowledgment of Our Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind In Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

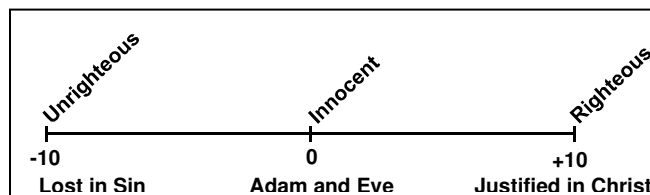
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- ii. The Biblical definition of *Christian* is “a person who has been born again through repentance and faith to the saving of the soul, regardless of the denomination.”
 1. Denominations which teach and preach the true Gospel of Christ as found in the Scriptures tend to have more Christians in them than the denominations that don’t teach Biblical truth.
 2. That means that a higher percentage of Baptists, Nazarenes and Assemblies of God members are Christians than Catholics, Episcopalians or Methodists.
 3. That does not mean all Baptists are Christians. Only those who are genuinely born again are true Christians.
 4. It does not matter what church you were raised in, or how many religious ceremonies or sacraments you participated in, you were not a Christian until you received Christ.
 5. You may be a member of this church, but if you have never received Christ, you have never become a Christian. And it is impossible to *be* a Christian without first *becoming* a Christian.
3. What God Requires
 - a. **Propitiation** – Gr. *Hilasmós* – 1 John 2:2
 - i. *Propitiation* is that which satisfies the wrath of a Holy God over our sins.
 - ii. You can’t do it, because there is no way a sinner can satisfy demands against sin.
 - iii. Jesus is our propitiation. He satisfied the wrath of God on the Cross.
 - b. **Sacrifice** – Gr. *Thusía*, the act of making an offering
 - i. Sin is a Capital Offense against God. We sinned. We deserve to die in our sins (the Second Death) – Rev. 21:8.
 - ii. Either we had to experience that death, or a substitute had to experience it in our place.
 - iii. The animals sacrificed were imperfect substitutes for the Old Testament people. Those sacrifices didn’t remove sins, but covered them until the time Jesus went to the Cross.
 - iv. The sacrifice of an appropriate animal. Without blemish, was demanded.
 - v. These sacrifices in Old Testament times were partial and temporary
 1. They covered sins – they could not take sins away
 2. That’s why they had to be repeated over and over
 3. They were pictures of what Jesus would do once and for all on the Cross for our sins.
 - vi. The Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross for our sins is perfect and eternal.
 1. It never has to be repeated
 2. It never could be repeated
 - c. **Blood** – Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22
 - i. The shedding of blood has to do with the death of the sacrifice.
 - ii. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (no payment for sin).
4. Getting Saved
 - a. **Grace** – Gr. *cháris*, a free gift – Eph. 2:8-9
 - i. God’s unmerited favor for us, in spite of the fact that we are sinners.
 - ii. We are not saved on the merits of any good we have done.

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- iii. The only thing we did to get saved was to come as helpless sinners and receive God's offer of salvation. There is no merit in that.
- b. **Regeneration**, or **Born Again** – John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23
- c. **Justification** Greek *dikaióō*, to acquit, to declare righteous – Rom. 4:1-5

- i. Some people have taught that *Justified* means “Just if I'd never sinned.”



- ii. It's more than that.

- 1. “Just if I'd never sinned” would make me innocent, but not righteous.
- 2. To be *justified* means to be declared to be righteous by God.
 - a. I'm not righteous because I'm a good person
 - b. I'm not righteous because I've been baptized
 - c. I'm not righteous because I'm a Baptist
 - d. I'm righteous because God said I'm righteous.

- i. That's all there is to it.
- ii. That's all I need.
- iii. The chorus of the great hymn, *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* says it all –

I need no other argument
I need no other plea.
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.

5. Consequences of Not Being Saved

- a. **Damnation** – Gr. *Krísis*
 - i. Judgment given and sentence pronounced
- b. **The Great White Throne Judgment** – Rev. 20:11-15
 - i. The event in which all unsaved people will stand before God for Judgment.
 - ii. They will be shown the reason for their condemnation and will be cast into Hell.
- c. **Hell** – Gr. *Géenna*, sometimes spelled *Gehenna* in English
 - i. Hell is the place of eternal punishment for those who have transgressed against the infinitely holy God. It is a literal place.
 - ii. *Gehenna* was the name of the place where the Jerusalem garbage dump was located outside the city walls.
 - 1. A fire was burning there 24/7
 - 2. It was a fitting illustration of the place of the damned where the fire will never go out – Mark 9:43
 - iii. Yes, it's literal fire.
 - iv. God has a fire that can burn and not consume – Ex 3:2

6. False Ideas of Salvation

- a. **Salvation by works**
 - i. The teaching that a person can help save himself or herself by living a moral life, obeying the Ten Commandments, etc.

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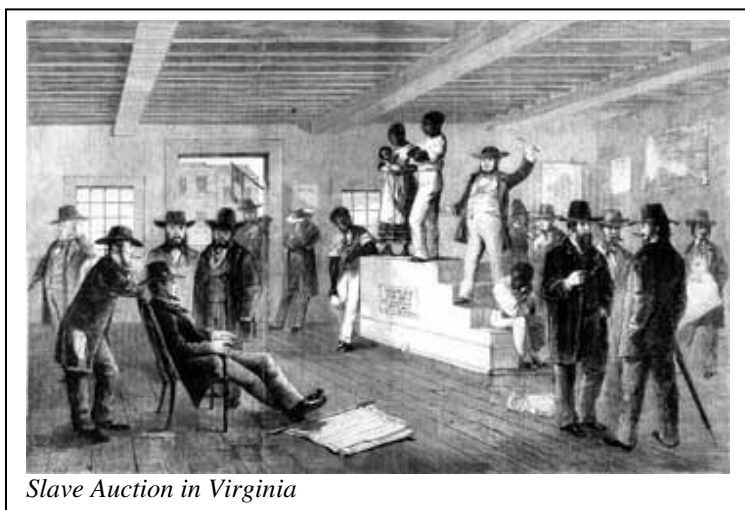
- ii. This is opposed to the clear teaching of Scripture – Rom 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9
- b. Salvation by religion

- i. **Baptismal Regeneration**

- 1. The Catholic Church and most Lutheran and Episcopal churches teach that baby baptism washes away original sin, and that people have to partake of other sacraments to get rid of other sins.
 - 2. The Church of Christ, United Pentecostal Church and most “Apostolic” churches teach that you have to be baptized in their church or you will go to Hell.

What about babies and young children who die?

- 1. The Catholic Church says they will go to Heaven as long as they are baptized. If a priest is unavailable, anyone – even a layman or a Protestant (they think Baptists are Protestants) – can baptize them, and they will die a Catholic and will go to Heaven.
- 2. They are sinners, because they were born with a sin nature.
- 3. As sinners, they deserve to go to Hell
- 4. However, they are not old enough to be able to account for themselves – Rom. 14:12
- 5. David was assured his baby, who had died, would be in Heaven – 2 Sam. 12:23
- 6. ALMOST ALL Bible scholars agree that a child who dies before the “age of accountability” will experience God’s grace and will go to Heaven.



Slave Auction in Virginia

An Illustration of Redemption

Back in the old South, an older gentleman was passing by a slave auction. He saw the auctioneer bring a beautiful teen age black girl to the platform. As he old gentleman looked into her face, he saw extreme fear and bitter hatred.

As the bidding commenced, he spoke up and bid. As he did, the girl gave him an icy hateful stare. Then another bidder raised his bid, and the girl gave him the same stare. The bidding volleyed back and forth, and finally ended. “Sold to the man in back,” bellowed the auctioneer.

The gentleman paid the price and went to take his slave. He led her out of the slave market and into the street.

“I hate you,” said the girl as she stared into his face. “I hate you, I hate you, I hate you!”

Unphased, the man took the girl’s hand and looked into her face. “But you don’t understand. I didn’t buy you to be my slave. When I saw your sweet face, I couldn’t bear to think of you being used and abused by some unfeeling slavemaster. I bought you to set you free.

As the girl looked up at the man, big tears welled up in her eyes. “I’m sorry. I’m sorry. I’m sorry,” she blurted out. “Thank you so much. I owe you my life. I will serve you forever!”

So it is with every one of us. We were captive in the slave market of sin. Jesus paid the bill that we could never pay to set us free from the power and consequences of our sin. We owe Him everything – our lives, our possessions, our plans – to serve Him forever.