

Beyond Belief

Salvation - Fact or Fiction

SETTING THE STAGE

Man's Beginning:

1. Who was the will, the brains and the power behind man coming into existence?

Genesis 1:1 (Msg)

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see.

John 1:1-4 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning. [3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. [4] In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

2. How do we know God gave us choice?

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:6 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

John 1:11 (NIV)

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

3. What choice did man make? (Romans 3:23)

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

CONNECTING WITH THE SUBJECT

From What Are Believers Saved?

1. From the Past.

- a. From their past position under the wrath of God. (Romans 1:18) (NIV)

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

- 1) What brings down the wrath of God on man?
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Our purpose

We exist to

Glorify God

By

*Reaching people for Christ and
Helping believers grow to be like Him
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

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- 2) You bring down the wrath of God with “godlessness and wickedness used to suppress the truth”.
What are you using to suppress God’s truth so you can justify your selfish desires and activities?
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- b. From the power of Satan to make you do wrong (sin). (Romans 3:9) (NIV)

What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.

- 1) Are you an exception to the rule?
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- 2) What are some events and experiences in your life that cause you to realize that some power to make you do wrong has control of your life?
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- c. From the power of death. (Romans 5:21) (NIV)

“so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- 1) Without Christ, what had control over man from which there was no escape?
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- 2) When you choose Christ and grace rules over you, death is replaced with what?
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- d. What does God want to do for you through His Son Jesus Christ? (Colossians 1:13) (NIV)

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,”

How God’s Plan Works For You.

Monday:

1. God Loves You (John 3:16)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- a. Is God’s love giving or taking? _____
- b. Who took your death penalty on Himself and died in your place because He loved you? _____
- c. What does Jesus offer us in the place of death?
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- d. Without Christ you make choices as if this life is all you have. This makes your life experience miserable because it is filled with death, sickness, enemies, evil and pain. When you receive Christ into your life and He gives you eternal life then you can view life from an eternal perspective. What changes occur in your evaluation of life when viewed from an eternal perspective?
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2. God’s Spirit Calls You (John 16:8-11)

“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; [10] in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

Three important tasks of the Holy Spirit are:

- a. Holy Spirit will convict you of sin. What is “sin” that brings death and for which the Holy Spirit is convicting you? (John 16:9)
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- b. Holy Spirit will convict you that Christ is God’s standard of righteousness even now after Christ has gone to the Father. What has the Holy Spirit shown you about your action, attitudes, and ways compared to Christ’s?
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- c. Holy Spirit convicts (convinces) you that Christ's death, burial, and resurrection has defeated Satan and his power over believers. If Satan has power in the life of a believer, the believer has chosen to allow it. Are there areas in your life over which you have not yet given Christ complete control?
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Tuesday:

3. Without Christ all people are Sinners (Romans 3:22-24)

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

- a. Those who have not acknowledged Christ as Lord and Savior are guilty of the sin of unbelief which leaves them eternally separated from God. Where are you standing? As a believer, or as an unbeliever?
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- b. A believer has the "righteousness of Christ" to bring before God and He accepts this substitute for your lack of self-righteousness. Without Christ's righteousness no man can come close to the presence of God. Where do you stand today? Do you stand condemned without Christ's righteousness or do you stand justified by the grace of God, clothed, not in your sinful rebellious spirit, but in Christ's righteousness?
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4. Your Sin Has a Penalty Which Christ Paid (Romans 6:23)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- a. When God made man He breathed whose life into man? _____
- b. God breathed His own life into man and what kind of life does God have? _____
- c. If God has Eternal Life and His life is in man, then man also had what kind of life? _____
- d. The presence of God brought man Life, then man rejected God through disobedience removing God from his life. If God is man's life and you remove God, that leaves man with the opposite of life which is what? _____
- e. Rejecting God by refusing to receive Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior is excluding God from your life and removing His of Eternal Life. The results of "sin" (rejecting God's forgiveness offered in Jesus Christ) for you is what? _____
- f. What you choose today is what you have for eternity. Is Eternal Death (Eternal separation from God) what you really want? _____
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Wednesday:

5. Christ Paid Your Penalty For Sin (Romans 5:6-8)

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- a. What did God do for you through Jesus while you were still rejecting Him and pursuing a self-directed, selfish life? _____
- b. When you were in this ungodly life style and attitude, what chance did you have to ever come to God in an acceptable way all on your own merit? (Romans 5:6) _____
- c. What does this arrangement of a Holy Righteous Christ dying in the place of a rebellious, ungodly rebel declare to you concerning the quality of love that God has for you? _____
- d. Can you continue to reject such love? _____
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6. Salvation Is A Free Gift To You (Ephesians 2:8-9)

(For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—[9] not by works, so that no one can boast.)

- a. Because salvation is something Christ provided for you when you were "powerless" (Romans 5:6), then you can do nothing to earn, deserve, or merit it. What is your salvation from God? _____
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- b. You do not do good works to earn or merit your salvation. How has God equipped you to show gratitude, praise and joy to Him? (Ephesians 2:10)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- c. How and where are you currently committed to serve in God's work to demonstrate your gratitude for the free gift of salvation?
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Thursday:

7. There Is Only One Way You Can Be Saved (Acts 4:12)

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

- a. What is the biblical answer to the statement, "It does not matter as long as you are sincere"?
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- b. Reflection: (1). God does exist; (2). Bible is true; (3). Jesus is God's Son; (4). Christ was resurrected. If the above are all true, then there can be only one God, one truth, one Son of God and the resurrection to prove that all are the infallible revelation of God to you. From where would you find an alternative way to eternal life?
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8. That One Way To Eternal Life Is To Receive Christ (John 1:12-13) (Romans 10:9-10)

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— [13] children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Romans 10:9-10

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

This fresh start with Christ at the leadership position of your life is available to all who will choose Him. What is your choice? _____

Friday:

9. Your Salvation is Secure With God's Guarantee (Ephesians 1:13-14)

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade— kept in heaven for you, [5] who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

- a. What do you do to receive God's free gift of salvation? _____
- b. You simply receive the gift of salvation. Because God did everything and you could do nothing to earn or merit salvation, who is fully responsible and capable of securing your right relationship with Him? _____

10. God's Plan For Your Salvation Includes Your Growing To Be Like Christ (Ephesians 4:13)

"to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

- a. First step to growing to be like Christ is to be united in the Body of Christ, the church. Are you committed to a local church body to serve Christ?
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- b. Second step is to be focused on Christ within the church so that there is unity of purpose and goals. Are you in step with the purpose of the Fellowship which is to "reach people for Christ and to help them grow to be like Him?"
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- c. Third step is your personal, moral and ethical purity to mirror the image of Christ to a seeking world. List areas in your life that:
- 1) Mirror Christ: _____
- 2) Need working on: _____