

**ESSENTIAL CHRISTIANITY**  
**NEW BELIEVER'S STUDY**  
**CLASS THREE:**

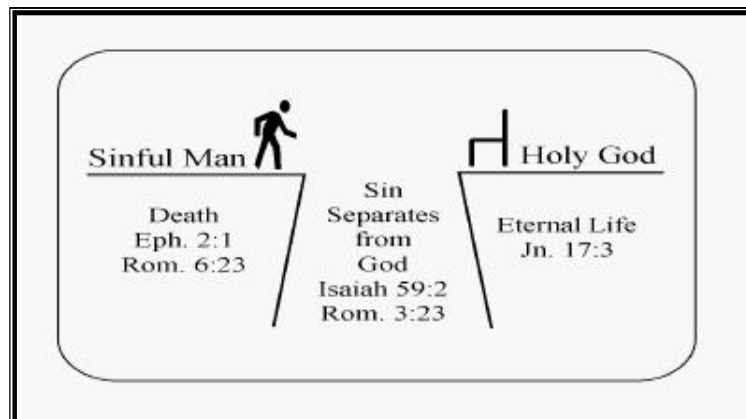
**THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION: GOD'S SOLUTION TO SIN**

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

**A. DEFINITION: SALVATION**

- 1. SALVATION:** Deliverance from the power of sin; redemption.<sup>1</sup>
- 2. Systematic Theology Definition:** "salvation" denotes the whole process by which man is delivered from all that would prevent his attaining to the highest good that God has prepared for him.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. "Soteriology"** which is the theological term for the study of salvation. It is derived from two Greek words, *soteria* and *logos*. The former means "salvation," and the latter "word, discourse, or doctrine."
- 4. The Old Testament Understanding of Salvation:**
  - a. The Hebrew words give the general idea being safe, deliverance, ease or soundness.
  - b. In the OT the term refers to various forms of deliverance, both temporal and spiritual.
- 5. The New Testament Understanding of Salvation:**
  - a. In the NT, salvation is regarded almost exclusively as deliverance from the power and dominion of sin.
  - b. As Jesus Christ being the author (see Matt 1:21; Acts 4:12; Heb 2:10; 5:9).
  - c. It is freely offered to all men but is conditioned upon repentance and faith in Christ (see John 3:16; Heb 2:3).

**B. THE NEED FOR SALVATION:**



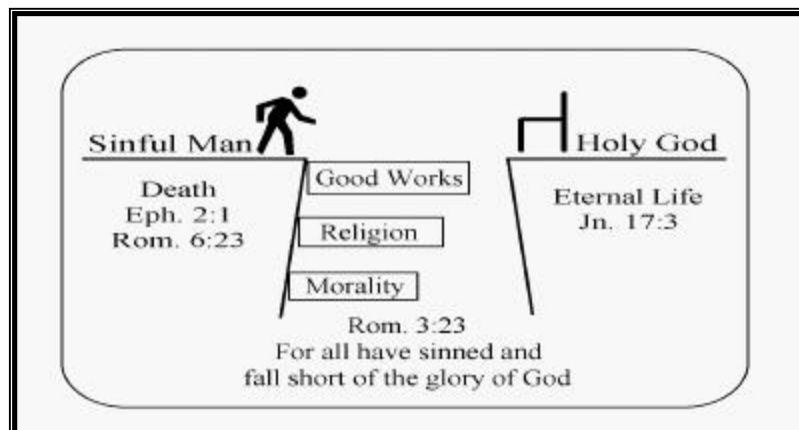
<sup>1</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Salvation

<sup>2</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Salvation

1. **Sin separates us from God.**
  - a. **Romans 3:23:** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
  - b. **Isaiah 59:2:** “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear”
  
2. **The Reason: God is a Holy God**
  - a. Holiness is one of the attributes of God.
  - b. Attribute means: “an inherent characteristic; an object closely associated with or belonging to a specific person, thing, or office... a word ascribing a quality”<sup>3</sup>
  - c. **Exodus 15:11:** “Who *is* like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness,”
  - d. **Psalm 99:9:** “Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God *is* holy.”
  - e. **1 Peter 1:15-16:** “...as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”
  - f. **Revelation 15:4:** “Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy.
  
3. **The Bridge:**

A plan of salvation is needed which is sufficient to bridge the vast gap between these two infinite extremes—Man's sinfulness and God's Holiness.

## II. MAN’S SOLUTION:



### A. System of Good Works: Similar To Organizations Like:

<sup>3</sup> Merriam-Webster Online, “attribute”

1. Various Cults:
  - a. Jehovah Witnesses
  - b. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:
    - Mormonism
  - c. Christian Science
2. Non-Christian Religions:
  - a. Hinduism
  - b. Buddhism
  - c. New Age Movement

## **B. System of Religion**

1. **Roman Catholicism:**
2. **Islam**
3. **Emerging Church and Liberal Theology**

## **C. System of Morality**

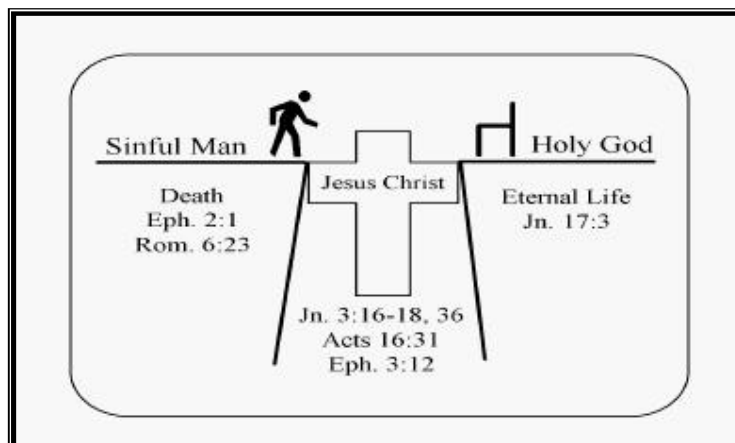
1. This is primarily a western culture belief.
2. "I am a good person; God will not send me to hell."
3. People have a problem believing that if God is loving and just, He will not and cannot send someone to hell.
  - a. They do not understand sin and its penalty
  - b. They believe the lie that Satan told Eve, "Eat of the fruit, you will not surely die."
  - c. The wages of sin is death, both physical & spiritual, Romans 6:23.

## **III. GOD'S SOLUTION:**

**"Fortunately for all concerned, God foreknew all that was to take place in Man's Fall, and He planned just such a salvation as was needed before the foundation of the earth. Before the first sin was committed in the universe, before the sad plight brought on by rebellious man, who had been made in the image of God, the Lord planned and provided the way of escape from the snares and condemnation of sin. Our God was not caught unawares. He foreknew the Fall and He foreordained the plan of rescue."<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Foundations of Pentecostal Theology, Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave



## A. The Means of Salvation: The Cross

### 1. It Was Vicarious: A Substitute:

a. **Isaiah 53:6-8:**

b. **Matthew 1:18-21:**

c. **He came for this very purpose: Matthew 20:28-**

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”

d. **Henry Thiessen states it:** *“His death was not an afterthought or an accident, but the accomplishment of a divine purpose in connection with the incarnation. The incarnation is not an end in itself; it is but a means to an end, and that end is the redemption of the lost through the Lord's death on the cross.”*<sup>5</sup>

### 2. It Was Accomplished By Death:

a. **Hebrews 2:14-17:**

b. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4:**

c. R.A. Torrey states that the Death of Jesus Christ is mentioned directly more than one hundred and seventy-five (175) times in the New Testament.<sup>6</sup>

## B. The Essence Of Salvation:

### 1. Salvation Is A Propitiation:

a. The word “propitiation” properly signifies the turning away of wrath by a sacrifice. Thus it signifies appeasement.

b. **I John 2:2:** “For he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

<sup>5</sup> Henry Clarence Thiessen, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949) 313.

<sup>6</sup> Reuben Archer Torrey, *What the Bible Teaches* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1933) 144.

2. **Salvation is a Ransom/Redemption.**
  - a. These words have a double significance: it means the payment of a price, as well as the deliverance of the captive.
  - b. **Matthew 20:28:** “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”
  - c. **Hebrews 9:12:** The deliverance which Jesus obtained is called Redemption. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”
  - d. **Galatians 3:13: We are redeemed from the Curse & Penalty of the Law.**
  - e. **Romans 6:14 & 7:4: We are redeemed from the Dominion of Sin.**

### C. GOD’S CALL

#### 1. Election: “To Choose” We Are Elected (Chosen) of God

**Election is: “That sovereign act of God in grace whereby He chose in Christ Jesus for salvation all those whom He foreknew would accept Him.”<sup>7</sup>**

- a. **Ephesians 1:4:** “Inasmuch as the Scripture teaches that Election took place “before the foundation of the world”, there was none with whom God could consult.
- b. Election is an act of God’s grace (receiving what we do not deserve, e.g. eternal life).
- c. Election is always said to be according to God's Foreknowledge: **1 Peter 1:1-2:** “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **elect according to the foreknowledge** of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ”
- d. **Romans 8:28-30:** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined to be conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also

<sup>7</sup> Henry Clarence Thiessen, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949) 344.

**called;** whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**e. Predestination:**

- i. This word is properly used only with reference to God's plan or purpose of salvation.
- ii. The Greek word rendered "predestinate" is found only in these six passages, **Acts 4:28; Rom 8:29,30; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5,11**; and in all of them it has the same meaning. ***"They teach that the eternal, sovereign, immutable, and unconditional decree or "determinate purpose" of God governs all events."***<sup>8</sup>

**D. Response To The Call & Drawing By The Father & Spirit**

1. **John 6:44-45:** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."
2. **John 6:65:** "And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

**3. Repentance Must Take Place:**

**a. Definition:**

**"The root meaning of repentance is a change of mind or purpose. It is a sincere and thorough changing of the mind and disposition in regard to sin." It involves a change of view, a change of feeling, and a change of purpose. Thus we can say it contains three elements: the intellectual, the emotional and the voluntary."**<sup>9</sup>

- b. **Job 42:5-6:** "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes."
- c. **2 Corinthians 7:10-11:** "For godly sorrow **produces repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."
- d. **2 Peter 3:9:** "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,\* not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

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<sup>8</sup> Easton's Bible Dictionary, Third Edition, by Matthew George Easton; Predestination

<sup>9</sup> Foundations of Pentecostal Theology, Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, Repentance.

#### 4. Faith Must Take Place:

- a. **In the NT:** faith is always used of "faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual."
- b. **The word is used of:**
  - i. **Trust**, e. g., Rom 3:25; 1 Cor 2:5; 15:14,17; 2 Cor 1:24; Gal 3:23; Phil 1:25; 2:17; 1 Thess 3:2; 2 Thess 1:3; 3:2
  - ii. **Trust-worthiness**, e. g., Matt 23:23; Rom 3:3, RV, "the faithfulness of God"; Gal 5:22 (RV, "faithfulness"); Titus 2:10, "fidelity";
  - iii. **What is believed** (metonymy), the contents of belief, the "faith," Acts 6:7; 14:22; Gal 1:23; 3:25
  - iv. **a ground for assurance**, Acts 17:31
  - v. **a pledge of fidelity**, 1 Timothy 5:12.
- c. **The main elements** of "faith" are:
  - i. **a firm conviction**, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, e. g., II Thess 2:11-12
  - ii. **a personal surrender** to Him, John 1:12;
  - iii. **a new conduct** inspired by such surrender, II Cor 5:7.
- d. **The Mysterious Element of Faith**
  - i. **Hebrews 11:1:**
  - ii. **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."**

#### E. The Assurance of Our Salvation:

1. **We Are Sealed By The Holy Spirit**
  - a. **Ephesians 1:13-14:**
  - b. **2 Cor 1:21-22:**
2. **We Are Sons (Heirs):**
  - a. **Romans 8:15:** "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father.""
  - b. **Romans 8: 16-17:** "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together."
3. **The Word Assures Us:**
  - a. **Romans 10:8-11:**
  - b. *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"* (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him

from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**4. Security Through Abiding**

- a. **Hebrews 10:26-27** tells us: “If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation”
- b. **Scriptural warnings: Don’t Presume on the Grace of God!**
  - i. **I Peter 1:10a:** “beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness”
  - ii. **I Peter 1:10b:** “give diligence to make your calling and election sure”

“The Christian is warned of mortal danger: through salt losing its savor ([Luke 14:34,35](#)); through failing to abide in Christ ([John 15:6](#)); in being moved away from the hope of the Gospel ([Col 1:23](#)); in erring from the faith ([1 Tim 6:10](#)); in being taken captive by the Devil ([2 Tim 2:24-26](#)); in neglecting so great salvation ([Heb 2:3](#)); in departing from the living God ([Heb 3:12](#)); in being hardened through the deceitfulness of sin ([Heb 3:13](#)); in willfully sinning ([Heb 10:26-31](#)); in erring from the truth ([James 5:19,20](#)); in being overcome by the world ([2 Peter 2:20-22](#)); and in leaving one's first love ([Rev 2:4,5](#)).”<sup>10</sup>

**c. The believer's responsibility.**

- i. **I Peter 1:5:** We are “kept by the power of God **through faith** unto salvation”
- ii. **Our part is to believe Him; His part is to keep us.**
- iii. **Phil. 2:12-13:** “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”
- iv. **II Timothy 1:12:** “For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”

**d. ABIDE: John 15:1-9: The Words of Jesus!**

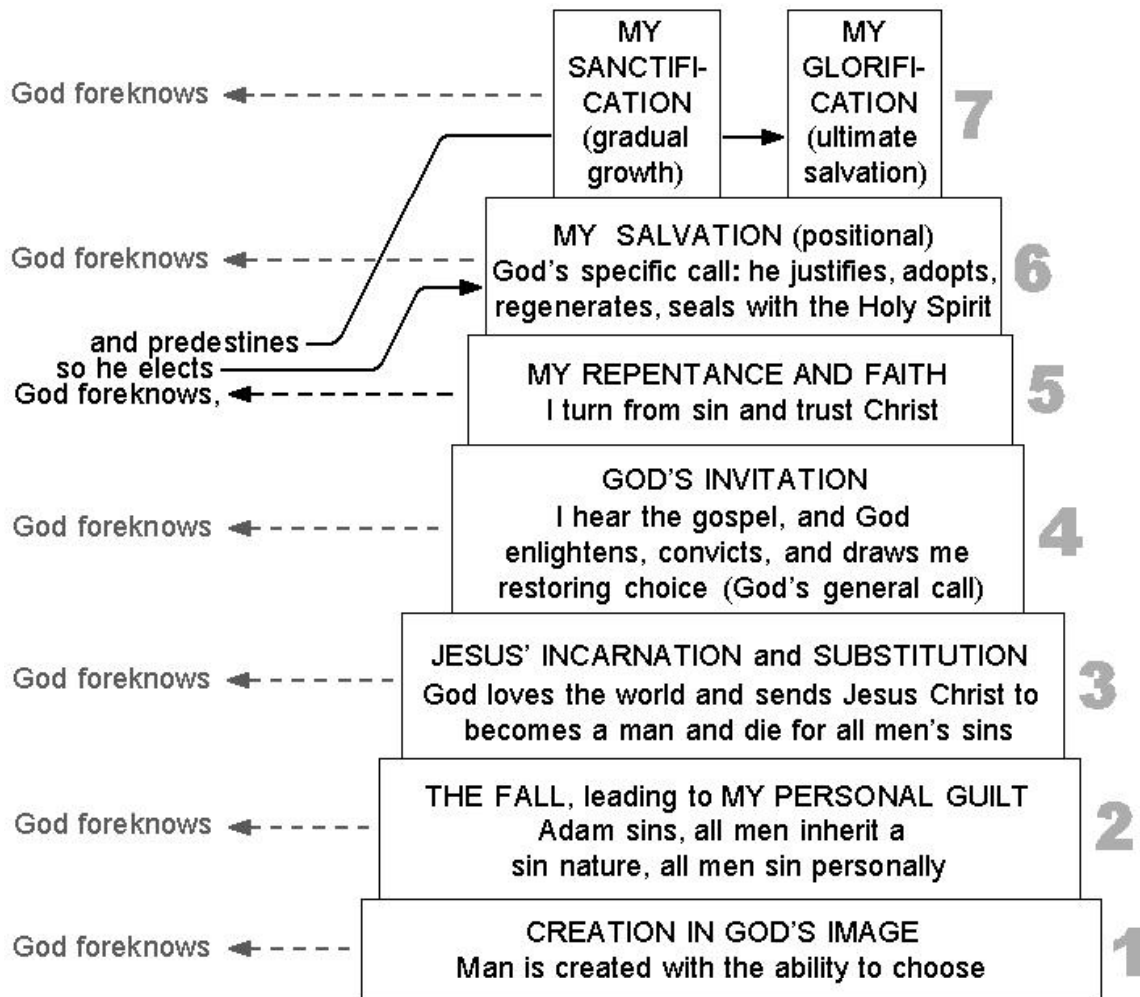
**"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away,\* and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean**

<sup>10</sup> Foundations of Pentecostal Theology, Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, Assurance.

because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will\* ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."

#### IV. IN SUMMARY: SEVEN FACTS ABOUT SALVATION



#### V. THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION REVIEWED (SEE APPENDIX FOURTEEN)

#### VI. THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION ILLUSTRATED (SEE APPENDIX FIFTEEN)