What We Believe

Lesson 6

Salvation

John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, I John 5:16

Introduction: I think the hymn writer said it very well,

There will never be a sweeter story,
Story of the Savior's love divine,
Love that bro't Him from the realms of Glory,
Just to save a sinful soul like mine.

Salvation is the truly wonderful message that the Bible reveals to us. This belief has been confused by some throughout history and has led many to despair. My hope in this lesson is that you will embrace God’s plan for salvation. What His plan means to us is our greatest source of comfort and peace in this world.

**Salvation**
We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 12:31-32; 1 John 1:9)

1. **Salvation is necessary because of our sinful state.**
	1. Without Him we would be doomed to perish. John 3:16

1. We already spoke about this last week, but the wonderful hope of salvation shines brightest alongside the real hopelessness we found ourselves in before Christ.

2. This is again due to our own choices to disobey God’s command.

* 1. Because God is perfect, and just, and holy He had to send Jesus to die for us.
		1. Romans 5:8

*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that,* ***while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

* + 1. His redemptive plan was neither inspired nor driven by our worthiness, but by something much greater.
1. **His love led him to save our eternal souls.**
	1. John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 describe this very clearly.

1. For God so **loved** the World

2. ..God commendeth His **love** toward us

3. “Because he loved me he, my Savior died, on the cross was crucified

No greater love for mortal man has ever been known.

Oh praise His dear name, He loved me so,

Now I am His, He’s mine I know

He suffered it all, Because He loved me.”

4. “*..and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* Hebrews 9:22 tells us that Christ had to be crucified because it was the only payment that would take care of our sin-debt.

Transision: But this offer of salvation is, in spite of its unspeakable worth and value to each individual, something that He wants us to have. He in His wonderful grace called salvation something wonderfully accessible to all, a gift.

**III. He offers to give us that which we could never earn.**

 A. Ephesians 2:8-9 say it very clearly:

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the* ***gift*** *of God:* ***Not of works****, lest any man should boast.*

 B. Then only thing we need to receive the free gift of salvation is to place our faith in Christ.

1. Romans 10:9-10

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt* ***believe*** *in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

2. Romans 10:13

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

C. These are clear promises from the Word of God.

 1. Some say this is too easy, but that’s because God never intended to make it hard.

2. Salvation is so simple that a child can understand it. God wants His gift of salvation to be received by whosoever will.

3. This is something that must be done from the heart, and cannot be forced.

D. Christ’s death for us was sufficient for our need, and He is the only way to salvation.

1. John 14:6

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

2. The only thing we need to do is place our trust in Him, rejecting all other ways (including our own way).

Transition: While the message is abundantly clear in God’s word, some consider it presumptuous and hypocritical that we believe we can know 100% that we are going to heaven.

**IV. John’s writings in the New Testament make it very clear that salvation is a hope to be possessed, not an uncertain wish to long for.**

A. The entirety of John’s gospel is written so that the reader might find life through belief in Jesus Christ.

B. God’s desire is that we live with assurance that He has saved us.

 1. I John 5:13

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

 2. We can have assurance that we do in fact have a home in heaven.

 3. If you have trusted in Christ as your savior, then you have no reason to worry.

 4. We will discuss the aspect of our security in the next lesson.

Conclusion: This wonderful message of salvation by grace through faith is the most important and wonderful truth that we can understand. This is a simple message that give us reason to hope that when we pass from this life we will find a much more wonderful reality in heaven. But this truth is not just to be for us like any other insurance policy, which gives us something in the distant future. In salvation God gives us a present encouragement and purpose. Be encouraged that the God of this universe saw you and loved you. Not only did He love you, but He gave himself for you. Embrace your purpose in this life, you have been commanded to tell others about this simple and wonderful message of salvation. Work for the night is coming, when man’s work is done.