

Lesson Six – Salvation

The single most significant experience in life is that involved in receiving the salvation provided by Christ on the Cross. This experience is so significant that the Bible uses over a hundred different expressions to describe it.

1. Introduction

- a. Salvation is described in a **past tense** – I was saved from the guilt and penalty of sin. (justification)
- b. Salvation is described in a **present tense** – I am saved from the habit and dominion of sin. (sanctification)
- c. Salvation is described in a **future tense** – I will be saved from all the physical infirmities which are the consequence of sin and curse of God upon sin. (glorification)

2. Conversion

- a. Conversion refers to the **personality change** that takes place when a person becomes a Christian. (Rom. 6:17).
 - i. Conversion begins with a change in thinking. Although there is only one Gospel (Gal. 1:9), it may be described as:
 1. **Personal truth** because it is the person of Jesus (1 Cor. 2:2). (truth personified)
 2. The Gospel is also **propositional truth** which means it is an accurate formula because it is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
 - ii. Things people must know to be converted:
 1. **Their condition** – “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23).
 2. **The penalty** – “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). It is present as well as future and is physical as well as spiritual (James 2:26; Rev 20:14)
 3. **God’s provision** – “Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
 - a. He died as our **sacrifice** – The propitiation or atoning sacrifice
 - i. Ro 3:25 1 Jn 2:2
 - b. He died as our **ransom** – Mk 10; Heb 9: 22 Ro 3:24 Col 1:14
 - c. Note that God proved his love. What was the proof of his love?
 - i. He proved his love in that he gave up his Son to die in our stead. Ro 8:32
 - ii. He proved his love by justification through the blood of Jesus. Ro 5:9
 - iii. God proved his love by saving us from wrath Jn 3:36
 4. **How to respond** – “Believe in thine heart” Rom. 10:9; Jn 4:21; Jn 11:25-26
 - a. Knowing the Gospel – **the intellect** – is foundational to conversion. “How can they believe Him of whom they have not heard? Rom 10:14.
 - b. Emotions – **feelings** are affected in conversion. 2 Cor 7:9-10; Act 8:8
 - iii. Conversion involves a definite act of the **will**. Mark 1:15; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.
 1. “Trusting in” (Prov. 3:4).
 2. “Repenting” (Acts 2:38).
 3. “Believing” (Acts 16:31).
 4. “Receiving” (John 1:12).

5. "Being born again" (John 3:7).
 6. "Calling" and "confessing" (Rom. 10:9).
- b. Conversion is viewed as both a **process** and **an event**.
3. Regeneration - Regeneration is the work of God through the Holy Spirit within a person who has "saving faith," in which a new nature is given that makes the person capable of doing God's will. Ezekiel 36:24-27
- a. Conversion looks at the salvation experience from a **human perspective** while regeneration describes the same experience from a **divine perspective**.
 - b. Regeneration described as being born again (John 3:37). 1 Pet 1:17-23
 - i. Regeneration is an **act of God**. Titus 3:5
 - ii. Regeneration produces **spiritual life** in the believer. (The Life of God in the soul of man.) Eph 2:1; Rom 8:14-16; 1 Jn 3:24; 1 Jn 4:13
 - iii. Regeneration produces **noticeable changes**. 1 Pet 2"1-3; 1 Cor 6:9-11
 - iv. Regeneration gives a **new nature**. The Christian is transformed into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). 2 Pet 1:34-
 - c. The basis of both conversion and regeneration.
 - i. The Scriptures are the **instrument of salvation**.
 1. Convicts of sin (John 16:9-11).
 2. Gives us new life. Jn 6:33
 3. Gives us a new nature (2 Peter 1:4).
 4. The basis of our spiritual power to overcome sin (Psalm 119:9-11).
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is the **agent of salvation**. He convicts of sin, draws people to Christ, and gives new life to those who repent.
4. Justification
- a. Justification is a legal declaration of our righteous **standing before God**. Rom 3:19-28 Look up.
 - b. Justification is the act whereby God declares a person righteous when he or she **trusts Christ**.
 - c. Justification is **non-experiential**. This is something that happens in Heaven; our names are recorded on the Lamb's Book of Life.
 - d. Justification gives a new standing before God and is the means by which we enter into a new position **in the heavenlies** (Eph. 2:6).
 - i. Abraham is the first who is described as having been justified by faith (Gen. 15:6).
 - ii. The only way we can be justified before God is to **accept Christ's righteousness** by faith.
 - iii. Results – God declares us not guilty of sin and we have a perfect record in heaven.
 - iv. We are justified at our conversion. It often **takes time** to experience the change.
 - v. Practical steps in working out our personal salvation or sanctification
 1. "know" (Rom. 6:3,6).
 2. "Reckon" (Rom. 6:11).
 3. "Yield" (Rom. 6:13).
 4. "Obey" (Rom. 6:16-17).

Summary: salvation is the gift of God; it is His **initiative**, His **work**, His **sacrifice** and His purpose. We can only believe and receive. How one reacts to that message is the indicator of who God's children really are.