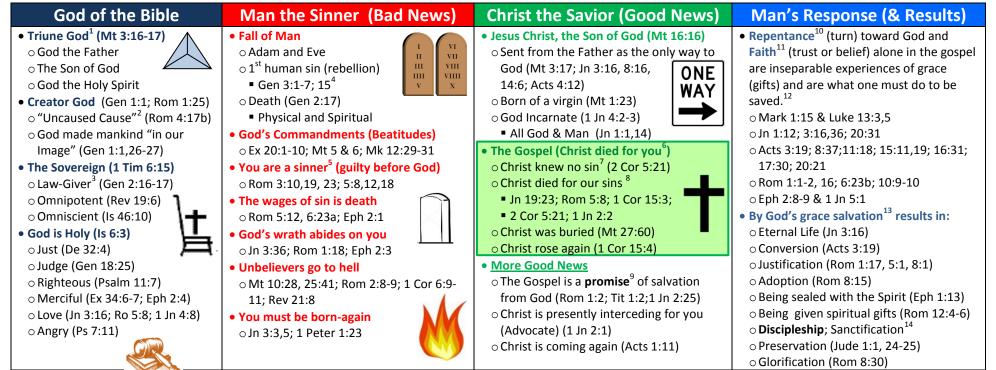
GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION





8. ON THE CROSS, CHRIST SHED HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD AND GAVE HIS LIFE TO SATISFY THE WRATH OF GOD, REMIT SINS, AND PURCHASE THE CHURCH (ACTS 20:28; HEB 9:22; 1 PET 1:19; 1 JN 2:2).

9. THE GOSPEL IS A PROMISE FROM GOD OF FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND ETERNAL LIFE TO ANYONE WHO REPENTS AND BELIEVES THE GOSPEL; ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO ASK FOR THIS GIFT (EPH 2:8-9). IT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROMISED TO ALL WHO WILL BELIEVE ON HIS NAME (JN 1:12, 3:16; ROM 10:9; EPH 1:7, 2:8; TIT 1:2).

10. ALL SINNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO REPENT OF ANY AND ALL SIN THAT IS KEEPING THEM FROM TURNING TO GOD (REPENTANCE) AND PLACING AUTHENTIC FAITH IN THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST (THE GOSPEL); IN THESSALONICA, THE BELEIVERS TURNED FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD (1 THESS 1:9). IN JERUSALEM, THE JEWS NEEDED TO REPENT OF THEIR FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE JESUS AS THE MESSIAH (ACTS 2:38). SUBSEQUENTLY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY REPENTANCE FROM SIN (ACTS 3:9, ROM 2:4, 1 JNHN 3:19; REV 3:19).

FAITH IN CHRIST IS SYNONYMOUS WITH AUTHENTIC BELIEF, DEPENDENCE, TRUST IN, AND RELIANCE UPON HIM. IT IS MUCH MORE THAN INTELLECTUAL ASSENT; IT INCLUDES FOLLOWSHIP (JN 2:23-24; JAM 2:19).
 THIS IS THE ANSWER TO THE "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" QUESTION, AND IT CAN NEVER BE UNDERSTOOD TO BE MORE THAN ONE EXPECTATION OR STEP (ACTS 16:30-31).

13. SALVATION IS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE IN ITS TENSES; BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN, ARE BEING SAVED FROM THE POWER OF SIN, AND WILL BE SAVED FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH. AFTER ONE IS SAVED, WATER BAPTISM IS OFTEN THE FIRST PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST (MT 28:20; ACTS 2:38-41, 8:12, 36-38, 16:31-33).

14. THE CONCEPT OF BEING SAVED WITHOUT BEING A FOLLOWER OF THE LORD JESUS IS FOREIGN TO THE NT (MT 16:24, 28:19-20; LK 14:27; JN 10:27; 2 COR 5:17). SANCTIFICATION IS BOTH INSTANTANTEOUS (1 COR 6:11) AND PROGRESSIVE RESULTING IN BEING CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST (RO 8:29) BY GOD'S GRACE AND IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (JN 17:19; 1 THESS 4:3; TIT 2:11-12; 1 PET 1:15; 1 JN 2:3).

BY: SEAN HARRIS 5/21/12

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^{1.} GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION BEGAN IN ETERNITY PAST (EPH 1:4; REV 13:8) AND ULTIMATELY WILL END WITH THE CREATION OF A NEW HEAVEN/ NEW EARTH (2 PET 3:7-13; REV 21:1-4).

^{2.} THE TRIUNE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS THE SELF-EXISTENT, "I AM THAT I AM" ETERNAL GOD WHO IS THE ULTIMATE CAUSE BEHIND ALL THAT EXISTS (EX 3:14; JN 1:3; ROM 4:17B; COL 1:16-17).

^{3.} AS THE SOVEREIGN OF THE UNIVERSE, GOD HAS THE RIGHT TO GIVE HIS CREATURES ANY COMMANDMENT OR LAW HE SEES FIT; THE FIRST WAS GIVEN TO ADAM AND EVE.

^{4.} GIVEN TO EVE, THIS IS THE EARLIEST RECORD OF GOD PROMISING A COMING SAVIOR; THE SEED OF A WOMAN WOULD ULTIMATELY BE JESUS BORN OF A VIRGIN, IN BETHLEHEM (IS 7:14; MIC 5:2; MT 2:1).
5. A FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ONE'S GUILT BEFORE GOD DURING A GOSPEL PRESENTATION MAY BE AN INDICATION THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS NOT WORKING IN THE HEART OF A POTENTIAL CONVERT (JN 16:8).
6. AS OUR (ALL BELIEVERS) REPRESENTATIVE, JESUS—THE LAMB OF GOD—PAID OUR PENALTY AND SUFFERED DEATH IN OUR PLACE TO REMOVE THE WRATH OF GOD, THEREBY RANSOMING, REDEEMING, AND RECONCILING HUMANITY TO GOD; THIS IS THE DOCTRINE OF PENAL (VICARIOUS) SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT (MK 10:45; JN 1:29; ROM 4:25, 5:19; 2 COR 5:18-19; TIT 2:14; HEB 9:26; 1 JN 4:10).
7. CHRIST DIED FOR "OUR" SINS NOT HIS OWN SINS; CHRIST'S LIFE WAS PERFECT; HE KEPT THE LAW PERFECTLY BECAUSE NO MAN OR WOMAN COULD KEEP THE LAW. (2 COR 5:21; HEB 4:15)