

---

# SALVATION:

Solving our problem

Exalting God

Letting us really live

Pastor Bruce Seivers  
February, 2005

---

# *Salvation: Required for Following Jesus Christ*

---

**Being saved is the first step to becoming a true follower of Jesus Christ; it is a requirement for entering heaven and the only way to be reconciled with God.**

**To be saved is to follow Christ, become a friend of God and live with Him and experience His ways. To be saved is to be delivered from the burden of your sin and its consequences. To be saved is to receive forgiveness from God, and become one of His children forever. To be saved is to be changed on the inside to think and desire new things that please God. Salvation from sin delivers you from the guilt of sin, the power of sin, and the wages of sin. Salvation is primarily an issue that deals with you, your sin, your God, and your life, both now and for eternity. Saving people is something God does as a free gift to all who will trust in His Son, Jesus Christ. That free gift of salvation accomplishes three things:**

**It exalts the Lord.  
It solves our problem.  
It lets us really live.**

**But, who does it? Why do we need it? Can it really happen? How do I get it? What does it really change? What happens if I don't get it?**

**Let us examine more than 100 different passages of the Bible (The only book in which God reveals Himself and what He expects of you) to help you understand what God says in the Bible about SALVATION. It is the only authoritative source of truth.**

**It is the ONLY way you can truly know how YOU can be saved.**

## Contents

---

**Lesson 1 The God Who Saves.**

**Lesson 2 The Problem-The Reason We Need to be Saved.**

**Lesson 3 The Solution-The Work of Christ.**

**Lesson 4 The Means of Salvation-Faith in Christ.**

**Lesson 5 The Result of Faith in Christ -Salvation.**

**Lesson 6 The Warning if You Neglect Saving Faith in Christ.**

**Lesson 7 The Invitation to Obey by Your Faith in Christ.**

# Lesson 1

---

## *The God Who Saves*

---

**Since God as the creator of all men has ultimate authority, and since salvation eternally affects our standing before Him, it is absolutely necessary that we seek to understand what the living God is really like. Our understanding of God will shape our view of ourselves, our sin, and our need for salvation as well as the solution.**

---

What is God like? What does His character mean to me in relation to my own personal standing before Him and my own salvation?

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about His character (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

**1. He is God, high and lifted up. He is far above men in position, practice and power.**

Isaiah 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 55:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

**2. He is a holy God. He is far removed from any impurity (sin).**

Leviticus 11:44 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. He is a just God who deals with truth because He is true.**

Psalm 89:14 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. He is a God of anger.**

Psalm 7:11 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:36 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. He is a loving God.**

John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

.

1 John 4:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. He is a God that saves.**

Isaiah 45:21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. He is a God with all power.**

Jeremiah 32:27 \_\_\_\_\_

**8. He is a God who is everywhere.**

Psalm 139:7-12 \_\_\_\_\_

**9. He is a God who knows everything.**

Hebrews 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 15:18 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. He is a God who is eternal.**

Psalm 90:2 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**11. He is a Tri-une God. A Trinity**

Genesis 1:26 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Matthew 28:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**12. He has revealed Himself in His own Son Jesus Christ**

John 1:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

---

John 1:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

---

John 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. He is the creator and sustainer of heaven and earth.**

Genesis 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Psalm 19:1 \_\_\_\_\_

---

John 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Colossians 1:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Hebrews 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**14. He is the judge.**

John 12:44-50 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:11-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Thought Journal: The God Who Saves**

Did I learn anything new about God? What?

Did something that I already knew strike me in a different way?

What have these passages led me to think concerning my own salvation?

These questions come to mind:

These things gave me comfort:

These things upset me in some way:

This is how I view myself in light of these passages from the Bible:

Other thoughts:

## Lesson 2

---

### *The Problem-The Reason We Need to Be Saved*

---

**We cannot think about being saved until we understand what we are saved from. We must understand the problem. We are sinners and need to be saved from sin; its power and its penalty and its presence.**

**But...how do know we are really sinners? How do we know we really need to be saved or delivered from sin?**

---

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about our problem-the reason we need to be saved. (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

#### **Think This Through: God's assessment of you**

---

---

**1. You are a sinner. All are sinners. Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23**

Romans 3:10

---

---

Romans 3:23

---

---

---

**2. You are a sinner by birth. All are sinners by birth. Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5**

Romans 5:12

---

---

Psalm 51:5

---

---

3. **You sin because you choose to sin. All are sinners by choice.** Isaiah 53:6

Isaiah 53:6

---

---

4. **You serve sin. All are enslaved to sin. John 8:34-36**

John 8:34-36

---

---

---

---

*Think This Through: There is evidence God's  
assessment is true.*

---

5. **Sin is breaking God's law. I John 3:4**

1 John 3:4

---

---

6. **The 10 Commandments are a summary of God's law that help us see, convince us, we are sinners.** In your own words summarize each commandment. Exodus 20:1-17

Exodus 20:1-17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

7. **Jesus' explanations of just three of these commandments help us see the kinds of activity and thoughts of the heart God is commanding.**

Matthew 15:1-9

---

---

---

Matthew 5:21-26

---

---

Matthew 5:27-30

---

---

---

***Think This Through: There are consequences for all  
who break God's law.***

---

---

**8. We are guilty if we have broken even one of God's laws. James 2:10**

James 2:10

---

---

**9. All are separated from God.**

**Isaiah 59:2**

Isaiah 59:2

---

---

**10. All are enemies with God.**

**Romans 8:7, Romans 5:10**

Romans 8:7

---

---

Romans 5:10

---

---

**11. All are guilty without excuse.**

Romans 3:19

---

---

**12. All are already judged and condemned by God and need to get out of this position (This is why Jesus came).**

John 3:16-18

---

---

---

**13. All are under the wrath of God.**

John 3:36

---

---

---

**14. All are facing eternal death.**

Romans 6:23

---

---

---

Revelation 21:7-8

---

---

---

**15. All are facing the Lake of Fire.**

Revelation 20:14

---

---

---

---

***Think This Through: There is nothing YOU can do to save yourself before God.***

---

**16. Our good deeds are like filthy rags in His sight.**

Isaiah 64:6

---

---

---

**17. Even keeping God's law cannot save us because the problem is in our heart. It has a bent away from God and toward sin.**

Romans 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 17:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## NOW WHAT!?

*We are so sinful, so condemned and so helpless to do anything about it. Because of this, God Himself showed His love by sending His own Son the Lord Jesus Christ to provide THE solution for us.*

Romans 5:6-8

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Thought Journal  
Lesson 2

1. Are you convinced God's assessment of you is accurate?
2. What specific actions, attitudes or words can you look at that convince you one way or another?
3. What is your reaction to the fact that God recognizes you are a sinner?
4. As you think about who God is and who you are what problem do see concerning being accepted by God and your eternal destiny?
5. What questions do you have?

## Lesson 3

---

### *The Solution-The Work of Christ*

---

**God has solved our problem in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Son of God, God the Son, has made a way to save us. We can be saved because of God's Love, incredible love, expressed in the work of Jesus on the cross.**

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16**

---

**What Has Christ Done? The Bible speaks clearly to that issue. It is the heart of the GOSPEL (I Corinthians 15:3-4) and it is the purpose for which Christ came (John 1:29).**

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about our problem-the reason we need to be saved. (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

**1. He humbled Himself, submitting to the plan of sacrifice for sinful people.**  
**Philippians 2:5-11**

---

---

---

---

**2. He suffered for our sin, in our place, that we might have the healing we need for our sin-sick soul.**  
**I Peter 2:21-25**

1 Peter 2:21-25

---

---

---

---

**3. He became a substitute, the righteous for the unrighteous.**

**I Peter 3:18, Isaiah 53:5-6**

1 Peter 3:18

---

---

---

Isaiah 53:5-6

---

---

---

**4. He became sin for us that He might give us His righteousness. (His burial shows He died as a sinner His resurrection shows He was righteous). II Corinthians 5:21**

II Corinthians 5:21

---

---

---

**5. He shed His blood to pay the price for our freedom from sin.**

**Hebrews 9:22, Ephesians 1:7-blood must be shed if our sin is to be forgiven.**

**Hebrews 9:11-12-His blood purchased eternal redemption for all who put their faith in Him.**

Hebrews 9:22

---

---

Ephesians 1:7

---

---

Hebrews 9:11-12

---

---

---

**6. He satisfied God's righteous demands for sin.**

**I John 2:2, Isaiah 53:11**

1 John 2:1-2

---

---

---

Isaiah 53:11

---

---

**7. He finished the payment for sin. (Think about what Christ finished) John 19:30**

John 19:30

---

---

**8. He made the only way for you to have access to God the Father.**

**I Timothy 2:5, John 14:6**

1 Timothy 2:5

---

---

John 14:6

---

---

**9. He redeemed us from the curse of the Law. He saves us from the consequences of breaking God's law. Galatians 3:10-13**

Galatians 3:10-13

---

---

---

---

**10. He expressed incredible love to us by dying for sinners. (Think about what made this love so incredible) Romans 5:6-8**

Romans 5:6-8

---

---

---

11. **He willingly did all this.**

**John 10:15-18**

John 10:15-18

---

---

---

**God has accepted the work of Christ (I John 2:2). His  
resurrection proves it.  
Romans 4:24-25**

---

**Notice the work of Christ is all past tense. He has done all the work that is needed for you to be saved.**

**There is no work left to do for your salvation. You can only trust in Christ and the work HE has accomplished already.**

**Thought Journal for Lesson 3**

1. Do you find yourself responding with hope as you think of Christ's work on behalf of sinners?
2. What is it about Christ's work that intrigues you most?
3. Is there any part of Christ's work that you are trying to do?
4. Have you noticed a consistent message of the Bible concerning the purpose and essence of Christ's work? What do you see?
5. What do you think about when you ponder the love God has for you?
6. Meditate on Christ's words: "It is finished"

What do you see?

What questions come to mind?

6. As you consider the work of Christ mentioned in II Corinthians 5:21 determine whose righteousness will save you.

7. How does this make you feel about God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ?

## Lesson 4

---

### *The Means of Salvation-Faith in Christ*

---

**The question then becomes "How can I receive the benefit of Christ's work?"**

**The answer: Faith in the person and work of Jesus the Christ.**

---

**Definition of "faith".**

**Faith in Christ for salvation includes complete confidence, certainty, and trust. It is to believe to the point of trusting in and relying on Jesus Christ for salvation. It is belief that goes beyond agreement with the facts to responding to those facts both in your will and in your actions.**

**Saving faith believes with certainty that He is the Son of God, Savior, Lord of all who totally completed all the work necessary for your salvation and will indeed completely save you if you will recognize who He is and entrust yourself to Him, His work and His authority. Faith is believing in Jesus the Christ.**

**Saving faith is a definite kind of faith.**

- \* Saving faith relies on Him alone for salvation.**
- \* Saving faith trusts Him alone to save you.**
- \* Saving faith is being fully persuaded He died in your place.**
- \* Saving faith turns from sin and obeys Him as authority.**
- \* Saving faith entrusts or commits yourself to Him for salvation and authority.**
- \* Saving faith yields a "know so" hope of eternity with Christ.**

**Faith in Christ is what God requires for salvation; Faith-plus or minus nothing. Faith alone.**

**Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about the way to be saved or the means of salvation. What is God saying to you about faith? (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)**

---

**1. Hebrews 11:6-Faith pleases God.**

Faith is necessary to please God. He demands it.

Hebrews 11:6

---

---

---

**2. Romans 4:4-5-Faith is what God counts for righteousness.**

Faith is believing or trusting the one who can make you righteous.

Faith is what God counts (reckons in His ledger) as righteousness.

Romans 4:4-5

---

---

---

---

**3. Ephesians 2:8-9-Faith apart from works.**

Faith is the vehicle through which one is saved; it is all by God's grace.

Faith demands that one cannot be saved by his own works.

This is so no one can boast that they worked their own salvation. It is the gift of God, nothing we worked for or deserve.

Ephesians 2:8-9

---

---

---

---

**4. Galatians 2:16 Faith apart from keeping the law. Faith is not trying to live up to God's requirement set forth in the 10 commandments or any other part of His law.**

Galatians 2:16

---

---

---

---

**5. Faith can be genuine saving faith or false, incomplete faith that will not bring salvation. With this in mind we want to be certain Jesus thinks our faith is saving faith.**

**James 2:17-20-True faith is confirmed genuine by works because it is faith from our will, not just our intellect.**

True faith is a faith that affects our actions or works.

Faith that does not affect and change the way we act is not true faith but mere intellectual agreement.

Faith that does not affect our will and therefore our actions is dead and useless to bring a person to salvation.

Faith is seen in actions and a faith that doesn't affect actions is not the kind of faith that will save a person.

James 2:17-20

---

---

---

---

**John 2:23-25 Note Jesus knowledge of whether or not these people had exercised saving faith or an incomplete faith.**

John 2:23-25

---

---

---

---

---

**Faith must be wholly placed in Christ, God the Son who died to save sinners.**

**6. I John 5:11-13- By faith we receive the Son, eternal life, and assurance of salvation.**

By faith we receive the Son.

By faith in the Son we receive eternal life.

By faith in the Son we can know we are saved as we see the changes in our lives explained in I John.

1 John 5:11-13

---

---

---

---

**True faith in Christ demands expression not just mental agreement.  
Romans 1:8**

At this point we emphasize the central truth that faith is believing not working or doing to gain acceptance. Each expression of faith is simply that, an expression of faith in Christ-it is looking at faith's multifaceted expression and not any work. NO expression of faith or trust or belief can ever be a substitute or addition to simple, plain, childlike, faith (trust) alone in Christ alone. It must also be emphasized that true faith is a conviction that will be expressed. True faith has fruit. Our response to Christ be necessity brings certain actions, attitudes, mindsets and perspectives.

---

**7. True faith leads to stopping trust in my work or effort. Isaiah 55:6-7, Romans 4:1-5**

Romans 4:1-5

---

---

---

Ephesians 2:8-9

---

---

---

Titus 3:5

---

---

---

---

**8. True faith leads to absolute trust in Christ, His work and His person to give you new life. John 3:16**

John 3:16

---

---

---

**• Trusting *Him* as a person to save you and give you new life. John 1:12**

John 1:11-12

---

---

---

- **Trusting His work to save you and give you new life.**  
**Romans 1:16**

Romans 1:16

---

---

---

- 9. True faith is linked with repentance of sin. One cannot trust Christ without changing his attitude to sin.** Luke 24:47, I Thessalonians 1:9-10

Luke 24:47

---

---

---

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

---

---

---

---

---

- 10. True faith leads to confessing Him openly.** I John 2:23, Romans 10:9-10

1 John 2:23

---

---

---

Romans 10:9-10

---

---

---

---

- 11. True faith leads to calling on Him to save us.** This is to establish a personal relationship with Him. Romans 10:13

Romans 10:13

---

---

**12. True faith leads to obedience to Him( We know what He wants from the Bible). Hebrews 11:8, Romans 6:17, 10:16, I Peter 4:17**

Hebrews 11:8

---

---

---

Romans 6:17

---

---

---

**13. True faith leads to loving Him. I Corinthians 2:9; 16:22**

1 Corinthians 2:9

---

---

---

1 Corinthians 16:22

---

---

---

---

---

**14. True faith leads to fearing Him. Romans 3:10-12,18.**

Romans 3:10-12,18

---

---

---

---

---

---

**15. True faith leads to submission. Romans 10:3**

Romans 10:3

---

---

---

---

**16. True faith leads to resting in the work of God through Jesus. Hebrews 4:9-11**

Hebrews 4:9-11

---

---

---

**At this point we emphasize the central truth that faith is believing not working or doing. Each expression of faith is simply that, an expression of faith in Christ-it is looking at faith's multifaceted expression and not any work. NO expression of faith can ever be a substitute or addition to simple, plain, childlike, faith alone in Christ alone. It must also be emphasized that true faith is a conviction that will be expressed. True faith has fruit.**



# Lesson 5

---

## *The Result of Faith in Christ-Salvation*

---

**What takes place when a person puts their trust in Christ? What takes place when a person is saved? Faith in Christ is not just an emotional or religious decision you make or "new leaf" you turn over. It is a response to the living God through which He changes you with real objective and subjective results.**

---

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about the benefits of salvation or the results of faith in Christ. What is God saying to you about the blessed happiness of salvation? (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

**1. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ alone you are completely saved from the penalty and power of sin. Forever! Hebrews 7:25**

Hebrews 7:25

---

---

---

**2. When you believe in Jesus you are born again or born from above (made new and different in your heart, your purpose, and your standing before God). John 3:3, Titus 3:4-6, II Corinthians 5:17**

John 3:3

---

---

---

2 Corinthians 5:17

---

---

---

---

**3. When you completely trust in the Living Christ you are justified (judiciously proclaimed righteous by God) in God's sight because of Christ's righteousness. Romans 3:21-25**

Romans 3:21-22

---

---

---

Romans 5:1

---

---

---

2 Corinthians 5:21

---

---

---

**4. When you yield yourself, in faith, to Jesus Christ you have peace with God. Romans 5:1**

Romans 5:1

---

---

**5. When you believe on Jesus Christ you have the blessed happiness of forgiveness for all your sin...forever. Romans 4:6-8**

Romans 4:6-8

---

---

---

**6. When you trust Christ alone for salvation from sin, death, and Hell you are free from all of God's condemnation (Remember John 3:17-18). Romans 8:1**

Romans 8:1

---

---

---

**7. When you by faith receive the Son of God for who He is and what He has done you become a child of God. John 1:12**

John 1:12

---

---

---

**8. When you believe in the only begotten Son of God, Jesus, you have eternal life. John 5:24**

John 5:24

---

---

---

**9. When you cast yourself by faith on the mercy of God through Jesus Christ you can have a clear conscience. Hebrews 9:9,14**

Hebrews 9:9

---

---

Hebrews 9:14

---

---

---

**10. When you rest, by faith, in Christ's person and work you have personal access to God Himself to get the help you need in all of the circumstances of life. Hebrews 4:15-16**

Hebrews 4:15-16

---

---

---

---

**11. When you completely identify yourself with Christ by faith you are freed from the power of sin. You are able to obey! Romans 6:6-8;16-18**

Romans 6:6-8

---

---

Romans 6:16-18

---

---

**12. When you believe in Jesus HE saves you in a transaction that can never be undone. What assurance! I Peter 1:3-5, Colossians 3.3**

1 Peter 1:3-5

---

---

Colossians 3:3

---

---

**13. When you trust the Lord Jesus you can deal with ongoing sin. I John 1:9, 2:1**

1 John 1:9

---

---

1 John 2:1

---

---

**14. When you trust in Christ you enjoy the confidence that God is at work in your life forever. Philippians. 1:6**

Philippians 1:6

---

---

15. **When you trust in Christ you begin to experience life in a way that all that happens to you, both of your own doing and the results of other's doing, is used for good to make you more like Jesus so He will be glorified even more. He starts making you good! He begins to shape your character into the same character of His Son, Jesus Christ. He brings purpose to everything that happens to you.**  
**Romans 8:28-29, Hebrews 12:6-7**

Romans 8:28-29

---

---

---

Hebrews 12:6-7

---

---

---

## **Thought Journal for Lesson 5**

- 1. Which result of salvation do you want the most?**
- 2. Why?**
- 3. Which result of salvation do you think will make you the happiest?**
- 4. Why?**
- 5. On a scale of 1-10 rate how much you want what God offers in salvation.**
- 6. List the three most attractive results of salvation to you today.**
- 7. Why do you find each of these three so attractive?**

## Lesson 6

---

### *The Warning if You Neglect Saving Faith in Christ*

---

**There is a strong warning in the Bible to any who do not put their complete trust in the Living Lord Jesus Christ.**

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words what God is telling you through His Word about those who neglect to put their faith in Christ? What is God saying to you if you do not trust Christ? (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

---

**1. There will be a day of reckoning for each person and there is no other alternative and no exceptions. After that it will too late. Hebrews 9:27**

Hebrews 9:27

---

---

---

**2. There is no other way of salvation. Acts 4:12, John 14:6**

Acts 4:12

---

---

John 14:6

---

---

---

**3. There is no way of escape if you neglect the salvation offered by Jesus Christ through faith. Hebrews 2:3**

Hebrews 2:3

---

---

---

**4. There is much to fear if you neglect or put off faith in Christ. Hebrews 10:31**

Hebrews 10:31

---

---

---

Matthew 10:28

---

---

---

---

**5. There is no guarantee of tomorrow. James 4:13-17**

James 4:13-17

---

---

---

---

**6. There is no mercy apart from Christ. Revelation 20:11-15**

Revelation 20:11-15

---

---

---

**7. The end of unbelief is the lake of fire. Revelation 21:7-8**

Revelation 21:7-8

---

---

---

## Thought Journal for Lesson 6

1. Which warning causes you the most concern?

2. Do you find these warnings to be an expression of God's love?

Why or Why not?

3. In your estimation is this warning more or less important than a Tornado warning?

Why?

4. Do you intend to act on this warning? How? Or Why not?

## Lesson 7

---

### *The Invitation to Obey by Your Faith in Christ*

---

**God lovingly pleads with you to obey His command to repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30) to be saved. It is His desire to see all men come to repentance (II Peter 3:9) and be saved. He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Hear the love, urgency and authority in His Words. See the love, urgency and authority in His substitutionary death on the cross.**

Read each passage thoughtfully and carefully then summarize in your own words how God is inviting you personally to put your faith in Christ? Listen for the love and concern for you in what he says to you. (His Word is His revelation to us-It is the way he speaks to us.)

---

---

**1. Trust the Living Christ. God Himself is pleading with you through me and this study of His Word.**

**II Corinthians 5:20**

---

---

---

**2. Trust in the Living Lord Jesus...**

**...You are destitute without Him.**

**...You will live if you turn to Him.**

**...He will accept you if you come to Him.**

**Trust Christ and turn from your unrighteous unbelief.**

**Trust in the Living Lord Jesus. He will grant you mercy and pardon for your sin.**

Isaiah 55:1-3,6-7

---

---

---

---

3. Trust in Christ He will give you rest from the burden of your own sin.

Matthew 11:28

---

---

---

---

4. Entrust yourself to Jesus. He will give you a new heart.  
Entrust yourself to Jesus. He has no pleasure in your death.  
Entrust yourself to Jesus. Live!

Ezekiel 18:31-32

---

---

---

---

---

---

Acts 16:31

**"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."**

---

Being saved is the first step to becoming a true follower of Jesus Christ; it is a requirement for entering heaven and the only way to be reconciled with God.

To be saved is to follow Christ, become a friend of God and live with Him and experience His ways. To be saved is to be delivered from the burden of your sin and its consequences. To be saved is to receive forgiveness from God, and become one of His children forever. To be saved is to be changed on the inside to think and desire new things that please God. Salvation from sin delivers you from the guilt of sin, the power of sin, and the wages of sin. Salvation is primarily an issue that deals with you, your sin, your God, and your life, both now and for eternity. Saving people is something God does as a free gift to all who will trust in His Son, Jesus Christ. That free gift of salvation accomplishes three things:

**It exalts the Lord.  
It solves our problem.  
It lets us really live.**

### **Pastor Bruce's Testimony**

I grew up in a Christian family in Western Pennsylvania. This has positively influenced many aspects of my life. It was as a small boy that I was saved as my Dad led me to Christ. I can remember little except the bunk bed, the bedroom, and my Dad and me sitting on the bed. As a child and teenager I frequently doubted my salvation and repeatedly "prayed the sinner's prayer." I wanted to be sure I was saved.

In June of 1988 at a revival meeting this whole matter was settled. As the preaching drew to a close on that first Sunday service my heart was broken and I wanted things cleared up. I thought (again) that I needed to be saved. I even prayed "the sinner's prayer" (again). However, as a result my spiritual life was in turmoil. After spending that day and the next in prayer and thought, I realized that I didn't need to accept Christ, I was already saved. I needed to surrender to Him in various areas of my life. I was sure that I had been saved earlier and the testimony of my Pastor helped me confirm that understanding. Many things happened that week. It was the start of a consistent life of Christian growth. I have not looked back.

As much as a year earlier I was aware of God working in my heart but I didn't always understand what He was doing. My goal, not only being a good Journeyman machinist but the best in our shop, suddenly became worthless. God used a familiar poem to keep the matter before me. "Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." There is one day that stands above the rest. It was the day that I considered my goals and came to this conclusion concerning them: "So what!" What would it matter if I did become the best machinist in the whole world? Not only was I totally discontented with thoughts of a lifetime as a machinist but there was also a gnawing assurance that I needed to be in full time vocational ministry. It was a drive. I had thought of it at times in the past but now I couldn't stop thinking about it. I was convinced that in order to obey God I must become a vocational minister of the Gospel.

God used that week of revival meetings to also make me consider going to college full time, an option that was never high on my priority list. In August 1988, my wife and I enrolled at Appalachian Bible College.

Since that time we have ministered in platform Daily Vacation Bible Schools and speaking in camps, as children's workers in our church, youth leader and pulpit supply. I have been in pastoral ministry since 1991 starting in West Virginia and then coming to Valley Chapel in 1999. My continual desire is to be used by my God, the one whom I worship, serve and seek to obey. My heartbeat is to see God's people be what they ought to be according to the Bible and I passionately seek to teach the sufficient Word of God with clarity and conviction. I trust He will use me as He sees fit.

Since that day in June 1988 I have not doubted my salvation again. What a blessing to know the benefits of salvation are mine.

### **Thought Journal for Lesson 7**

1. How serious Do you understand salvation from sin to be?
2. Have you been truly saved by God?
3. Would God answer that question the same way you did?
4. If you have not been saved by God, what is hindering you from putting your faith in Christ right now?
5. Will you put your faith in Christ right now?

Tell Him whether or not you will consciously place your faith in Him in a prayer. Express your heart to Him.

6. Do you know someone else who also needs to hear the message of salvation?