



St. Joseph's  
Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred B. Vergara

# TEN BIBLE DOCTRINES

Session 8 | Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation





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# Prayer Before Bible Study

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

—Collect for Proper 28: Book of Common Prayer, page 236)

# Review | Bibliology

We studied four subdivisions of Bibliology, the Doctrine of the Bible:

**A. Revelation**

The Bible is the revealed Word of God

**B. Inspiration**

The Bible is inspired by God

**C. Illumination**

The Holy Spirit enlightens us to study God's Word

**D. Interpretation**

We are students of the Bible who seek to interpret God's Word.

# Review | Theology

We studied four subdivisions of Theology, the Doctrine of God:

**A. God's Existence**

The Bible contains evidence that God exists

**B. God's Attributes**

God is Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent

**C. God's Sovereignty**

God can do whatever God wills

**D. God is the Trinity**

God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit

# Review | Christology

The four major ideas to remember about Christology are:

1. **Christ is God**

Christ is divine and has God's power

2. **Christ is Human**

Christ experienced humanity while retaining the power of God

3. **Christ is Resurrected**

Jesus is the Messiah. As a servant-leader Messiah He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He is resurrected because He is God.

4. **Christ will Return**

He will return as the Messiah, the King, to establish His kingdom on earth.

# Review | Pneumatology

Four major ideas to remember about The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit are:

1. **The Holy Spirit is a personal Being**

The Holy Spirit is a being with its own personality

2. **The Holy Spirit is Divine**

They are a divine being with the omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence of God.

3. **The Holy Spirit is involved in Salvation**

CRIBS | Conviction, Regeneration, Indwelling, Baptism, and Sealing: the five areas in which the Holy Spirit bestows salvation

4. **The Holy Spirit has given us Gifts**

The Holy Spirit has given Christians spiritual gifts so that we may minister to God, fellow Christians, and the world.

# Review | Angelology & Demonology

Four major concepts to remember about Angels and Demons are:

1. Angels are spirit beings, who as God's messengers, minister to humanity.
2. Satan is a fallen angel who led a rebellion against God. He is a powerful spirit being who works against God. He has been defeated by Jesus through the resurrection.
3. Demons are the legions of Satan, and who are fallen angels who are evil and corrupt. They, with Satan, are the forces of darkness who fight against God's will.
4. To defend against Satan, we must take up God's armor, be vigilant, and resist sin and temptation.

# Review | Theological Anthropology

Humanity is a divine creation:

1. Humanity was created in the image of God.
2. Humans are physical beings with Spirit and souls.
3. Humanity is distinctive. It was gifted aspects of God's spirit and as such is capable of stewardship over the earth and its animals.
4. After the physical body dies, our souls live on in either heaven or hell, depending on the choices we have made, for good or evil, and for salvation and repentance.

# Review | Hamartiology: The Doctrine of Sin

Sin is the thought and action that defies the God, His Word, and his purpose for humanity.

1. Humanity was created in God's image and all that is good and right comes from God.
2. Humanity's first sin was in the Garden of Eden; the Fall of Man.
3. The Fall of Man corrupted the hearts and souls of humanity. We are born in sin, and sin because we are sinners.
4. Sin creates a moral death where we cannot do good and we become slaves to sin. We cannot help ourselves.
5. Jesus, the only perfect and sinless human, sacrificed himself, paying the price for our sins and creating a path for salvation.

# Introduction

## What is Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation?

The etymology of the word theology comes from two Greek words:

- **Soter**, meaning **a savior or deliverer**;
- **Soteria**, was the Greek deity of **safety and salvation, deliverance, and preservation from harm**;
- **Logos**, which has two meanings:
  1. **logos** literally means **word or words** in Ancient Greek
  2. **logos** is also a concept; it is **reason**, that in ancient Greek philosophy is the controlling principle in the universe

Soteriology can be understood as **the study of salvation**.

# Introduction

The word “salvation” is the translation of the Greek word *soteria* which is derived from the word *soter* meaning “savior.” The word “salvation” communicates the thought of deliverance, safety, preservation, soundness, restoration, and healing. In theology, however, its major use is to denote a work of God on behalf of men, and as such it is a major doctrine of the Bible which includes redemption, reconciliation, propitiation (atonement), conviction, repentance, faith, regeneration, forgiveness, justification, sanctification, preservation, and glorification. On the one hand, salvation is described as the work of God rescuing man from his lost estate. On the other hand salvation describes the estate of a man who has been saved and who is vitally renewed and made a partaker of the inheritance of the saints.

*Lewis Sperry Chafer Systematic Theology*, Abridged Edition, Vol. 2, John F. Walvoord, editor, Donald K. Campbell, Roy B. Zuck, consulting editors, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1988, p. 21.

# Introduction

## What is Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation?

As defined by the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, soteriology is the, “theological reflection on the meaning of salvation in Christ and how we may share salvation by faith.”

## What is Salvation?

An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, continues, “Salvation is eternal life in the fullness of God’s love.”

To better understand Salvation, we must refer to our study of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, Copyright © 2000 by Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, Editors, Church Publishing, Inc.

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

Salvation is another way we see the Trinity at work:

God  
Planned Salvation

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Jesus  
Executed Plan

Romans 5:6

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Holy Spirit  
Reveals Plan to Men

John 16:12-14

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

There are five areas of Holy Spirit involvement: CRIBS  
Conviction, Regeneration, Indwelling, Baptism, Sealing

## 1. Conviction | John 16:8

The Holy Spirit calls sinners to believe in the Word and Christ.

And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because I am going to the Father, and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

The Holy Spirit convinces a person of the truth of Christ, of their need to change thoughts, actions, or attitudes, and of the Judgement to come. This phenomenon is at times accompanied by an acute sense of guilt over wrongdoing.

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

## 2. Regeneration | Titus 3:5

The Holy Spirit answers the need of a spiritually dead person, and imparts spiritual life.

He saved us, not because any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

When a person accepts Christ's teachings, the Holy Spirit causes their Spirit to be reborn. This rebirth brings about living hope, for our lives now, and for eternal life with God in heaven. This rebirth comes about through our acceptance and belief in Scripture.

You have been born anew, not of perishable, but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring Word of God. –1 Peter 1:23

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

## 3. Indwelling | Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit has the ability to dwell within an individual. This means the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us, encouraging us to live according to Christ's teachings.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

In the Old Testament, prophets are indwelt with the Spirit, and then the Spirit departs; with this new indwelling, the Holy Spirit remains forever.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. – Romans 8:13

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

## 4. Baptism with the Holy Spirit | Matthew 3:11

After the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit baptizes all Christians. This can happen only once; it is not the same as baptism by water.

I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

To baptize means to dip or immerse in physical connection.

Through baptism with the Holy Spirit, believers are placed into the **Body of Christ**, the totality of Christians; this baptism is the means by which God forms the Church.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 12:13

# Introduction | The Holy Spirit & Salvation

## 5. Sealing | Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit guarantees the assured salvation of every Christian by this invisible mark.

In him also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This means that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our spiritual inheritance to be fully realized when we die, or when Christ returns. Once a person has been born again, indwelt, and baptized into the Body of Christ, their position is secured and, "sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise."

# Salvation | The Gift

Salvation is a gift that God gives to all who believe and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. We are imperfect, and we cannot make ourselves perfect. So in His mercy, God offers, by grace through faith in Jesus, to forgive our sin and give us the gift of new life in Christ.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

— Ephesians 2:8

# Salvation | God Forgives Sins

Sin, as you remember from last week, is the thought and action that defies the God, His Word, and his purpose for humanity; it is a disruption in the relationship between God and Humanity.

God's solution to this is the forgiveness of sins, and the ability for humans to be born again to eternal life in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

— 1 Peter 1:3

# Salvation | God Forgives Sins

Upon being born again in Christ, believers are promised a new nature that is not flawed by sin, created in the very likeness of God, holy and righteous.

...and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

— Ephesians 4:24

# Salvation | God Forgives Sins

In order to be forgiven our sins, we must confess them and honestly repent for our transgressions, which is what happens when we recite the Confession of Sin (BCP p. 360).

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

— 1 John 1:9

# Salvation | Penalty for Sin is Death

The penalty for sin is death. Since all have sinned, then all have died spiritually, and been separated from God.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23

As we learned last week, Jesus was the only mortal born who was without sin. As such, he became the sacrifice to God for humanity's failings. His sacrifice was timeless and applied to all humans, past, present, and future.

# Salvation | Penalty for Sin is Death

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

– 1 Peter 3:18

# Salvation | Achieved at Death

The human body is a shell. It is the physical part of us that interact with the world through our senses. The body houses the *image of God*.

## SPIRIT

Created to contact and receive God, and contain the Indwelling Holy Spirit.

Body

Soul

Spirit

## SOUL

Maintains our psyche; composed of mind, emotion, and will. Our soul thinks, feels, and chooses.

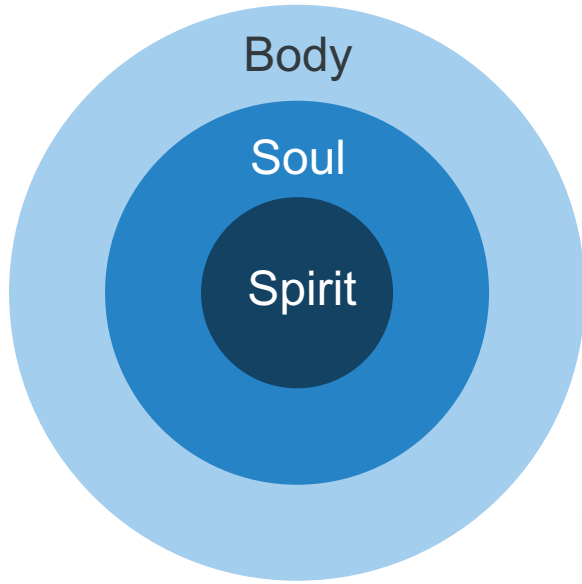
## BODY

Physical shell that maintains contact with the world through our senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing.

Human Being



# Salvation | Achieved at Death



Human Being

Man is a being with a spirit, soul, and body. Upon becoming a Christian, a person's soul is born again, and is granted eternal life. The body, at this point, remains unchanged.

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above"...For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

— John 3:3,16

# Salvation | We Achieve Salvation at Death

Humans, whether believers of Christ or not, are corrupted by sin and are in bondage to sin. Our souls, given the gift of choice, constantly has to choose between sin and righteousness every day. The sins we commit cause a disruption between God and our Spirit and our Spirit and our souls so that we are unable to follow God's laws.

I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

– Romans 7:23

# Salvation | We Achieve Salvation at Death

This conflict between our spiritual selves and sin last until the death of the body, at which time the born again soul of the Christian is transported immediately to heaven to receive a new body, untouched by sin.

and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

– Romans 8:23

# Summary | Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God: it is eternal life in the fullness of God's love.

1. With Conviction, Regeneration, Indwelling, Baptism, Sealing, the Holy Spirit is a part of God's plan for our salvation.
2. God forgives our sins once we have repented.
3. The penalty for sin is death, however, Jesus, the only perfect and sinless human, sacrificed himself, paying the price for our sins and creating a path for our salvation.
4. Sin causes a disruption of the relationship between God and humanity. This Sin creates a moral death where we cannot do good and we become slaves to sin. Our salvation is achieved at death, when our body dies and our Soul and Spirit are united to join the fullness of God's love.