

Salvation Part 2 – God’s Solution

Romans 5:12,15-17 NLT

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned... [15] But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. [16] And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. [17] For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Until man believes God’s message, he is in sin and lacks the glory of God – the gift of eternal life. This separation of man from eternal life (the Spirit of God) is man’s problem. From Genesis to Malachi, God Himself promised to deal with man’s problem. The prophecy in Ezekiel 36:25-27 is a profound declaration of God's intention to save man and cleanse, renew, and transform them.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 NKJV

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. [26] I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

This promise reveals God's commitment to us: not only to forgive, but to change our nature, enabling us to live in alignment with His will. This transformative work is the essence of salvation. And it's ours simply through our faith in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-17 NLT

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. [17] God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

God's solution to man's problem was in His becoming like us (human) (John 1:1, 14) so that He could die in our place. The Amplified Bible says, "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He gave..." This shows us that God's love for humanity is the driving force behind His eternal rescue plan. He provided a way for us to be saved – to be rescued from condemnation and eternal death, and to receive this eternal and abundant life (John 10:10). This eternal life is only available to those who "believe in Him" – to those who put their faith in Jesus for salvation.

Romans 5:8 NKJV

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is how much God loves us! Even when we were in opposition to God, living in our sinful state of unbelief, God's love prompted Him to take on human form and offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice, making salvation accessible to all who believe.

God's amazing love has taken the punishment for our sin. Jesus – through His suffering and death on the cross - paid the debt we could not pay. We are now completely forgiven, because there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). We have eaten from "the tree of life" (Jesus) and are no longer condemned to death. John the Baptist said of Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." God has dealt with our sin, and we are forgiven.

Isaiah 43:25 NLT

"I-yes, I alone-will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.

Ephesians 1:5-7 TLB

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to! [6] Now all praise to God for his wonderful kindness to us and his favor that he has poured out upon us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. [7] So overflowing is his kindness toward us that he took away all our sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved;

God's forgiveness is complete and ours. Our sins are totally cancelled and erased – they are forever dealt with. Forgiveness is not something a Christian ever needs to ask God for, because you are already completely forgiven in Christ (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13). You have been sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10). This means that you are forgiven of all your sins: your past, present and even future sins.

But this is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. Salvation can only be found in Him (Acts 4:12) – He is the only way (John 14:6) to eternal life.

Isaiah 1:18-19 TLB

Come, let's talk this over, says the Lord; no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as wool! [19] If you will only let me help you, if you will only obey, then I will make you rich!

God is extending an invitation to you, to experience His love and forgiveness. He is calling you to come to Him so that He can cleanse and restore you. Will you come to Him and obey (believe) the gospel?

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NKJV

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. [20] Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

The message of the gospel is that God has reconciled Himself with us by becoming a man (Jesus Christ). Through believing in His death and resurrection, and what it has accomplished for us, we are united with Him forever.

Romans 4:24-25 NLT

...God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. [25] He was

handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

The solution to man's problem is to believe in Jesus and what He accomplished for us through His death and resurrection. Through His death we are forgiven of all our sins, and through Jesus' resurrection we are raised to a new life and made right with Him, forever.

Acts 10:43 NLT

He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

Acts 13:38-39 NLT

"Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. [39] Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight-something the law of Moses could never do.

All the prophets from Genesis to Malachi prophesy about Jesus Christ. Their message is unanimous: salvation through faith in Him. That is, when we believe in Jesus (what He has done for us through His death and resurrection – Romans 10:9-10), all our sins are forgiven, and we are made right with God.

Galatians 3:2 NLT

Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.

Salvation is the result of believing the message of the gospel. This gospel is all about God's love for mankind; it tells us that He became a man and laid down His life for us as an offering for our sin. Through His death we are forgiven. And on the third day, Jesus defeated death, rising to live forevermore. Through His resurrection we are justified – made right with God. By believing the gospel we receive God's Holy Spirit to dwell in us for eternity (eternal life).

Galatians 3:14 NLT

Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

This is God's solution to man's problem. When we believe the gospel, we receive the answer to our problem; we receive the promise of God, which is His Spirit in us forever.

Salvation is not merely an escape from sin, but it is God dwelling in man through His Spirit – it is union with God, forever. This union transforms our hearts and establishes an eternal relationship with God. Salvation ushers us into a permanent, perpetual, intimate relationship with God. As believers, we are filled with God and will never be separated from Him. This enables us to enjoy unbroken fellowship (friendship) with Him (1 John 1:1-4, John 14:20, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, and Colossians 1:26-27).

God's solution to man's problem is eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus. It is a rich gift which includes forgiveness of all sins, transformation of our hearts, and union with God by His Spirit coming to dwell in us, forever. Through Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God, made right with God, and indwelt by His Spirit.

This enables us to live in intimate fellowship with Him forever. This is the promise and fulfillment of salvation—a journey from death to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Questions for reflection

1. What stands out for you from this lesson?
2. How would you explain man's problem, based on the previous lesson and this one?
3. How would you explain God's solution to man's problem?
4. Read Romans 4:25
 - a. What was accomplished through Jesus' death?
 - b. What did Jesus' resurrection accomplish for us?
5. Which verses would you use to explain how someone can be saved and receive eternal life?
6. Name a few of the benefits of salvation mentioned in this lesson.
7. Read: 1 John 1:1-4, John 14:20, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, and Colossians 1:26-27
 - a. What do these verses reveal about our relationship with God?
 - b. Consider our union (oneness) with Christ, as mentioned in the verses above. Christianity is (from God's side) unbroken fellowship. What are some of the reasons why people feel disconnected or far from God?
8. How has this lesson changed your view of God and salvation?