

FOUNDATIONS

Track One : Believer to Disciple

Lesson 02 : Salvation

This course is designed to teach us the love of God and God's plan for man's salvation. We learn the doctrine of salvation and discover that New Testament salvation is a comprehensive package bringing forgiveness, healing, deliverance, preservation and rescue, which we receive freely by grace through faith. This lesson will help believers be well grounded in God's love and saving grace.



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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version.

1. The Love of God

The basis on which Salvation is provided for us, is God's love demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

1.1. What is love?

- Webster Dictionary: strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties, warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion, unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another
- God's love for us stems out of his relationship with us.
- Love such an important need with mankind.
- Man's unending search for true love
- Takes most of his conscious energy - the search for love and acceptance
- Since our need for Love is eternal, the source also needs to be eternal.

1.1. Why does God love us?

- He created us
- It is God's character to love. *God is love (1 John 4:8)*

1.2. What are the characteristics of God's love?

A God Established Love Relationship:

- God chose to love us. (Divine Will). With His love, He himself established a relationship with us.

An Undeserved Endowment:

- He loves us just as we are. I don't need to be someone else to make God love me. God's love is intense and absolute.
- God's love cannot be bought! It is independent of my physical possessions/earthly attributes..
- God's love is unconditional, it cannot be earned. It is a free gift!
- There is nothing I can do to make God love me more, nothing I can do to make God love me less

It is Supreme Love:

- **Sacrificial** - God's Love is the supreme kind of sacrificial love. John 3:16
- **In Action** - God's love is not just in words. He followed it up with action and deed, when He sent Christ Jesus to die for our sins. (John 15:13)
- **A Forgiving Love** - Our God is a Forgiving God.

It is an Everlasting Love:

- God's Love is not temporal/seasonal. It is everlasting
- He does not discriminate in his love. He loves all equally.
- God is Faithful. He keeps His promises.

2. The Plan of Salvation

2.1. God's Original Plan for man

Revelation 4:11

Man was created

- To glorify God (I Corinthians 11:7).
- To fellowship with Him.
- To be fruitful, multiply and have dominion over all (Genesis 1:26-28).

2.2. Man's disobedience and rebellion against God

Disobedience and rebellion is sin against God (I Samuel 15:21,23).

2.3. Sin and its consequences

We come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

What is Sin? Greek = Missing the mark.

A man's sin is his failure to fulfill his God-given function.

Consequences – This is the state of Fallen man (an unsaved person):

- 1) Inward spiritual death – no longer have the life and nature of God in us (Ephesians 4:18, Romans 5:12)
- 2) Separation from God (Isaiah 59:1,2)
- 3) The physical death of the body (Hebrews 9:27).
- 4) Eternal banishment from the presence of God to the place called hell (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:12-15).
- 5) Keeps away the blessings from God (Jeremiah 5:24,25)
- 6) Enslaves us and keeps us in bondage (Proverbs 5:22, John 8:34)
- 7) Opens our life to demonic domination – sickness and death (Ephesians 2:1,2)

2.4. Man cannot save himself

1, All our good works cannot save us – since even one sin is sufficient to separate us from God. Adam sinned once – and this led to the Fall and its damaging consequences.

2, Our best actions are still filthy before God. Isaiah 64:6

3, No other human being can mediate for us – since all have sinned. Romans 3:10

2.5. The purpose of Christ's death and resurrection

- Demonstrate God's love for us (Romans 5:8)
- To save sinners (I Timothy 1:15, 1 John 4:14)
- To bring us to God (I Peter 3:18).
- To destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).

Jesus Christ appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself - Once and for all (Hebrews 9:26).

Jesus Christ is able to save all people who come to Him with faith (Hebrews 7:25).

To those who believe in Jesus:

- Forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43 1 John 2:12)
- Receive eternal life (the life and nature of God) (1 John 5:11,12)
- Salvation (Romans 10:9,10)
- Brought out of darkness and into His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14)
- Made children of God (John 1:12)
- Made new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
-and so much more...

No salvation apart from Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12, John 14:6)

2.6. How do I receive salvation provided because of His love

- Repent and Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and in what He did on the cross (Acts 16:31)
- Acknowledge Him as the only Lord and Saviour of your life (Romans 10:9,10). Welcome Him into your life (John 1:12)
- The Bible also calls this experience as being “born again” (John 3:3).

3. Salvation is a Complete Package

Sozo is a Greek word found in our New Testament more than one hundred and ten times.

Sozo is the most commonly used Greek word for salvation in the New Testament.

Sozo is a verb, an action word. Something that is done. Something that happens because of a work of God.

The word *sozo* is a comprehensive word that includes spiritual salvation, i.e. forgiveness of sins, healing from sickness, deliverance from every work of the enemy, rescue or preservation from danger and harm and total wholeness.

It means to be saved, healed, delivered, victorious, rescued, preserved. It means all of these things at the same time.

Sozo means to be saved out from under the devil's power and restored into the wholeness of God's order and well-being by the power of God's Spirit.

3.1.1. Sozo means spiritual salvation – forgiveness of sins

Matthew 1:21, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8

3.1.2. Sozo means physical healing

Matthew 9:22 : The woman with the issue of blood received sozo, "Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed (sozo) you.' And the woman was healed (sozo) from that moment."

Mark 6:56 : The folks in the region of Gennesaret were touched by the divine sozo," And wherever he went-- into villages, towns or countryside" they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed (sozo)."

Mark 10:52 : Blind Bartimaeus knew sozo, "'Go ,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed (sozo) you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."

James 5:13-16 the prayer of faith will save (sozo) the sick

3.1.3. Sozo means deliverance from demonic powers

Luke 8:36 : It was the sozo of God that delivered the Gerasene demoniac, "Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured (sozo)."

Jude 1:5 : And Jude knew this as well, "Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered (sozo) his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe."

3.1.4. Sozo means rescue/preservation from danger

Matthew 8:25 The disciples cried out to be saved from sinking in the storm. "Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save (sozo) us! We are perishing!"

2 Timothy 4:18 Paul wrote to his friend Timothy about God's power to deliver, "The Lord will rescue (sozo) me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen."

3.1.5. Sozo is for every one

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

3.1.6. Sozo is received by grace through faith

Matthew 9:21,22 Ephesians 2:8,9

3.1.7. Sozo happens when you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth

Romans 10:9,10

4. The Doctrine of Salvation

One must understand the doctrine of salvation in order to communicate it to others. These are foundational truths that one must know to effectively lead someone to Christ.

The doctrine of Salvation has 5 main components: God, Man, Christ, Grace, Faith.

God

1, Is just - therefore must punish sin.

Ezekiel 18:4 - The soul who sins is the one who will die.

2, Is merciful - therefore doesn't want to punish us.

1 John 4:8 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Man

1, Is a sinner.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2, Cannot save himself.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

Christ

1, He is the infinite God-man.

John 1:1- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2, He paid for our sins and purchased a place in heaven for us which He offers as a gift.

Isaiah 53:6 - We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Grace

1, Salvation is a FREE gift.

2, It is not earned or deserved.

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

Faith

1, What it is *not* - mere intellectual mental assent nor natural faith.

2, What it is - "trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation."

Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith

Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

5. The Determining Factor

- God has already done for us everything He ever needs to do to provide salvation to all. Christ died for every human being.
- It is His will for all to be saved and He extends grace to all.
- The only thing left is for each individual to receive by faith what God is offering freely out of His immense love and grace.

6. Misconceptions

1. *"I believe in Jesus, but I also believe in other saints, Mary, gurus, etc."*

Biblical Response: Acts 4:12 There is no salvation in any other

2. The doctrine of inclusion - *"everyone is 'automatically' saved because Jesus died for every one."*

Biblical Response: John 3:16 We are to repent and believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.

3. A misunderstanding of the doctrine of predestination - *"God has already decided who is going to be saved and who is not."*

Biblical Response: Romans 8:29,30 God has foreknowledge on the decision each one will make. However, He does not predetermine the choice we will make. The choice is still ours to make. Predestination is what He has determined to form us into - the image of His Son, not about the choice we will make.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT : Acts 4:12

7. Application

1, Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your Saviour - the only One who saves you?

2, Do I understand that salvation is a complete package – complete redemption from the Fall and its consequences? I can walk in part of this here and now – and it will be consummated when Christ returns.

8. Reflection

1, Do I understand the plan of salvation, clear enough to explain this to someone else?

2, What are some ways in which I can start a conversation to share the plan of salvation with a close friend?