

SALVATION

Salvation is the most important foundation of all. There are many deceiving doctrines that would try & steal this Bible-based & sure foundation.

As we shall see in this study the Bible calls us, as new followers of Jesus, “New Creations”. So, if we understand what a “New Creation” is, and what it is not, this empowers us to explain accurately our salvation, which is commonly called our “Testimony”.

Let’s ask some questions & look at some scriptures regarding what salvation is and what it is not.

(Read all of Genesis Chapter 3)

1. When did mankind originally become corrupt?

Answer: _____

Romans 5:12 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

2. What was the result of Adam & Eves’ sin?

Answer: _____

In the past when I have randomly asked people whether they think that they will go to heaven or not when they die, they often say that their reason to make it to heaven is, “I’m a pretty good person”, followed by various lists of good things that they have done, and a couple of bad things that they have not done, such as not murdering anyone.

Romans 3:23 - “For _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. Are any of us good enough to make it to heaven?

Answer: _____

4. The Bible gives us a beautiful title when we become Christians. What is this title?

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he (or she), is a _____; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Since none of us are worthy of salvation let's look at how God has provided a solution to our dilemma.

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

5. Regarding salvation what did God provide for us and who or what was this based upon?

A) _____

B) _____

Notice that this FREE gift is IN Christ Jesus

6. What did Jesus do to provide this Free gift?

Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in while we were yet sinners , Christ _____."

I Cor. 15:3-4 "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ _____ for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was _____, and that He was _____ on the third day according to the scriptures."

Before the time of Jesus' provision of the cross & resurrection, the Old Testament showed that the peoples' sins were only atoned for or covered over every year by animal sacrifices, which culminated once a year when the high priest of Israel would sacrifice an unblemished lamb during the Feast of Passover. This blood sacrifice would postpone all judgment for their sins until the Messiah would come and once and for all take away all sins.

7. In fulfillment of this Messianic prophecy, what did John the Baptist say when he introduced Jesus to the people?

John 1:29 "Behold the _____ who takes away the sin of the world!"

So we see in the four Gospel accounts, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), that Jesus, (The Lamb of God), was crucified on the cross during the Passover feast as the perfect, unblemished sacrifice for our sins and conquered death by which God raised Him from the dead three days later to give us the Gift of eternal life (in Him).

Lets' now take a look at the provision of this act that God has done for us and how it relates to good works.

8. Ephesians 2:8-10

v.8 "For grace you have been saved through faith; and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

By what means are you and I saved (from eternal destruction and separation from God?)

_____.

Grace is defined: "Un-earned, un-merited favor! Kindness granted without any expectation of return; an expression of mercy!" It is the exact opposite of the Greek word, *erga*, which means "works".

What is Faith? The Bible defines faith:

9. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen.

By this scriptural definition we see that faith is simply believing that something is true, (i.e.- God's Word), because you know it to be so based upon the inward conviction that is inside of your heart.

10. Ephesians 2:9 - "not as a result of _____, that no one should boast."

11. Since salvation is not based upon works, then the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection from the dead are both _____ from our heavenly Father.

Ephesians 2:10 "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

12. Then how does doing "good works" relate at all to our relationship to God?"

Answer: When we become a "New Creation" in Jesus we _____ to walk in the good works that God has already prepared for us.

John 17:3 - "And this is eternal life, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent".

13. "Good Works" are thus, _____ of our faith!

14. According to this passage, how does Christianity differ from all other religions?

It is based on a personal _____ with God instead of keeping a set of rules or doctrines.

We learned earlier in this study that you become a "New Creation" when you start this relationship with Jesus.

15. What are **5 things** that we need to do beforehand to activate the grace that God has already provided for entering into this eternal relationship?

Acts 2:38 - "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." 1) _____

John 1:12 - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name," 2) _____

John 4:19 - "And He said to them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

In addition to receiving all that Jesus had to offer, what response did Jesus require in order for those He chose to be called His disciples (in John 4:19)? 3) _____

Romans 10:9-10 - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

4) With the heart man _____.

5) With the mouth he (or she) _____.

None of these 5 things actually earn our salvation, but because God does not force any of us to become Christians, He allows each of us to make our own free-will decisions to use our faith in order to receive this wonderful Grace that God has already provided in Jesus.

Now go ahead and write an essay on this first Foundation of “Salvation” using what you have learned in this study, and do some more research on your own and ask God for insight into this most important Foundation of all!

Additional scriptures to get you started:

John 3:1-21; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 John 4:7-10

Answers:

1. When Adam and Eve willfully disobeyed and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
2. Sin entered into all mankind and death came as a result.
3. No, all
4. New Creation
5. A) Free Gift B) in Christ Jesus
6. A) died for us B) died C) buried D) raised
7. The Lamb of God
8. Grace through faith
9. Assurance, conviction
10. Works
11. Gifts
12. Desire
13. Fruit
14. Relationship
15. 1. Repent 2. Receive 3. Follow 4. Believe 5. Confess