

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

(Outline)

You may launch the study from this outline, or from the [index](#) or [overview](#). Click on a highlighted module number or sub-module title below to select your choice. If you are new to this study, it is suggested that you examine the study [overview](#) first.

Why must we be saved?

- 1) *All* have sinned; *all* are sinners; we are all born with a sin nature; this is due to the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
Sinners all
The sin nature
Due to the fall
God's view
- 2) God is *perfectly* pure and holy; He *cannot* co-exist with evil or sin.
His holiness and perfection
His separation from sin, sinners and evil
- 3) God will and *must* judge (punish; condemn) sin. His perfect justice *must* be satisfied (propitiated).
Judgment of sin and evil is assured
Suffering; torment; anguish!
Eternal!

How are we saved?

- 4) God designed, revealed, implemented and *completed* a plan providing salvation for *all* who believe. He has given us proof by raising Jesus from the dead.
God's plan and design
The revelation
The implementation
The completeness
For *all* who believe
- THE PROOF: [THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS](#)
The warnings/predictions/claims of Jesus
The historical record; witnessed proof
Belated recognition/realization/understanding
The immediate dissemination of the event and its significance
Presented as proof
If it's all a big lie
The attempted cover-up
The "million dollar" questions ... The "million dollar" answer

- 5) Salvation requires true repentance - caused by godly sorrow due to conviction of sin. We must turn to God! The road to salvation must pass through repentance, and true repentance will absolutely and always lead to salvation. Ultimately, we are faced with a decision.

The call to repentance

Granted and provided by God

Conviction of sin

Turning to God; away from sin, evil and wickedness

Godly sorrow

True repentance

The road to salvation

We face a decision; it's a choice of our will

The sad epilogue

- 6) There is only *one* plan of salvation; *one* way to be saved; through One only. We must meet *God's* terms - not our own, nor the myriad inventions of men. There is no provision for "sympathy" for "sincerely" following false doctrine.

One plan/one way

Through One only

God's terms

- GOD HOLDS US RESPONSIBLE TO DISCERN AND HOLD TO THE TRUTH, PROVIDING AMPLE PROVIDING AMPLE WARNING IN HIS WORD. "DO NOT JUDGE" HAS BECOME WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISAPPLIED, EVEN BY (MISGUIDED) CHRISTIANS. WE ARE *COMMANDED* TO TEST (JUDGE); IT IS OUR *RESPONSIBILITY*!

Do not judge?

We are *commanded* to test (judge); it is our *responsibility*

Warnings to watch out for false prophets and deceivers

Warnings to guard against false teaching

Warnings regarding those who cause divisions

Warnings to avoid evil and the evil schemes of men and Satan

Seek Truth; *obtain* knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment

Warnings to stick to the Truth

No excuse

How to recognize legitimate teaching/teachers

Sure judgment of false teachers/deceivers

Able/not able to understand (discern)

Applying discernment

Examples to follow/the example to set

7) Salvation is by grace *alone*, through faith *alone*, in Christ *alone*; not by works (good deeds), observance of any man-made traditions, rituals, laws or religious rules, or through family lineage. It is a gift from God, to be freely received.

By grace
Through faith
In Christ
Not by works
Not by the Law
Not through tradition or religious ritual
Not through family line
A gift
The purpose and function of the law

8) God *chooses*, in His sovereignty, to see us as righteous because the perfect sacrifice of our sinless substitute, Jesus, satisfies (propitiates) God's justice regarding sin (see #3 under "Why"). God's perfect holiness and justice are preserved in forgiving us because His decision is based on the finished work of *Christ* - it is *not* dependent on anything of *us*. Christ has paid our debt *in full*. He *alone* is worthy and able to do so. We are justified *in Christ*; it is *not* a righteousness in *us* or of *us*. And God's choice is *permanent and eternal!* It is much more than a "pardon."

God can and will, and has the right to do whatever He pleases
God's sovereign choice in redemption; justification; salvation
Jesus - payment for sin
Jesus alone is worthy
God's justice satisfied (propitiated)
Our righteousness vs. the righteousness of *God*
Permanent; eternal

Who can be saved?

9) God desires that *everyone* be saved.

God's desire
God's provision
No favoritism

10) Salvation is provided for *sinner*s. We are saved *while still sinners*; when we are *spiritually dead, enemies of God*. Spiritual life is provided by God alone; according to His grace and mercy, because of His great love for us.

Sinners; enemies; wicked
Once lost, now found; once separated, now included in Christ
Spiritually dead; made alive by His grace, because of His love and mercy

- 11) Salvation involves an intimate, *personal* relationship with God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. God grants us the right to be called, and to *actually be*, His *children!* Jesus is not ashamed to call us *brothers!* And the Holy Spirit makes His home *in us!*

God's view of us; His intentions
God, our loving Father; we, God's dearly loved children!
The family of God; Jesus our brother!
The Holy Spirit; at home *in us!*
The culmination

What happens after we are saved?

- 12) Once saved (born-again; justified; regenerated), we are responsible to live in consistent obedience to God's Word through the gift of faith we have received. What we once were, and what we have now become in Christ, must and will be in sharp contrast. Though we will struggle and encounter suffering, it should not seem to be a burden. We will be motivated to please God when we have a proper appreciation and gratitude for what He has done for us and what awaits us (Dt 8).

Before and after
New associations (commands regarding unbelievers *and* believers)
New treasure
Obedience to God's Word and His commands
The ultimate and perfect example
Appreciation and gratitude for what God has done

➤ EXPECT SUFFERING; FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

- 13) When saved, we begin the process of sanctification (being perfected, made holy, conformed to the image of Christ). God does the work; we must believe, be willing and cooperate. God enables this by in-dwelling us with the Holy Spirit, who leads, strengthens and equips us. We are called to unity, and we grow to desire and appreciate this more and more.

Sanctification: God's will; our goal
God does/has done/will do the work; we choose to conform to His will
According to, and by *His* power
God's provision of His in-dwelling Holy Spirit

➤ THE CALL TO UNITY; MEMBERS OF ONE BODY - IN AND OF CHRIST

Partakers of the one (and only) Living Bread
Many parts, many members; one body
Absence of divisions
Like-mindedness; common doctrine and purpose; unity in Christ

- 14) Only those born again are able to understand (discern) spiritual truth. God calls us to mature in knowledge, understanding, wisdom and application (see, especially, the book of Proverbs). This comes through church fellowship, prayer, bible study and “time with God.” But we must avoid the distraction of mysteries or knowledge beyond our comprehension.

Able/not able to understand (discern)

Contrasting viewpoints and responses

Seek Truth; *obtain* knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment

Growing in knowledge of and love for God; its purpose

Exhortation to application

Our responsibility

➤ CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP; ITS NEED AND PURPOSE

Mutual encouragement

Mutual edification

Mutual concern and compassion

Mutual love

To seek, develop, maintain and conduct ourselves in like-mindedness and unity; with common purpose

Strength in numbers

In remembrance of Jesus and what He has done for us

As Christians, we *HAVE* fellowship with one another

➤ PRAYER

Pray always and persistently

Pray for everyone

Pray with *purpose*

Pray with *confidence*

▪ WHEN IS IT “HEARD?”

Accompanied by confession/repentance/humility and acknowledging God’s goodness/provision/care/power

By the godly; God’s obedient servants; those who delight in Him; who fear, honor, revere and submit to Him; who seek God and His will

Scriptural guidelines and models; God’s criteria and His promises

When it’s time to get up and get going!

By the godless/sinners/disobedient/rebellious/stubborn

For those who do not honor God

➤ KNOWING GOD'S WORD

The worthiness of God's Word

Studying, teaching, spreading the Word; passing it down and along

- In the Old Testament
- In the New Testament

The purpose and benefit of applying His Word

Using the Word as our guide for life and practice

Seek Truth; *obtain* knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment

Walking with God; yearning for God and His Word

Warnings/dangers of time away from/"without" God and His Word

➤ GOD'S TRANSCENDENT KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

Secrets and mysteries beyond human understanding

Hidden knowledge and wisdom

God knows all things

Revelation, according to *God's* purpose, plan and timing

The wisdom and knowledge of God transcend human comprehension

15) Having believed and trusted God for salvation, we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Master. This new relationship will be evidenced in our lives by godly character, genuine love for our brothers/sisters in Christ and works of service (good deeds). *God's* glory and honor will be our primary concern. As His servants, our lives will bear good fruit and attract others to Him. As others respond, we are responsible to nurture them in the Lord.

Savior *plus*, or no Savior at all

He is *Lord*; Lord of *all*; *OUR* Lord!

He is *Master*; we are His servants

We *belong* to Him

Called to godliness

God's gracious and complete provision for godliness

Loving our brothers and sisters in Christ

Good works and good doing

God's provision and equipping for good works

No action/wrong action

Right action

Right thinking

All for the glory and honor of God

Be able to exhort as Paul did

Bearing good fruit

Pointing/reconciling others to God

Aftercare

Final exhortations

When can we become unsaved?

Is "once saved, always saved" a doctrine of Satan? Is it really possible that salvation is guaranteed for a true believer; that nothing can cause it to be lost? The teaching which answers these questions is often conceded to be "controversial," about which Christians can "agree to disagree." This should not be! Click [here](#) for a thorough treatment of the issue of eternal security contained in a separate writing posted on this site.