



What Is Salvation?

John 3:16

United Community Church Pastor Ron & Jordan Burks, 7/30/17

False Teachings About Salvation:

- Christian Universalism: born from the universalist movement (all roads lead to God). They recognize God as the only way, but believe that all people are on that path. Everyone will be restored to a right relationship with God, therefore there is no physical hell.
- Prosperity Gospel: the primary reason for salvation is to receive a physical blessing from God. If I accept Christ, he will give me all that I want. If I'm sick or poor, it's because I don't have faith or have not received salvation.
- New Age: has its roots in eastern religion. Believes that truth is everything that "feels good". Salvation works for My good AND glory.
- Legalism: Very prevalent in traditional churches. It abuses the law to maintain or attain salvation. It is rooted in judgement and operates under condemnation. You must "act like a Christian" instead of follow Christ.
- Hyper Grace: very popular in the millennial church. A response to the legalism belief, hyper-grace believes that salvation abolishes all sin. They excuse sin instead of repent from it, removing all accountability of actions (there are no consequences to sin because God forgave it)
- The Emerging Church: a growing, popular movement. They make Christianity more palatable to modern culture. Salvation removes every sin, so there is no need for forgiveness. They glorify emotion, and reward honesty and confession instead of repentance.
- Inclusion: another popular belief, they believe that what Christ did at the cross was meant for ALL of creation. They believe that everyone has salvation, whether they accept it or not. They have a hope for the afterlife, but are unsure of what will happen with everyone.

For God so loved the world

World is used in three primary ways:

1. Creation
2. Evil or dominion of Satan
3. Humanity or mankind in general – this is how it is used in Jn 3:16

That he gave his only Son

- Jesus Christ gave up his throne in heaven to come to earth to die in our place, Jn 1:1,14
- Jesus Christ was sinless and willingly died in our place to reconcile us to God, 2 Cor 5:18, 19. 21

That whoever believes in Him should not perish

- We are saved by grace through faith from God's wrath
- God's wrath is provoked when people rebel against Him. Our sin deserves God's wrath but God sent His Son, Jesus, to satisfy God's holy wrath against sin, Rom 3:23-25
- You will not suffer God's wrath of eternal separation if you choose to be reconciled to God by faith. This means you confess your sin, turn your life over to Him, and live for Him while you are on this earth

But have everlasting life

- You will enjoy eternal life with Christ in heaven if you experience salvation in Christ, Gal 6:8