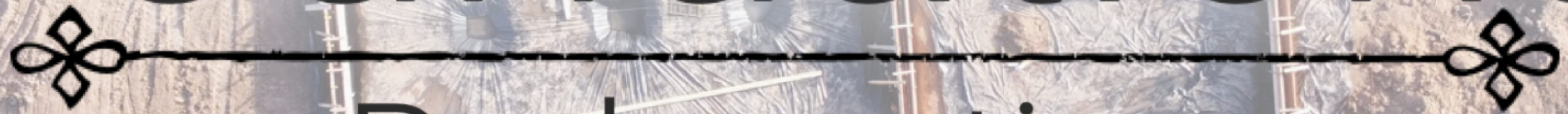




Foundations



Redemption

Salvation • Assurance

Areas of Controversy...

Die for

Divide for

Debate for

Decide for

Plan of Redemption

Scripture / Creation

Anthropology / History

Psychology / Philosophy / Ethics

Every Book of the Bible...

Gen 3:15, 12, 15:6, 22

2 Samuel 7

Ps 2, 22

Isaiah 53 ...a narrative of redemption

Jer 31:33

Ezekiel 34, 36

Zephaniah 3:17

The continued theme of God's faithfulness despite our failures, His love despite our lack of it, and His desire to save despite our desire to sin, sets our literary eyes to look for the Messiah. To find our hope in Him alone.

Each OT story illustrates that the human condition is broken because of sin and we are incapable of saving ourselves; God beckons us back to Him in a personal love-based relationship, and He is the only one capable of setting things right.

Understanding the narrative foundation keeps us on a biblically balanced course avoiding the legalism of the law and the hedonism of a dismissal of the morals and theology through scripture.

“Salvation is a life... why is it that we look upon our salvation as a moment that began our religious life instead of the daily life we receive from God?...

...We're encouraged somehow today to remove the essence of faith from the particulars of daily human life and relocate it in special times, places, and states of mind." (The Spirit of the Disciplines pg28)

anyone who loses his life for my sake,
that man will save it. What gain, then, is
it for a man to have won the whole
world and to have lost or ruined his very
self? Luke 9:24–25, John 12:25

Salvation

We believe that salvation from sin comes by grace through faith in Christ and is the gift of God ([Ephesians 2:8](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#)). Salvation is offered to all people by grace and received by repentance toward God and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This faith is manifested in works pleasing to God. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14)

By this we mean that God is the one who does it, rather than humans accomplishing it for themselves.

Also, we mean that the reason God does this is because He is gracious and loving, not because some humans deserve it.

Furthermore, this gift entails the giving of God's own Son to die on the cross for the sake of the world (Jon 3:36; Rom 3:23-25; 6:23; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 1:7; 2:1-3; 2:8-10; 1 Jon 1:8-9; 1 Pet 1:18-19).

Additionally, we believe that the benefits of God's gift are only enjoyed by those who trust Christ as Savior, submit to Him as Lord, and savor Him as Treasure (Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:18-19, 36; 5:40; Romans 9:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Revelation 22:17).

The effect of God's saving work in the present is to unite us with Christ. In Jesus, believers no longer face condemnation for their sins (Romans 8:1), but instead share in Jesus' own righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30; Philippians 3:9).

In Christ, believers are set free from the power of sin (Romans 6:22) and are made into new creatures who embody God's righteousness on the earth (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; Ephesians 2:10).

The duration of the Christian life is then given to growing in the grace and knowledge of God and increasing in the resemblance of Christ (2 Peter 3:18; Romans 6:4, 8:29).

At the end of time human salvation will be fully completed when believers are raised to everlasting life and live in perfect relationship with their Maker and Savior forever (Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Romans 6:5).

Security / Assurance of Believers

Since we believe that salvation is God's doing, we also believe that staying saved is God's doing. All true believers can know on the authority of the Word of God, that they are saved, and safe and secure, for all eternity (John 5:24, 10:27-30; 1 John 5:11-13).

Once people are in Christ absolutely nothing can separate them from God (Jon 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor 1:4-8; 1 Pet 1:5). Believers can also rest assured that God will never change His mind about someone He has saved, or in any way be unfaithful to the promises He made to them (Phil 1:6).

This is not to endorse the false view that a person can live any sort of life they choose and still regard themselves as “Christian”. Nor are we denying the reality that some who once seemed committed to the faith later leave it.

Rather, our definition of “Christian” is narrowed to those in whom God has actually done a supernatural work, and anyone who leaves the faith has never actually experienced that supernatural work of God (1 John 2:19).

A Christian is sealed and indwells by the Holy Spirit (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8–9). Salvation is the gift of God, and God's gifts are irrevocable (Romans 11:29).

Jude 1:24–25 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”

Triadic Tenses of Salvation

- **Past:** We have been saved from the penalty of sin. We have been justified.
- **Present:** We are being saved from the power of sin. We are being sanctified.
- **Future:** We will be saved from the presence of sin. We will be glorified.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon
you, And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)