

The Truth About Salvation

(Based on the sermon by Pastor Earl Goode at Calvary Baptist Church, Warrior, AL on 22 March 2026)

This sermon explored the essential message of salvation, focusing on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Here are the key points to help you reflect and grow:

1. Salvation Requires a Brand New Birth

- Key Idea: True salvation isn't about changing your actions or joining a church; it's about a supernatural change from within, a "regeneration."
- Scripture: John 3:3 - "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- Pastor's Quote: "Salvation is not reformation, it's regeneration."
- Reflection: Have you experienced this "new birth" from above? It's not about being a better person, but about receiving a new nature from God.

2. Salvation is a Work of the Holy Spirit

- Key Idea: We cannot earn or create salvation through our own efforts. It is a divine intervention by the Holy Spirit.
- Scripture: John 3:8 - "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell from whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."
- Pastor's Quote: "Salvation, it is the work of the Holy Spirit. You can't get religious enough. You can't give enough money. You can't be good enough."
- Reflection: Are you relying on your own efforts or on the power of the Holy Spirit for your spiritual life?

3. Salvation Was Purchased by Christ

- Key Idea: Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid the full price for our sins, making salvation available to all who believe.
- Scripture: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- Pastor's Quote: "When Jesus said on the cross, it's finished. The great transaction was done, finished. Nothing more can be added."
- Reflection: Have you accepted the finished work of Christ as the payment for your sins?

4. Salvation is Motivated by God's Love

- Key Idea: God's immense love for humanity, not our goodness, is the driving force behind salvation.
- Scripture: John 3:17 - "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
- Pastor's Quote: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. This is not casual love. It's sacrificial love."
- Reflection: Do you understand the depth of God's love that led Him to give His Son for you?

5. Salvation Demands a Response

- Key Idea: Hearing the message of salvation is not enough; a personal decision to believe and receive Jesus is required.
- Scripture: John 3:18 - "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
- Pastor's Quote: "Salvation demands a response."
- Reflection: What is your response to the truth of salvation? Have you made the decision to believe in Jesus Christ?

Prayerfully consider these points throughout the week. May God bless you as you grow in your understanding of His amazing plan of salvation!