

SOTERIOLOGY

(THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION)

Craig Campesi and Peter LaRock

WHAT IS SALVATION? (THE CLASS)

In our 12 sessions, we will try to answer:

- What does it mean to be saved?
- How is salvation accomplished?
- Do we have assurance of the permanency of our position in God's family?
- How can we be certain that our relationship with Him can never be severed?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

(WHAT IS SALVATION?)

- Defining our roles in God's family, household, or "sphere"
- Laying hold of positional truths

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

(WHAT IS SALVATION?)

- To disciple fellow believers and unbelievers (and effectively carry out the Great Commission).
- Guiding our friends. Do we direct them to question their salvation, or direct them to be confident in their salvation and relationship to God and build on that?
- Counseling our own kids. When our kids are disobedient, should we suggest that they may not be saved? When our kids become prodigal and abandon the faith, as many of them do, how do we respond?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

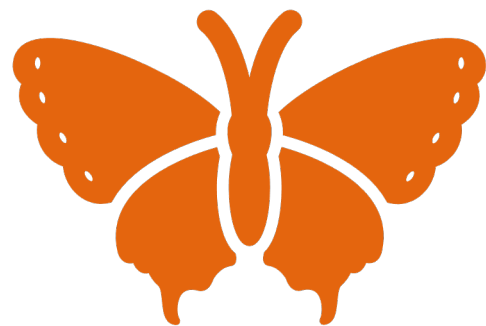
(WHAT IS SALVATION?)

- Understanding the "arc" of scripture and the meaning of the law, the prophets, Old Testament history, and then the gospels and epistles through the lens of our relationship to God and his pursuit of us
- Understanding the nature of Christ and his mission (Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins).

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

(WHAT IS SALVATION?)

- Why are YOU here in this class? Why is it important to you?
- Do you know anyone who struggles with the question of their own salvation?



THE POLYMORPHIC NATURE OF WORDS

(POLYMORPHIC MEANS MANY-SHAPED)



RUN

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

SAVE

"SAVE" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

(SŌZŌ)

Instance #1

- Matt 1:21 – She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins
- Meaning? Apparently spiritual!

Instance #2, #3

- Matt 8:25 – And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!"
- Matt 9:21 – for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His cloak, I will get well."
- Meaning? Apparently physical!

Instance #4

- Matthew 10:22 – And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.
- Meaning? Saved from what?

WHY IS THIS
IMPORTANT?
(SÓZÓ CAN MEAN
A LOT OF
THINGS!)

"It is surprising how often this word (sózó) is used for meanings far afield from the spiritual salvation which opens the doors of heaven to a forgiven sinner"

– Dave Anderson

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

If we do not disambiguate the meaning of sózō, two very very bad things will happen!

- We will create confusion as to what "salvation" is or how it is attained
- We will miss the point of useful passages that aren't about eternal life!



SALVATION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 3: The Fall

⁸ Now they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate."

SALVATION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Judges 2: A recurring pattern

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, 12 and they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they followed other gods from the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them; so they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.

SALVATION
IN
THE OLD
TESTAMENT

Amos 5: The Day of the Lord

¹⁸ Woe to you who are longing for the day of the Lord,
For what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you?

It will be darkness and not light;

¹⁹ As when a man flees from a lion

And a bear confronts him,

Or he goes home, leans with his hand against the wall,

And a snake bites him.

²⁰ Will the day of the Lord not be darkness instead of light,
Even gloom with no brightness in it?

SALVATION
IN
THE OLD
TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:5-6

⁵ But He was pierced for our offenses,
He was crushed for our wrongdoings;
The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him,
And by His wounds we are healed.
⁶ All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all
To fall on Him.



These, then, are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.

– C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

NEXT WEEK

- We will look at what the New Testament tells us as to how to get "Eternal Life."
- Homework #1 - Find a passage about salvation that you'd like to discuss or have a better explanation for, and bring it with you!
- Homework #2 - Find a NT passage about salvation and identify
 - First, *who* is being saved, and
 - Second, what they (a character, or the audience of the letter) are being saved FROM.