

# SOTERIOLOGY

(THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION)

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# WHAT IS SALVATION? (THE CLASS)

In our 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?

# LAST WEEK

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- We talked about the importance of the question of Salvation - who has it, who doesn't, how we get it, and if it's ours forever. Any other situations where this has come up in your relationships?
- We discussed the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of words and why this is significant for interpretation
- We looked at the different ways "save" can be used in modern and NT language
- We reviewed a small collection of Old Testament passages that speak to our need for saving, or rescuing, from the effects of sin
- We assigned homework!

# LAST WEEK

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- Did anyone pick a passage dealing with a Salvation concept and unpack who was being saved from what?
- Did anyone mark down any thorny passages that might relate to salvation that you'd like the class to address?

# ETERNAL LIFE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A STACK OF  
BOOKS BUT  
*ONE OF THESE IS  
NOT LIKE THE OTHER*



So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name

John 20:30-31

# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

## THEME OF JOHN

- It would be difficult to over-emphasize the significance of this purpose statement. We don't find these often in the books of the bible or necessarily even in the epistles; we should take John at his word.
- This also stands in contrast to the epistles (and possibly the synoptics), in that they are almost all written explicitly or arguably to a believing audience. More on that later!
- John is the only book in the Bible that claims it was written for the express purpose of bringing people to eternal salvation... Therefore, we should begin with John to understand how to be saved and examine it closely to discover the condition for salvation.

- From Dr. Charlie Bing: (<https://www.gracelife.org/resources/gracenotes/?id=1&lang=eng>)



# WHAT DOES JOHN SAY ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE

## THEME OF JOHN

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- The purpose statement itself says if we believe we have eternal life.
- The verb believe is used 98 times in John as the condition for salvation. This compares to only 34 times in the other Gospels and 116 times in the rest of the New Testament.
- The consistent result of believing is salvation. When one believes, one can know that he/ she has eternal life as a present possession (John 5:24; 9:38).
- The figures of speech used to picture belief in John (receive, look, hear, enter, feed, come) denote receptivity, agreement, or trust. All are essentially simple or passive activities. None communicates the idea of merit, work, effort, or achievement.

# WHAT DOES JOHN SAY ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE?

## HOW DO WE GET IT?

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How the condition is not presented

- There are no qualifiers used with believe, such as really believe, truly believe, or genuinely believe. There is only one kind of belief.
- There are no other conditions mentioned in John, such as repentance, surrender, commitment, or obedience.
- Conclusion: We are saved when we simply believe (trust in, accept as true for myself) that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior from our sins. Salvation is absolutely free and apart from any condition of merit to earn it.



But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

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John 1:12-13

This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,  
and revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in  
Him.

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John 1:12-13

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.

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John 3:14-15

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

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## John 3:16-18

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

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John 3:36



"Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

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John 5:24



Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

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John 6:28-29, and 40, and 47-51

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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John 7:37-39

And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins." ... As He said these things, many came to believe in Him.

John 8:23-24

But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

John 10:26-29

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" She \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world."

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John 20:30-31





# WHAT IS THE APPLICATION?

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- If we are trying to answer the question "Do I have eternal life," we should consider the Gospel of John prescriptive. It should become automatic. Do I have eternal life? John says...
- We should take care that the only condition or point of examination we offer to ascertain eternal life is belief in Jesus. Not (prayer, walking the aisle, altar call, confession, obedience to rules, baptism, a changed life, a changed "heart," spiritual fruit, etc.
- We are offered great confidence and assurance of our eternal life because of the simplicity of salvation by belief, for ourselves and to share with others.
- The pile of books?

# LOOKING FORWARD

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- We will examine exactly what it means to believe or have "faith"
- We will examine the nature of Eternal Life and its qualities  
(For both of these, we will dip back into the Gospel of John more next week)
- We'll examine John against the Epistles in the nature of his theme and audience (and so dip into the Epistles) to see if it is really unique

# HOMEWORK

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- Ask a couple people what it means to "have faith" and jot down what they say
- Ask a couple people what it means to "believe something" and jot down what they say