

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 1 CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

Colossians 1:13

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Savior*, which forms part of the fourfold gospel of Jesus, a cornerstone of our denomination. God's plan for salvation commenced immediately following the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. The consequence of sin is death; however, it was not God's intention for humanity to endure eternal death. Out of His love for the world, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on our behalf, allowing us to attain salvation and reconciliation with Him. Salvation can only be obtained through Jesus Christ, as there is no other name by which humanity is saved. Furthermore, our salvation is not achieved through good works, but rather through the righteousness of Jesus, imparted by faith and through the grace of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you believe Jesus has paid your debts in full, or do you still struggle with earning your salvation?*
- *How often have you shared this truth with those close to you who need salvation?*
- *What is your personal salvation story and experience?*

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THE REDEEMER OF MANKIND

1 PETER 1:18-19

Christ's blood deals with our real needs, bringing forth a way of being human that is characterized by freedom—freedom from the unbearable burden of trying to revert, by our own perishable means, the awful consequences of trespassing our very humanity when we disobeyed God.

Jesus, through His priceless and unfading blood, has secured our freedom, our safety, and our soul's deepest satisfaction. When Jesus stood in my place, I, too, was crucified—my sin was judged, my shame covered, and my fear silenced. And in Him, I, too, was raised to a new kind of life. The striving of the old life—to earn, to repay, to prove—has become obsolete. Christ's blood paid for our redemption, buying that which was lost, returning such to its original owner. That truth shook the first century world to its core. People asked, "Can this really be? Can someone truly take another's place and bear their punishment?" It sounded too good to be true, and yet it is!

Christ's finished work allows us to stop relying on ourselves, resting instead in the One who took our place, being thus fully convinced that doing so is infinitely better than trying to feel valuable and safe on our own—either by trying harder to be "good" (religion) or by trying harder to be sufficient (non-religion). The gospel's invitation to accept the loving offer of Jesus taking our place is the best news ever heard by human ears.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Abba, You say that my value comes from being created by You in Your image. That's why You love me unconditionally. That doesn't mean that Your love has nothing to do with me, but that it doesn't depend on any act on my part. I am intrinsically valuable by the sole fact that You created me with that value. I am worth so much that when You lost me, You sent Your Son to look for me. He bought me back for Yourself and gave me back what my own sin took from me. Thank You, Abba. Amen.

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02

SAVED THROUGH HIS GRACE FOR HIS GLORY

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

When you think of being “saved,” do you picture a moment in your past—a prayer, a decision, an experience, that secured your eternal future? It’s good and right to treasure that moment—it changed everything. Isn’t it also amazing that when Paul writes, “by grace you have been saved,” he’s not only affirming that moment but pointing to so much more? Saving grace isn’t just a past event that shapes our eternal future—it’s a present-tense reality. Saving grace is at work right now—still active, still shaping us, still transforming us.

That is really good news. We live in a world starving for salvation, a world that constantly tells us we have to earn our worth and protect our own vulnerability. We breathe an atmosphere of pressure—perform, prove, protect. In that suffocating air, saving grace is like oxygen. It relieves the ache to make a name for ourselves and the fear that we’re on our own to survive. Grace says: you’re already loved, already secure—not because you earned it, but because Christ gave it.

And this grace isn’t just divine kindness. It cost everything. “Not from yourselves” means we could never live a life good enough. So, Jesus lived it for us, bore the cost we couldn’t carry, and rose to secure what we never could. He remains our Savior now—still healing, shielding, and sustaining.

And when grace tells your story, people don’t just see you—they glimpse the One who made it possible.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, I admit how easily I slip into striving—trying to earn and secure what can only be received. Thank You for saving me. You lived the life I failed to live and gave Yourself so I could breathe freely in the grace that still holds me and will save me still. Rescue me today from the fear and pressure to control. Root me in the freedom of being fully known, fully loved, and fully secure. Let my life reflect not my effort, but what You've given. Help me rest in the truth that Your grace is enough. Amen.

THE ADVOCATE AND THE DEFENDER

1 JOHN 2:1

“May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, ‘The Lord is great!’ But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.” –Psalm 40:16-17

The Lord is the comfort of every soul that longs for Him in sincerity. He never leads to disappointment, but to a deep, abiding joy that is not tied to circumstances, flowing from communion with the living God.

Our greatest comfort lies in magnifying the Lord even in the midst of trouble. Even when the solution is not yet visible, we declare with confidence that He has not forgotten those who love Him (see Isaiah 49:15-16). Every time we praise Him, we proclaim our faith that salvation is on its way and that the Lord will be glorified above all pain.

Here lies a deeply personal comfort: even in our lowest, most broken state, we are not forgotten. The Lord does not only attend to the strong—He draws near to the poor in spirit, the helpless, and the weary (see Psalm 35:10). He is my help and my deliverer. He will not delay, for He sees, He hears, and He cares.

These three comforts draw for us a sacred portrait of the living God:

- He delights in those who seek Him.
- He is glorified in the hearts of those who love Him.
- He is near to the brokenhearted.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, we rejoice in You, for You are our hope and our comfort in every season. We magnify Your name even in trouble, trusting that Your salvation is near and that You never forget those who love You. Thank You for caring for the poor and the brokenhearted, for drawing near to the weak and the weary. You are our help and our deliverer—do not delay. Draw us closer to You and fill our hearts with steadfast joy and daily praise. Amen.

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THE PIONEER OF OUR SALVATION

HEBREWS 2:10

It was the Father's desire from the beginning to be in relationship with His creation. Because of sin, this communion was broken. We cannot repair it or fix it. The only One who can is Jesus. Christ's sacrifice made reconciliation with the Father possible, and His suffering made our salvation complete. He walked the path of suffering to show us the way through; to show us there is a way through. Jesus didn't just save us from eternal separation from the Father, He saved us for life here on Earth. In this life, suffering will touch us at one time or another. Christ, the trailblazer of our salvation, demonstrated that He is not only the path to salvation, but the path through suffering as well. Let Him walk with you through your suffering, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. What do you need from Jesus today? Ask Him. He has walked the path of suffering and will walk it again beside you because of His perfect love. Let Him.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, Son, and Spirit, You made the way. Thank You for Your great love that showed us the path to salvation and through suffering. Thank You that we do not walk that path alone. Show me today where I have been trying to carry my suffering and give me the courage and grace to hand it to You. Amen.

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THE SAVIOR WHO BROUGHT US FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

JOHN 8:12

There I was—chasing a suspect with a gun in hand through a neighborhood. Moments earlier, he had riddled a house full of people with bullets. He turned a corner. I cut through a yard to intercept him. Suddenly, we were face-to-face. He stood with both hands raised, still gripping an automatic pistol, angry and agitated. He began blaming everything: a cheating wife, an ungrateful family, a collapsing world.

My partner shouted, “You shot at a house because of that?” Then he added, “You need a preacher! Talk to him,” he motioned toward me, “he’s one.”

The man looked at me. Something shifted. Then he asked, “If I shoot you right now, what would you do?”

Time froze. In that moment, everything I believed—my training, faith, and hope—came into focus. I looked at him and said, “I know where I’m going. Do you?”

His shoulders dropped. Tears filled his eyes. He collapsed to his knees and cried, “I don’t!”

Salvation isn’t just about going to heaven. It’s about walking with Jesus here and now, carrying His presence even into life’s darkest moments. On the Cross, Jesus stepped into our darkness so we wouldn’t have to stay there. When we believe in Him, He frees us from guilt, fear, and the weight of our past. He is the light that reveals truth, invites transformation, and offers life. Only then can we confidently say, “I know where I’m going.” Once we’ve seen that light, we can’t help but point others toward it.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for being present in my darkest moments. Your presence is not just for eternity—it’s for today. You give hope, calm my fears, and transform my life. You found me in my lostness and lit my path. I am Yours, and You are mine. Help me reflect that assurance to others. Keep me close as I go through this day so Your light shines through me. Teach me to live in truth, obedience, and hope. As I look to the end of my days, I thank You for the Cross that secures my place with You forever. Amen.

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06

THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE

ROMANS 5:8

The perfect, infinite, and holy God has always loved us. Even though we were sinful, unaware, or maybe even opposing Him, He loved us.

We have no knowledge to give to the One who knows everything. We have no riches to give to the One who has created every diamond and atom of gold. We have no sacrifice that we could bring that isn't overshadowed by our guilt of sin.

And yet, God chose to respond in a way that human understanding would deem as impossible. When we didn't love Him, He showed us kindness and love. Despite our lostness, Jesus changed everything. He showed us God's love. He is not just a sign or messenger, but the Way. We were in a mess that we could not get ourselves out of. Still, He made it possible for us to be close to Him and experience and enjoy Him—all because He loves us.

To those who knew nothing, God gave the knowledge of who the Father is (see John 17:8). To the ones who had nothing to give, He gave an inheritance from heaven (see Colossians 1:12). To the ones who had no sacrifice to give to atone for their wrongdoings, the Son gave Himself (see Ephesians 1:7).

This is how we know that we are loved. When we had nothing to offer, Jesus gave everything. This is love demonstrated on the Cross. The greatest sacrifice ever given was for you.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Because of You, I know the Father.

Because of You, I have an inheritance from heaven.

Because of You, my sins are forgiven.

Because of You, I know that I am loved. I know the love that defied death. Help me to always remember this love and live in this truth.

You loved me before I was Yours. You love me today, and Your love will never fail. Amen.

THE SOURCE OF OUR ETERNAL SALVATION

HEBREWS 5:8-9

It is no secret that many in recent generations have departed from their faith for various reasons, but often after legitimate hardship or crisis. It is worth sympathizing—even empathizing—with these stories, but we need not arrive at the same conclusion. Jesus does not offer to us a faith ill-equipped for suffering. In fact, suffering characterizes the path our Christ walked through, on which He secured for us life everlasting.

Jesus, who prayed to the Father who could save Him from death, and was heard “because of his reverent submission” (Heb. 5:7), still died. This is not because His prayers were not answered. Jesus was not saved from death, but journeyed through death to become our rescue, demonstrating His power and willful obedience.

While a faith unfit for suffering is worth deconstructing, the model and way of King Jesus provides a deeper, lasting hope. Eternal salvation is found in a person, not a philosophy. Jesus shows us the way in “learning obedience” and being “made perfect.” This is not to say that Jesus was once disobedient or imperfect—Jesus’ obedience was a faithful, habitual practice of deep communion with the Father, emphasized throughout His life and ministry, crowned by His Crucifixion, and ratified by His Resurrection.

In this same way we, though sometimes weak and fearful of suffering, are invited into intimate dependence upon our Father, knowing that through the work of the Lord Jesus, He can deliver us through whatever this world sends our way.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for your gift of eternal rescue. May we receive it continually throughout the hardships of our lives. Father, thank You for your power over death and Your desire to fellowship with us. Holy Spirit, empower us for the same faithful obedience that Jesus demonstrates. May we be keen on how You are shaping us, who You are shaping us into, and what Your good will is in every situation, good or bad. Deliver us now as You have done before, and give us a victory that glorifies Your name and points us toward our blessed hope. Amen.