

Calvary Chapel El Monte

Essentials of the Faith

Session 6 – Salvation by Faith

I. Why do we need Salvation?

A. The Tragedy of **the First Death** (Genesis 2:16-17)

God warned Adam and Eve of impending death in the Garden of Eden. He commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam and Eve chose to disobey, as a result sin entered the world, and from that day forward we were all born into sin (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12). We all therefore need to be saved...we sinned because we're sinners.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Romans 6:23a (NKJV) "For the wages of sin is death..."

The death Paul writes of in Romans 6 is not merely a physical death, but a spiritual death. Sin brings death to our spirit and separation from God.

B. The Reality of **the Second Death** (Revelation 20:14-15)

If a person dies without salvation, that person will experience the Second Death, which is eternal suffering and separation from God, cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:14-15) (justice).

Because God is 100% pure (holy, holy, holy – Isaiah 6:3) He cannot dwell favorably with sin.

Habakkuk 1:13a (NKJV) "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil..."

Revelation 21:27 (NKJV) But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

II. What is the Life of Salvation?

A. **Saved from the power, penalty and one day presence of sin** (Matthew 1:21)

B. Saved by being Born Again and Adopted into God's family as His child (John 1:12; 3:3; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5)

C. Saved by being **Justified - a legal declaration of righteousness in God's holy sight**, in God's holy courtroom. Justified = just-as-if-I'd-never sinned, He sees no sin when we're covered with the righteousness of Christ (positionally speaking). (Numbers 23:21; Romans 3:24).

D. Saved by being Sanctified – set apart to God (1 Corinthians 1:2)

E. Saved by being Glorified – when we're saved we can know for certain, that if we were to die today, or if the Lord were to come at this moment to Rapture His church, we will be with Him in heaven forever. (Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

1 John 5:13 (NKJV) "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to believe* in the name of the Son of God."

III. How are we saved?

A. Let's begin by emphasizing God's sovereignty; God gets ALL the credit and ALL the glory for our Salvation. (Luke 1:47; John 6:44)

Isaiah 12:2 (NKJV) "Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'"

We were saved by the Father when He chose us before time began. We were saved by the Son when He died for us on the cross. We were saved by the Holy Spirit the moment we were born-again.

B. Let's continue by acknowledging human responsibility. A person is free to choose salvation.

Human responsibility IS perfectly compatible with God's sovereignty.

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV) "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

1. We Must Exercise Faith in Christ

When a person hears the Gospel, and by faith repents, receives, and believes the Gospel, that person is instantly saved (Mark 1:15; John 1:12).

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Paul points to faith as the instrument wherein the believer receives God's grace unto salvation. Paul makes sure to emphasize the fact that it's not of works! We have nothing to boast of! In Ephesians 2:10 Paul emphasizes God's work, not ours.

Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

2. We must believe...in the Heart

John 20:31 (NKJV) "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 3:16)

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe **in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

There's an infinite difference between intellectual assent in the head and belief in the heart. (James 2:19)

3. We must understand the Gospel, organized in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; summarized in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV) "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you **believed** in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that He was **buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures,"

How is someone saved?

"We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone."

Simple answer = **Jesus**

*Acts 3:16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17-18; 5:28-29

IV. Final thoughts on Salvation

A. God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)

B. True faith in Christ will bear fruit for and like Christ. Although we're not saved by works, true faith "works" (Matthew 7:15-20; James 2:18)

1 John 2:6 (NKJV) "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

C.H. Spurgeon, "A faith that doesn't change my behavior will never change my destiny."

Our works bear witness on the "outside" that we're saved, while the Spirit bears witness on the inside that we're saved (Romans 8:16).

C. We must never stop believing/abiding (Hebrews 10:38; 1 John 2:19; John 15:1-6)

The 5 Solas take it a couple of steps further.

Out of the Reformation emerged the articulation of five essential points of doctrine known as the five solas. The 5 Latin statements serve as a summary of the core beliefs that separate Protestantism from Roman Catholicism.

The five solas state that Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.