

SOTERIOLOGY:
The Doctrine of Salvation
Gulf Coast Baptist Church
Bible Institute

INTRODUCTION:

Course Description

“Soteriology is the doctrine of salvation. “Soter” comes from the Greek word *soteria* which means salvation. “Logy” is from the Greek word *logos* which means word or study. Hence, Soteriology is the study or doctrine of salvation. The purpose for this course is to develop the doctrine of salvation as it applies from start to finish. We will look at how the terms are used in both the Old and New Testament and we will also contrast salvation in the Old and New Testaments. Man’s need for salvation is a key element to understanding this doctrine. We will also consider the 3 tenses of salvation, God’s work in salvation, and the different aspects of salvation described by different terms.”

The Importance of the Doctrine of Salvation

“Salvation is the most important subject to the human race. Apart from salvation, mankind is condemned and on their way to Hell. Salvation was also important enough to God the Father to send His unique one of kind Son to earth to become flesh and die on the cross for the sins of the race and rise again to be the Savior of those who believe the gospel.

Salvation is the basis for all other doctrines in that the Scriptures are essentially written for believers. One must be saved to have illumination to the doctrines of Scripture from the Holy Spirit. The unsaved man can read and memorize the Scriptures and be a biblical scholar, but he will never understand the Bible. The doctrine of salvation is of great importance to the Christian life. One must understand the three tenses of salvation, especially present tense salvation, if he is to have victory in his Christian life and live a godly life. Our position in Christ and Christ in us is a key to our salvation. Important also are the relationships we have with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One must understand that salvation is always by grace and through faith but that God’s revelation to man for salvation and the content of salvation has not always been the same in different dispensations. When dealing with sin, salvation through the shed blood of Christ as He died on the cross for our sins is the only answer to the problem. The doctrine of man is here involved because man’s need for salvation is seen in his total depravity as a result of the fall of Adam. Man’s whole being: body, soul and spirit are affected by the fall and need to be saved. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is also touched by the doctrine of salvation as the Holy Spirit is the One who applies the work of Christ to the believer today. The doctrine of Christ is important, for God the Son became flesh and as the God-man was qualified to bear our sins on His body sin the cross. As a result of His resurrection He is now the Head of the Body, i.e. the Church. All that we are and have in Christ is the basis for our past and present tenses of salvation.

Apart from salvation, we would all be eternally lost. It is important for us to understand that God has saved us through Christ as it is applied by the Holy Spirit. We were saved at the moment we believed the gospel concerning Christ. It is important for us to understand that this

cannot be changed. We are presently being saved and have the potential to have victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. And we will be saved in the future when we are changed to be like Christ at the Rapture. This salvation is eternally secure. To understand that the doctrine of salvation is the work of God and not ourselves is a comfort and enables us to cease from our own labors. We can then rest in Him and enjoy the salvation He has provided for us in Christ. When we understand the provisions for our present tense salvation we can match up to God's opinion of us in Christ and bring glory to Him."

Professor Dale R. Spurbeck
Dispensational Theological Seminary

Course Overview

A. Salvation terms

- Definitions in the Old and New Testament
- Usage in the Old and New Testament
 - Old Testament - primary emphasis is physical salvation in time
 - New Testament - primary emphasis is spiritual salvation for eternity

B. Man's need for salvation

- Man is born a sinner separated from God deserving eternal judgment
- Man needs to be saved in order to be made right with God

C. Salvation - Dispensational Distinctions

- Salvation has and always will be by grace through faith
- What man needed to believe in order to be saved has changed throughout the dispensations

D. Salvation in the New Testament

- What is the Gospel?
- What does Salvation entail for the believer in Christ? (Past, Present, Future Tense Salvation)

E. God's Role in Salvation

- The Father - the Architect
- The Son - the Fulfiller
- The Spirit - the Applier

F. Man's greatest question: "What must we do to be saved?"

- Man must believe the promise of God that He has done the work - Grace by Faith
- What must man believe? - the Gospel

G. The Provisions of Salvation

- Forgiveness
- Eternal security

H. Aspects of Salvation

- Atonement
- Spirit Baptism
- Regeneration
- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Propitiation

