



## Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

### ACBC Exam Theology Qs 14-16, 18, 19

#### Additional Notes:

#### I. Introduction

#### II. ACBC Theological Exam Questions

**Question #14: Explain what it means to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.**

- A. Mankind was designed in/for a relationship with God in His presence (Gen. 1:26-31; 2).**
- B. Mankind's sin separates him from God (Gen. 3:22-24; Ez. 9:15; Is. 59:2).**
- C. Salvation is the reconciliation of man to a right relationship with God with eternal implications (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Rev. 21:1-8).**
- D. Mankind vainly attempts to rectify His situation by his own righteousness. (Is. 59:6; Is. 64:6).**
- E. Jesus Christ was the only man who fulfilled God's righteous requirements (Matt. 5:17; Rom. 3:21-25, 5:19-21, 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30).**
- F. Jesus Christ's sacrificial suffering on the cross constituted the only satisfaction of God's wrath for mankind's sin (Rom. 3:25; Col. 1:20; 1 John 2:2).**
- G. God's raising Jesus from the dead, vindicated both Jesus' perfect righteousness and Jesus' offering of Himself in place of man (Acts 2:24-41; Eph. 1:18-23; Heb. 5:5-10; 10:11-14).**
- H. Therefore, mankind has only one way to be reconciled to God—by exercising faith in the person and work of Jesus (John 1:12; 3:16; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-6).**

**Question #15: Provide an explanation and biblical defense of justification.**

**"Justification"—Legal terminology meaning to declare "not guilty" but instead "righteous." Therefore, the individual is free from guilt, released from punishment, and imputed with the righteousness of Christ**



**Additional  
Notes:**

- A. Legal examples: Deut. 25:1; Prov., 17:15**
- B. Involves imputation of God's righteousness. Genesis 15:6: "And he [Abraham] believed in Yahweh; then He (God) counted it, that is righteousness, to him."**
- C. Author of Justification, God (Gal. 3:8)**
- D. Agent of Justification, Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:16, 17, cf. John 5:26-27)**
- E. Method of Justification, Free Grace (Rom. 3:23-24; 4:4-5)**
- F. The Basis of Justification, Satisfaction of Divine Justice in Christ (Rom. 3: 24-26; 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:21)**
- G. The Appropriation of Justification, Faith (Romans 3:21-4:25)**
- H. The Result of Justification, "The Righteousness of God" (Rom. 3:22) and therefore, fellowship with God (James 2:23)**

**Question #16: Define faith in biblical terms explaining its relationship to justification and sanctification.**

- A. "Faith" — the evidence "Trust/settled confidence/conviction" regarding "things not seen" with physical senses but promised by God through His Word regarding salvation. (Hebrew 1:1)**
- B. Faith is the choice to believe and receive God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ (John 1:12; 3:16).**
- C. Biblical faith only is in relationship to the promises of God's Inspired Word detailing God's Incarnate Word Jesus Christ (Rom 10:17)**
- D. Gen. 15:6, Abraham was confident that the creator God Yahweh would fulfill His Word. There was no confidence in his or Sarah's ability to produce seed. They could not "see" a way other than God's way for the promise to be fulfilled.**
- E. Rom. 3:22, the believer is confident that Jesus Christ and His work is the way of restoration to God. There is no confidence in the believer's own ability to earn salvation. He cannot "see" a way other than God's.**



**Additional  
Notes:**

**F. cf. John 6:29; Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24, Heb. 11:6, 7; 2 Peter 1:5-8**

**G. Faith does not “earn” justification (the satisfaction of God’s wrath in Christ is what makes justification possible). Faith is the way an individual receives justification which was made possible by Christ. (Acts 13:39, Rom. 4:23–24; 10:4; Phil. 3:9)**

**H. Faith is the way an individual is sanctified or “set-apart” for God (Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:26; Gal. 2:16–3:14).**

**Question 18: Describe the doctrine of Union with Christ explaining its biblical basis and implications for Christian living.**

**A. At conversion, the Holy Spirit united us with Christ in fulfillment of God’s Righteousness and His body, Rom 6:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:13, Gal. 2:20; 3:27;**

**B. Union with Christ is a fulfillment of His prayer in John 17:21, 23.**

**C. This union with Christ enables all aspects of sanctification:**

**D. Past/Positional (Rom. 6:4),**

**E. Present/Progressive (Rom. 6:11-12), the believer is to progressively be conformed to the righteousness of Christ through the resources of His union with Christ (Rom 8:28–29, 12:1–2).**

**F. Future/Prospective (Rom. 8:29).**

**Question #19: Explain the biblical categories of past, present, and future sanctification.**

**A. “Sanctified” — “set apart for a divine purpose, consecrated”**

1. 1 Cor. 1:2

2. 1 Cor. 6:11

3. Eph. 5:26

4. 1 Pet. 3:15

5. Hebrews 10:10-14



6. 1 Thess. 5:23

### **B “Past” (or, “positional”)**

1. The one time setting apart of believers from sin and unto God, 1 Cor. 1:2; 1:30
2. Accomplished through the blood of Christ, Heb. 13:12
3. Results in our perfection, Heb. 10:14
4. Possessed by all believers, Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 1:2
5. Occurs at the moment of conversion, 1 Cor. 6:11
6. Refers to the believer’s standing before God IN Christ

### **C. “Present” (or, “Progressive”)**

1. The continual process whereby believers put off the sinful conduct and put on righteous conduct, Rom. 6:19, 22
2. Accomplished through the Holy Spirit using His Word, John 17:17; Gal. 5:16
3. God works in man, Phil. 2:12, 13
4. Man has responsibility to “obey” Phil. 2:12, 13
5. Results in the control of the fleshly lusts (Gal. 5:16) and usefulness to God (2 Tim. 2:21)

### **D. “Future” (or, “Prospective”)**

1. The time when believers are finally and forever separated from sin and sealed in righteousness, 1 John 3:2, Phil. 3:20-21
2. The believers’ position becomes their ultimate real experience
3. Should be motivation for purification now, 1 John 3:3
4. Also referred to as glorification, Rom. 8:29

#### **Additional Notes:**

**Additional  
Notes:****Recommended Resources**

- Adams, Jay. [\*Theology of Christian Counseling\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Chandler, Matt; Wilson, Jared. [\*Explicit Gospel eBook\*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Enns, Paul. [\*Moody Handbook of Theology - 25th Anniversary Edition\*](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 2014.
- Frame, John. [\*Systematic Theology \(Frame\)\*](#). Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013.
- Gilbert, Greg. [\*What Is the Gospel?\*](#) Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Grudem, Wayne. [\*Systematic Theology \(Grudem\)\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Mathis, David; Piper, John. [\*Cross\*](#). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2015.
- Ortlund, Ray. [\*Gospel, The\*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Piper, John. [\*Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die\*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006.
- Ryrie, Charles. [\*Basic Theology\*](#). Chicago, IL: Moody, 1999.
- Vincent, Milton. [\*Gospel Primer for Christians\*](#). Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2008.