

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Salvation



1 INTRODUCTION

Maybe you are new in your walk with God. This lesson is important because it will help you get a solid ground in which to set your spiritual foundation. Maybe you have been a believer for a long time. These truths are so important and vital to successful Christian living, that they bear repeating over and over again. In fact, in our church you will often hear the importance of preaching the gospel to yourself every day. It's these truths that are so important to keep close to our hearts. Let's start here...

2 WHO IS GOD?

We need to start with a clear understanding of who God is and what God deserves.

A. GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL

READ Genesis 1

It is clear from the Bible that God created all there is...and He did it in 7 days! What an amazing and powerful God we serve.

Have you ever looked up into the sky on a clear night? It's mind-blowing to think about how many stars are in the universe!

In an article from CNN.com, we read the following, incredible discovery:

"Ever wanted to wish upon a star? Well, you have 70,000 million million million to choose from. That's the total number of stars in the known universe, according to a study by Australian astronomers. It's also about 10 times as many stars as grains of sand on all the world's beaches and deserts."

READ Psalm 147:4

 Record your thoughts about this passage.

Not only did He create the universe, He also holds it all together!

Colossians 1:16-17

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Along with the universe, God also created each of us. David praised God in Psalm 139 with these words:

Psalm 139:13-16

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

So God created the universe and He formed each of us in our mother's womb. God made you. That is wonderful because that gives each of us purpose for living! We were created by a powerful, all-knowing God and He has a purpose for our lives.

🔗 Why do you think God created you? What is the purpose of your life?

Let's answer that question with God's Word.

READ Isaiah 43:7

🔗 According to this verse, why did God create you?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:9

🔗 What was the aim of Paul's life in this verse?

READ 1 Corinthians 10:31

🔗 What areas of your life will be affected?

- ✎ So, then, what is the meaning of life?

Understanding God's power and His purpose is an essential part of our salvation. Our salvation starts with a loving God Who created you to enjoy you and for you to bring glory to Him.

3 WHO ARE WE?

There is a big problem keeping us from fulfilling this purpose.

In the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, God created a perfect garden. He also created man to enjoy the garden and wonderful fellowship with Him. He had only one rule.

READ Genesis 2:15-17

- ✎ What was God's rule?

- ✎ In Genesis 3:6 what did man do?

READ Genesis 3:8-9

- ✎ Why do you think Adam is hiding?

- ✎ What has sin done to God's relationship with man?

It wasn't just Adam who sinned. In fact, the Bible teaches us an important truth in Romans 3:23.

READ Romans 3:23

🗒️ What does that verse teach us?

🗒️ Do you believe that's true for you?

🗒️ Think for a moment about the Ten Commandments. How many can you list?

Even if you can't list them all, go back over the list.

🗒️ Put a check mark by the ones you have disobeyed.

The truth is we are all sinners and that sin keeps us from enjoying a relationship with a holy God.

READ Isaiah 6:1-5

🗒️ What does the text say about God?

✎ What was Isaiah's reaction to God?

✎ What do we deserve?

God is all-powerful, and all-knowing and He sits on the throne of the universe. And He is a holy God who is completely separate from sin. In fact, because God is Holy and Just, He must punish sin.

Back in Genesis, God punished Adam and Eve for their sin. God is a holy God. He hates sin. He's also a just God. That means that sin must be punished. Just as we want judges to punish criminals in our day, God must also punish sin.

READ Romans 6:23

✎ What does this verse tell us?

READ Revelation 21:8 (this verse talks about spiritual death)

✎ What does the Bible say is the second death?

LET'S SUMMARIZE:

1. God created us with an eternal purpose: To bring Him glory.
2. Man sinned and hindered that purpose.
3. Because God is just and holy, He must punish sin. Punishment for sin is a place called Hell, which is spiritual death.

That's pretty bad news so far, but it gets much better! God is holy and just, but God is also loving! He provided His Son Jesus Christ to die in our place.

4 WHAT DID GOD DO?

God was not going to allow our sin to stand in the way of His purpose. And in His love, He provided something amazing for us!

READ the following verses and summarize each passage in your own words.

 John 3:16

 Romans 5:8

 1 Peter 3:18

God gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross. When He did, He paid the price for our sin. All we have to do is to believe or trust in that and we can have eternal life!

Many people, however, want to be good enough to earn God's favor. They believe that if they work hard and do enough good things, that God will overlook their sin.

✎ What does Ephesians 2:8-9 say about earning our salvation?

✎ What does Titus 3:5 say about earning our salvation?

So if we can't earn it, that what can we do?

READ Romans 10:13

✎ According to this verse, what do we need to do?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you prayed and asked Jesus to be your Savior? If so, then please tell us about it! (use another sheet of paper if needed)

5 TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

As we stated at the beginning of this lesson, we feel it is important to constantly remind ourselves about these truths. It's easy to get into the "rut" of life and rarely give these important truths a thought. However, to maintain spiritual growth and fervency, we need regular reminders of...

A. WHO GOD IS

The Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is HOLY and JUST and must punish sin.

B. WHO I AM

A sinful wretch who has nothing that would commend myself to God. There is simply NO GOOD in me at all. I deserve God's wrath.

C. WHAT GOD DID

He sent His son to take that wrath for me. Jesus died in my place. For His glory ALONE and by His grace ALONE, Jesus paid the penalty for my sin.

D. WHAT I MUST DO

Turn from my sin and trust that He died for me. I cannot earn His favor even AFTER salvation. His love and goodness for me is based on His GRACE and that alone!

Remembering these truths every day will keep us away from many sinful practices. It will keep us humble and help us avoid self-righteousness. It keeps us joyful as we realize how much our God loves us! And it will help us to LOVE Him MORE!

6 LIFE CHANGE

Memorize John 3:16

Be able to answer the questions "Are you going to heaven? Why did you answer that way?"

DIGGING DEEPER (recommended books)

"A Gospel Primer" by Milton Vincent

"Finally Alive" by John Piper

"The Gospel for Real Life" by Jerry Bridges