

# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

## The Need for Salvation

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever posed the questions, what is Christianity? What does it mean to be a Christian? Or, maybe you've asked, how does one obtain eternal life? Why did Jesus die on the Cross? Maybe your question is like the Philippian jailor who asked, "what must I do to be saved?" In this series of studies, we are going to study the Bible to answer those questions, as well as, many more.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Need for Salvation
- II. The Provision of Salvation
- III. Defining Terms
- IV. The Response to the Gospel
- V. Now What?

### ENGAGING THE TEXT

#### I. THE NEED FOR SALVATION

Salvation? Why do I need to be saved? And, what do I need to be saved from? If you were to ask a random person if God has saved them you may get looks of bewilderment and confusion. Therefore, let's go to the word of God to learn from God why we need to be saved and what we need to be saved from.

#### **Romans 1:16-18**

(16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

- 1) According to verse 18 what do we need to be saved from?
  
- 2) What is the wrath of God against?

### **Romans 1:28-32**

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: (32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

3) What is unrighteousness?

4) Another word for unrighteousness is sin. Have you ever committed any of these sins? If so, which one(s)?

5) According to Romans 1:18 what is against you?

### **The Sinner and The Law**

#### **1 Timothy 1:8-10**

(8) But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; (9) Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, (10) For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

6) The law of God, the ten commandments, was not made for a righteous man, then who was it made for? How would you describe the person who breaks God's commandment, in contrast to righteous?

7) Are you a righteous or unrighteous person then?

### **Man is Guilty Before God**

#### **Romans 3:19-20**

(19) Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

(20) Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

8) What does the law do to the unrighteous man? What is the entire world before God?

*It is easy to think that someone else may be guilty before God. You may think there is someone who has sin more than I have or has sinned a greater sin. Yet, we must understand the gravity of one sin committed against God and our worthiness of His wrath because of it.*

### **One Sin Worthy of Condemnation**

#### **James 2:10**

(10) For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

9) If you offend or break one commandment are you not guilty, or guilty?

### **No Escape**

#### **Read Romans 2:1-11.**

10) Can you escape God's judgment of condemnation and wrath against your unrighteousness that you are guilty of?

11) If you have ever obeyed unrighteousness what is God's judgment according to truth against you, according to verse 8-9?

## The Severity of His Judgment

### **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

(7) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

### **Matthew 25:46**

(46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

12) How long is God's punishment of condemnation against guilty unrighteous men?

13) Do you think the condemnation that is eternal is unjust or unfair?

**Illustration:** You tell a lie to your friend and a lie on the stand to the judge. Which situation has the worse consequence? Is it the quality of the lie that makes the consequence more severe, or who you tell the lie to? Now think of this illustration regarding God.

The **Holiness of God:** 2 Kings 19:22, Job 6:10, Ps. 71:22, 78:41, 89:18, Isa. 1:4

- Read Isaiah 6:1-10 – What does Isaiah hear the seraphim say about God?
  - How did the posts of the door react?
  - What did Isaiah pronounce against himself?
  - What did Isaiah need to happen in His presence?
  
- Isaiah 57:15  
(15) For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

## Measure of Damnation

### **Mark 12:40**

(40) Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

**Matthew 11:22**

(22) But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

**Romans 2:4-5**

(4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

(5) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

14) In God's righteous judgment of sinners, of you, is it possible to receive greater punishment than others?

*The scriptures are not only sure that the judgment of God is according to truth, but that the event of His judgment is sure.*

**Assurance of Judgment****Acts 17:30-31**

(30) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (31) Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

**Philippians 2:8-11**

(8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

15) How is one sure that God will judge the world in righteousness?

16) Is this good news or bad news for sinners?

### APPLICATION

1. According to these verses are you a sinner? What makes you a sinner?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How many sins does it take to be worthy of God's wrath? Are you deserving of God's wrath?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How long and great is God's condemnation of sinners? Why is one sin worthy of eternal damnation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is your response to the truthfulness of these things? Does your eternal destiny concern you?

### Preparation for Next Study: The Provision of Salvation

Read Romans 1:16-18, 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Tim. 2:5-6

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

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