

Soteriology

The Biblical Study and
Doctrine of Salvation

Salvation

(Soteriology – The Biblical Study and Doctrine of Salvation)

Introduction:

As in our previous doctrinal studies, we cannot attempt an exhaustive study in one setting (although the topic of salvation does require more attention), but instead, we will introduce the doctrine and attempt a limited overview in hopes that your hunger will be provoked to a greater seeking and discovery in God's word. We offer this promise as we begin.

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:13

I. What is the Concept of Soteriology?

Soteriology is the biblical branch of theology dealing specifically with the study of Salvation.

Salvation is God's plan to reconcile to Himself to fallen mankind and all His creation from the horrible consequences of sin described in Genesis 3-6. This is accomplished through **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." **John 14:6**

“Nor is there **salvation** in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12**

Soteriology is all about the work of **Jesus** because Jesus is **the Savior**.

II. How does Soteriology Relate to the Other Branches of Theology?

Soteriology is the center and connection between all the other branches of theology. All the doctrines we've studied so far, including those concerning our past history, and all the doctrines we will study, including those concerning our future hope, are anchored in Jesus. **Jesus is the center**.

III. Since Soteriology is the doctrine of God's salvation of all things through

Jesus as it pertains to mankind; it considers a number of important facets including *faith, repentance, forgiveness, regeneration, justification, redemption, adoption, sanctification and glorification*. These could easily be individual studies but altogether

can be considered the doctrine of salvation. *For simple definitions of these terms see the last page.

We will look at some of these facets in this study.

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SALVATION

A. The Definition of Salvation

1. **In the Old Testament** the Hebrew word most frequently used to speak of salvation is **yasa**, which means to “save, help in distress, rescue, deliver or set free.”

The **New Testament** term for salvation comes from the Greek words, **sōtēria** and **sōtērion**, meaning “salvation,” and is also related to **sōtēr**, meaning “savior” as well as **sōzō**, which means “saved or safe.”

Soteriology encompasses the complete idea of **those who need salvation**, the **capable savior** who is **willing to save** and finally, the **condition of those who are saved**.

Salvation in one word: Rescue

Salvation in one person: Jesus

Salvation in one sentence: Mankind is separated from God their creator because of sin but is rescued by God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus’ disciples, John, said it best in his account of Jesus.

“For God (the Father) so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus), that whoever (you) believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **John 3:16**

B. Salvation is Perfect in Simplicity

Simple enough for a child to understand.

1. **Gospel means Good News and Good News should be Simple.**

If someone is searching and aware of their sinful nature, just a simple invitation to put faith in Jesus is enough to send them into His arms.

“Then he (the jailer) called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” **Acts 16:29-31**

2. **A child can understand** that doing wrong is sin and that sin must be

dealt with. God has given everyone a conscience. Even a young child can understand the need to be forgiven of wrong and will love the one who forgives.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." **Luke 18:16-17**

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II

Corinthians 11:3

3. Salvation in Jesus can be as Simple as A B C

A **Admit** that you are a sinner, have need of a Savior and **Apologize**.

"For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Ecclesiastes 7:20

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.."

Romans 3:23

B **Believe** that God loves you and sent Jesus to die for your sins.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **John 3:16**

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." **Acts 16:31**

C **Confess** your belief in Jesus and **Call** on Him for salvation.

Ask Him for forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.

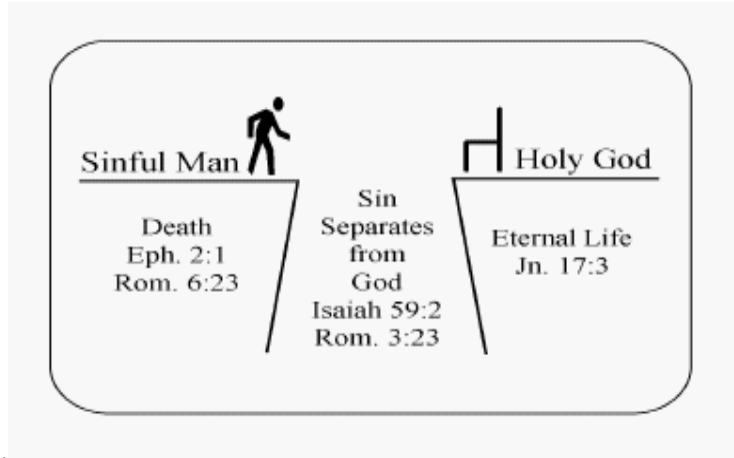
"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes

on Him will not be put to shame. For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." **Romans 10:10,11,13**

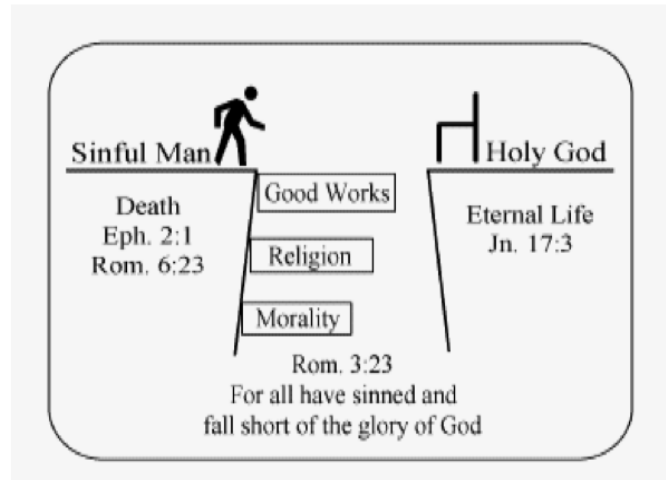
"He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:15-16 (Luke 9:25)

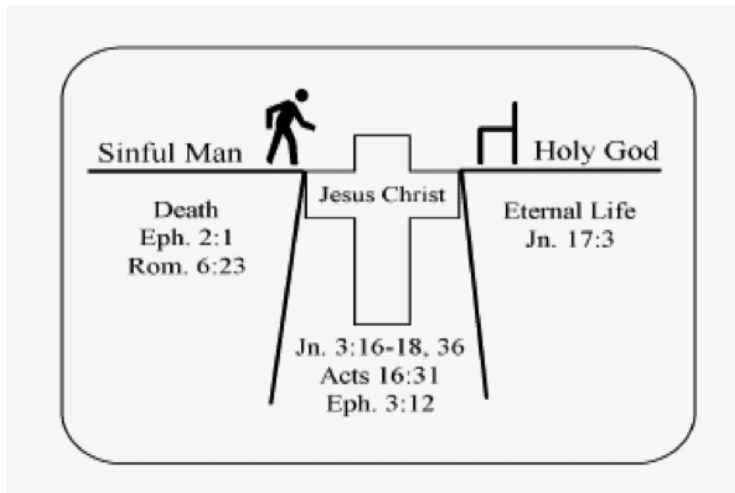
These three drawings clearly present our need and Jesus as the answer.



1.



2.



Only Jesus can bridge the gap between sinful man and Holy God.

Now, if you read this far and have asked God to forgive your sins and believed on Jesus, Praise God! The angels rejoice! (Luke 15:7) Read on to see some of the depth of God's great salvation in Jesus for you.

C. Salvation is also Brilliant in Complexity.

*Simple enough for a child to understand,
yet, complex enough to amaze the most brilliant scholar.*

Look at this quote by theologian Thomas Oden.

“(Salvation) is one of the most comprehensive terms of Christian teaching, gathering into a single word-picture a broad range of theological *loci, crucial to the Christian life: Redemption, Reconciliation, Atonement, Propitiation, Predestination, Calling, Covenant, Grace, Conviction, Repentance, Forgiveness, Justification, Adoption, Faith, Conversion, Regeneration, Sanctification, and Perseverance.” – **Thomas Oden**

**Loci is the plural of locus, it means a place or locality. The method of loci in this sense is a strategy of stringing together a number of important places, events or concepts along a journey in order to help recall the whole.*

This is the reason why any serious study of soteriology looks at the many words and terms that are used to describe and define the beauty and depth of our great salvation Jesus has purchased for us.

D. The Necessity of Salvation.

If you come from a church background or have some understanding of the bible, you are probably familiar with Old Testament background and themes. **If you are**

unfamiliar with the bible, then understanding the need to be saved may seem foreign or strange. This description in Genesis sounds severe:

*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. -- The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. **Genesis 6:5, 6, 11, 12***

Without the context of the Old Testament, Genesis in particular, and an understanding of the wretchedness of our sinful situation, it is difficult to appreciate how good the good news of salvation really is. You would do well to begin by reading Genesis, especially the first few chapters.

Simply put, in the beginning, there was a time when sin was not a part of mankind's existence. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God at Satan's prompting, everything went horribly wrong. So wrong that God's glory was skewed in man's eyes. Satan appears to have the upper hand. Mankind's nature and will were contaminated and all creation was affected. Mankind has fallen fatally and can do nothing to help himself. This, in part, is the necessity of God to save.

1. For God's Glory

God's Glory has been affected on earth. Satan challenged God's glory (Genesis 3:1-5) and mankind's fall was a result. It's necessary for God's Glory to be restored. Jesus is bringing all things back into God's order for His ultimate Glory.

*"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **Philippians 2:10-11** (Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24)*

*"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." **John 17:4-5***

*"Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." **1 Corinthians 15:28***

2. For Mankind's Rescue

Mankind's salvation is at the heart of God's plan (John 3:16). If we understand that mankind is the pinnacle of God's creation, that we are indeed created in His image (Genesis 1:26), that Satan through deception (Genesis 3:4-5) introduced sin that separated us from God, bringing both physical and spiritual death, and that we are truly doomed without a savior (Ephesians 2:12), then our redemption is a necessity.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own (sinful) way; And the LORD has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all." **Isaiah 53:6**

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

Galatians 4:4-5

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Colossians 1:21-22

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

1 Timothy 1:15

"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Titus 3:5-7

3. For All Creation

As a result of man's sin the whole world is under a curse and groans for deliverance. Salvation is necessary for all creation.

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you," **Genesis 3:17-18**

"because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know

that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." **Romans 8:21-22** (Revelation 21:1-5)

4. To Destroy the Works of the Devil

For the redemption of all things, it is necessary that Satan and his works are eradicated and destroyed.

"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." **1 John 3:8**

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself (Jesus) likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." **Hebrews 2:14-15** (Colossians 2:15)

E. Jesus is Salvation.

1. Jesus is the "who and how" of God's rescue Plan. Jesus is the rescuer!

When the angel Gabriel told Joseph that Mary would have a son who was conceived by God, He must name Him Jesus.

"And she (Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS**, for He will **save** His people from their sins." **Matthew 1:21**

a. Jesus very name means "**Jehovah is salvation.**"

b. Why was He to be named Jesus? Because He shall "**save.**"

c. Save who? He shall save His people from "**their sins.**"

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross." **Colossians 1:19-20**

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." **Colossians 2:15**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 6:23**

"when He (Jesus) had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high," **Hebrews 1:3**

2. Jesus is the Sacrificial Lamb of God.

In the Old Testament, to pay for mankind's sins, a lamb would be sacrificed. In Leviticus 3-7 we see the elaborate detail in the Peace, Sin and Trespass offerings. The priest would confess the sins of the people, transferring their sins to the sacrifice lambs. Since death was the result of sin, a sacrificial lamb would die in place of the people. God was showing that to deal with our sins and its consequential death, there needed to be a substitute. Life for life, blood for blood; to atone for sin was costly.

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (of sin).”

Hebrews 9:22

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

Isaiah 53:5-7 (I Peter 2:22-25)

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” **John 1:29, 36** (Revelation 5:6, 9-14)

“For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **2 Corinthians 5:21**

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” **1 John 1:7**

3. Jesus is the Last Adam

All that salvation entails is found in the **one perfect man, Jesus**. Without Jesus there would be absolutely no means of salvation. Jesus became the one perfect man through whom a new regenerate people would come.

Adam's sin brought death, Jesus' death brings life.

“For if by the one man's (Adam's) offense **death** reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of **righteousness** will reign in **life** through the One, (Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offense (Adam's) judgment came to all men, resulting in

condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act (Jesus) the free gift came to all men, resulting in **justification** of life." **Romans 5:17-18**

"And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." **1 Corinthians 15:45**

F. Salvation in Three Tenses: Past, Present and Future.

Salvation in its fullest sense, as it relates to us, encompasses and speaks to the past, present and the future work of God in our lives. Understanding this gives us great confidence. Paul in his letter to Titus hints at this idea.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Titus 2:11-14

1. In the *Past* – You were saved from the penalty of sin

*This relates to the terms faith, repentance, regeneration, redemption justification and adoption. * See the last page for definitions.*

When we hear the good news about Jesus, believe on Him as savior and repent of our sins, our spirit has been made alive. The bible speaks of us as *having been saved*.

"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit," **Titus 3:3-5**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," **Ephesians 2:8** (Ephesians 2:5;

1 Corinthians 6:11; Colossians 1:13, 2:13-15; Romans 5:1-2)

2. In the *Present* – You are being saved from the power of sin

This relates to the term sanctification, which is both immediate and ongoing through out our life of walking with Jesus.

In the present as we walk out our salvation, *from glory to glory, in day to day* life the bible speaks of us as *being saved*. We are being kept safe in Jesus. We are secure in our faith.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

1 Corinthians 1:18 (2:15)

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from *glory to glory*, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” **2 Corinthians 3:18**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed *day by day*.

2 Corinthians 4:16 (Ephesians 2:10)

3. *In the Future – You will be saved from the presence of sin*

This relates to the term glorification and is covered in the next section.

The bible also speaks of the consummation or completion of our salvation in the future as “*will be saved.*”

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” **John 10:9**

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” **Romans 5:9-10**

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” **Romans 13:11**

“(Speaking of the Holy Spirit) whom He (God) poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” **Titus 3:6-7**
(Romans 8:23-24; Philippians 1:3-6; 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2; Hebrews 7:25; 10:23)

4. What about those Warnings?

There are also many warnings in the bible that encourage us to walk the walk of faith each day, looking forward in hope. These are not intended to make us doubt, but instead to provoke and encourage us to remain faithful, walking in Jesus, through difficulty and even suffering to the end.

“And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” **Matthew 10:22 (24:13)**

“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.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” **Philippians 2:12**

“if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,” **Colossians 1:23a**
(1 Corinthians 3:15; James 1:12; Revelation 2:10-11)

G. Salvation in Four Key Terms

Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.

Salvation as a past, present and future work in our lives (as discussed) can also be seen in four broad works of God that span our lives. This can be described with four key words, **Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification and Glorification**. These words are old words that have fallen out of use but they are important words that are rich in meaning. Let’s look at each one more closely and how they apply to our salvation from start to finish.

1. Regeneration – Saved to a new spiritual life

Regeneration speaks of being birthed into the family of God. It is the beginning point of our new relationship with God.

The Greek word “paliggenesia” means “to give new birth, the act of reproduction, renewal, recreation, regeneration.” As a result of this work of God’s Spirit we are **born again**. We are made new as God has given us His new eternal life and a new beginning.

“Jesus answered and said to him (Nicodemus), “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” **John 3:3,5-6**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,
I Peter 1:22-23 Titus 3:5

2. Justification – Saved from **the sentence of sin**

Justification speaks of our condition and position with God.

The Greek word “dikaiōsis” is a legal term meaning, “The act of being declared righteous.” This is a work that Jesus alone could accomplish for us. A simple way to understand justification, as it relates to the work of Jesus on the cross, and concerning my sin is this: as I acknowledge my sin and ask God to forgive me, He now sees me **“Just if I’d never done it.”** Like I’d never sinned. As our sins are forgiven and we are made alive spiritually, our relationship with Him is restored and we have a right standing with Him (righteous = right ness with God).

a. The **source** of justification is God's free grace.

"Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." **Romans 3:24** (Ephesians 2:8)

b. The **power** of justification is Christ's blood.

"Much more then, have now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." **Romans 5:9**

c. The **condition** for justification is faith in Christ.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith in Jesus Christ,..” **Galatians 2:16a** (Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 11:6)

d. The **evidence** of justification is good works.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:10** (Titus 2:14)

e. The **benefits** of justification

1) Our sins are forgiven.

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses." **Acts 13:38-39**

2) Our guilt is removed.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."
Romans 8:1

3) We have peace with God.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” **Romans 5:1**

4) God now sees us as righteous.

“But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works” **Romans 4:6**

3. Sanctification – Saved from **the grip and hindrance of sin**

Sanctification speaks of our cleansing by God, our walking with God and service to God.

The Greek word is “agiasmos” which means “Holiness, consecration and purification.” This is the work of God in our lives where God washes away our sin making us holy in His sight and sets us apart for His good purposes and intentions. This is seen in two respects; **Immediate** sanctification and **Continual** sanctification.

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,” **Hebrews 2:11**

a. Sanctification that is immediate.

This is an initial work of God’s Spirit when we repent and ask for forgiveness. God removes our sins and makes us holy.

“to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” **Acts 26:18**

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” **1 Corinthians 6:11**

“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:” **1 Peter 1:2**

“To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” **Jude 1:2**

b. Sanctification that is continual.

This is the life process of growing in holiness. This sanctification is happening on a daily basis and speaks of following in the path of righteousness and seeking the mind of Christ. We are to grow.

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.”

2 Peter 3:18

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” **2 Corinthians 7:1**

“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” **Hebrews 10:14**

The bible does not suggest any short cuts to the ongoing work of sanctification. This takes place when we are devoted to the spiritual disciplines of reading the Word of God, prayer, meditation, sharing our faith and communion of believers and fellowship (more about this in a future doctrine study). Sanctification refers to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life, whereby the person becomes increasingly more like Christ. This ongoing process continues until the redeemed person is resurrected and made completely holy in heaven (glorification).

4. Glorification – We will be saved from the existence of sin

Glorification speaks of lives that mirror God’s image and character.

Some might consider this complete or perfect sanctification.

The Greek word is “doxazo” or “doxa” which means “To render esteem, to honor, to magnify.” To cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged as renowned or illustrious. This is exactly what Jesus did with His life and what He calls us to do as well: bring Glory to God. The interesting thing is, as we bring glory to God through our lives, in turn, we will be glorified with Him. (John 17:17)

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” **Romans 8:17**
(8:30)

Jesus glorified the father (**John 17:4**) and The Father glorified the Son. (**John 17:1, 5**) Glorification is man's ultimate hope (**John 17:22; Romans 8:17; 21-23, 30; 2 Corinthians 5:2-5; 2 Peter 1:2-4**).

We look forward in hope to the complete work of God in our lives.

This is the final state, which will only be attained when we are fully and completely made new, like Jesus, with resurrected eternal bodies, free from sin's presence, set apart to God in heaven.

"Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." **1 John 3:2**

"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life." **2 Corinthians 5:1-4**

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." **Romans 8:16-18**

"Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." **Revelation 21:5-7**

H. Assurance of Salvation

Often a person does not have the assurance of sins forgiven and of belonging to God. Some have prolonged periods of doubt and uncertainty. If a person has made a conscious commitment to Jesus Christ, believed on him as savior, invited him to take control of their life, there can be assurance and certainty that they are a child of God. John 6:37

It is also possible that a child of God will get out of fellowship with God. However, restoration is possible through confession of sin and a life of consistent fellowship and communion with believers.

I John 1:8-10; Hebrews 10:25

A believer's desire for assurance is not an opportunity to become careless or indifferent, or cease to apply oneself to the responsibilities connected with their privilege. It can however be the means of real encouragement, peace, rest and contentment in our lives.

1. The complete work of Christ

The work on the cross is done and therefore nothing more needs to be done to make atonement for a man's sin. It has been accomplished. **Philippians 1:6; John 19:30**

2. The dependability of the word.

God's word can be trusted and remains trustworthy. Therefore, the believer has a sure source of information regarding God's statements concerning their personal salvation. **Hebrews 11:6; 2Peter 1:16-21**

3. The Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at new birth and comes to stay. He empowers us and produces godly fruit in our lives, giving us assurance that we belong to God. **Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 8:16-17**

4. The desire to serve Jesus

A desire to follow Jesus and serve Him is a natural result of a truly changed and thankful believer. **Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:10**

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that *by believing you may have life in his name.* **John 20:30**

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that *you may know that you have eternal life.* **I John 5:13**

Words Associated with Soteriology - Brief Definitions

Faith: the active, believing, accepting of God's truth, including His verdict of sin, and acting upon it.

Repentance: a change of mind and attitude resulting in a change of direction or action. (to turn around 180 degrees)

Forgiveness: the effective and complete removal of sin, never to be used against us, remembered or recalled.

Regeneration: the imparting of new spiritual life and the divine nature of God to the believing sinner.

Redemption: purchase as God's own particular possession with and by the price of Jesus Christ own shed blood.

Justification: the act whereby God declares the believing sinner to be righteous and free from sin and guilt, which once were judicially binding.

Adoption: God's acceptance of believers into his family as responsible adults with full benefits and responsibilities.

Assurance: the state of wellbeing, free from anxiety and fear concerning one's personal salvation as found recorded in the bible.

Sanctification: as a state of being, to be made spiritually holy and "set apart for God's purposes and as an ongoing work; it is the experience by which a person is growing and being refined for God's glory through surrender and obedience.

Glorification: the final aspect or state of the believer's condition by which he is made like Jesus, including a new glorified, incorruptible, eternal body.