

Christianity 101
What is Salvation?

A Bible Study of The Mount Zion Church

Written by
Pastor Ken Patterson



Introduction: In the previous lesson, students will recall the focus on Sin. The purpose of the lesson was to help each of us remember that sin is real, that sin is anything that we do against the desires of God, and sin has consequences. The consequence of sin is that a debt separation with God is created. In the following lesson, we begin with a reminder of the impact of sin and then move to an explanation of what it costs to overcome the impact of sin. The long and short of it is that a price must be paid which saves mankind from the responsibility of fixing the problem sin creates.



Sin creates separation between Man and God? In Isaiah 59: 1-2 we can read what sin does, but this is a general explanation. In Genesis 3, we are able to read the actual reality of the burden sin causes from the very first sin. This pattern is repeated each time sin occurs.

Again, take a look at Genesis 3. Which verse proves that Adam and Eve and God are now disconnected from one another?

Notice the following:

1. Adam's response to God coming through the garden
2. Adam's shame
3. Adam's response to God regarding the gift of Eve

Consider when you have sinned. How do you feel? If you sinned and hurt someone, how does it harm the relationship? These results are the same results Adam and Eve felt towards God. This is also the feeling Jesus had on the cross when he screamed "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27: 46). Forsaken, meaning to leave or turn one's back on another, is the ultimate consequence we face for sin. God turns His back on us. We are separated from God! Why? Because a holy God cannot exist around an unholy people. The relationship is broken.

Review: What does this mean for Man? Remember the promise of God. In that day that you eat of it, you shall surely die. Death in the context of what God meant was to be separated from Him; the source of life. Mankind is now in a position where we

cannot be in the presence of a Holy God due to our imperfect (sin) nature. We are eternally separated from God.

Why Salvation?

The New Testament picks up on the concept of the consequence of sin in passages such as Romans 6: 23. We are separated from God and have earned eternal separation (wages). We need help. Our help saves us from what we have earned, but it comes in three basic ways.

Saved from the Penalty of Sin

In order for there to be a breaking of God's rules (sin), we must have knowledge of God's rules. The Bible sets forth the expectations of God for His people in the Old Testament beginning in Exodus 20. Here you can find the Ten Commandments. These are the initial legal responsibilities God gave to Moses. They are not the total set of rules. If you were to read from Genesis 20 through the Book of Deuteronomy, you would find the majority of "The Law" given to the people.

1. Why would God give so many rules for His people?
2. Can people actually follow all of the rules?
3. Do the rules apply today?
4. What is the greatest rule?
5. What is the penalty for breaking a rule?

How do we fix what is broken?

When people are struggling with sin, what are some things you often tell them to do?

- Act better
- Try harder
- Think before you act
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Why do we struggle to follow these directions? Did you know that sin is part of our spiritual DNA? In Romans 7: 21-25 we find the issue. Our desire may be to do right, but we are at war with ourselves. We need help!



In Leviticus 4, we begin to clearly see God’s plan to solve our sin problem. There is always a need **for a death** to pay for sin. Take a moment and analyze the actions one must go through for a sin that has been committed. Write the actions below



Did that chapter apply to people who accidentally sinned????!! YES!!! All that for someone who did not sin on purpose!

Leviticus 7 is for people who sin knowingly, on purpose! And they must do even more than what was done in Chapter 4. The point is this. To solve the problem of Sin, a death payment is required.

What if God required us to pay the penalty with our own lives! Unfortunately, we ARE required to pay with our own lives unless there is a substitute as seen in The Old Testament. A close inspection of the sin issue clearly indicates that the only solution for sin is to pay for it with a death. One option is for there to be a substitute payment. We do not die; something substitutes for the sin that was committed. In the Old Testament days, the substitute was animals.

Now, we have the opportunity (if we choose) to have Jesus as our substitute. In 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21, we can read God’s complete plan of salvation. Notice, what sin does is mentioned. Then see how God fixes the problem. Then notice what we are to do as a result.

1. Sin does what?

2. God does what?

3. We are to do what?



My favorite verse about God’s plan for sin is Romans 5: 8 because I find the reason for God saving each of us. God loves mankind to such an extent that he would give his own son as our substitute while we were still sinning. His solution pays the once and for all sin debt. This is the reason we should choose God’s plan of salvation; **because He cares so much for us!**

What have you learned as a result of this lesson?
