

Understanding Your Salvation

Key Verses:

John 3:3 – *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Romans 6:3, 4 – *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? v.4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

The Objective: Understanding your salvation is vital to growing a rich relationship with God. In this lesson, you will learn what the new birth is and the purpose of water baptism.

1) What is salvation?

- a) Salvation entails God’s deliverance of humans from the power and effects of sin through the work of Jesus Christ so that we may enjoy the fullness of life He intended for His creation.
- b) In order to be saved (experience salvation) and follow the Lord Jesus as His disciples, we must first believe that we are sinners and that Jesus’ death on the cross, paid the price for our sins. We must repent and ask God to forgive us. Then, we must yield our lives to Jesus and make Him Lord and Savior.

Being a sinner means you were spiritually _____ in your sin, and even though God loved you, you were separated from Him. (Ephesians 2:1 – *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...*)

2) What does it mean to be born again?

- a) To be born again means to receive the _____ of God in your spirit through _____.

- i) Saving faith is the faith that leads to salvation.
- ii) Saving faith is believing in Jesus from the heart.

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 10:9, 10 – *... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. v. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

- iii) Saving faith means to believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, v. 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- b) Jesus used this expression while explaining to Nicodemus how a person enters the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-7). When a person is truly converted at salvation, there is a powerful inner cleansing and renewal of the human nature. This is often called the doctrine of _____.

Titus 3:5 – *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

- c) The saved person's spiritual condition is transformed from a _____ of sin to a newly found desire to _____ God through _____.

Romans 6:17 – *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed...*

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

3) What are the results of the new birth?

a) Through the new birth, you receive the _____ of Christ.

Romans 5:19 – For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

b) The new birth _____ you to all that was lost through Adam’s fall.

i) Your responsibility is to continually grow in faith and thereby, experience these things to God’s fullest intent.

ii) You now have the right to a rich inheritance as sons and daughters of God. Whether you experience them or not, is up to you.

Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

Ephesians 1:11 – In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.

(1) Healing

(2) Soundness of mind

(3) Prosperity and favor

(4) Protection

(5) Unconditional love and fellowship with God

c) You receive God’s _____ and _____.

Sin caused humanity to forfeit God’s rule and to relinquish its authority upon the earth to establish God’s Kingdom. But now, through the new birth, God has restored us to His original plan. The new birth does this by giving us legal authority and power over both sin and Satan.

- i) Power over sin and the flesh: Romans 8:2 – *For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*
- ii) Power over Satan and his demonic forces: Luke 10:17-19 – *The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” v. 18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. v. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”*

The Purpose of Water Baptism

- 1) Water baptism is a symbolic ordinance _____ by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:19 – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

- 2) Baptism signifies the _____ work of the Holy Spirit at salvation. Therefore, when a believer is baptized, he is identifying himself with the _____ of his old life and the power of the _____ life of Christ.

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REFLECT

1. Is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ a present reality in your life or is that a future event?
2. Discuss the difference between accepting Jesus as your Savior and making Christ Lord of your life.
3. Why is believing in Jesus insufficient to be saved without confessing Christ as Lord? (See Romans 10:9-10.)
4. Sharing how your life has changed since being saved (born again, regenerated) is a good way to tell others about Jesus. How has your life changed since becoming a disciple of Jesus?
5. Have you ever been baptized in water as an act of obedience to the Lord's command? If not, would you like to be? If it happened when you were a child, would you like to be baptized in water again as an act of rededication?

ACT

Read Chapter 1, *Saved* in The Big 5 booklet and fill in the blanks by your next group meeting.