

SALVATION PRINCIPLES

Like physical birth, spiritual birth is the entrance into a new life. The purpose of this lesson is to explain some things that happen to a believer at conversion. Obviously there are other principles and truths that can be added.

1. MERCY & GRACE

“*Mercy*” = When I am not given what I deserve.

“*Grace*” = When I am given what I don’t deserve.

Illustration of Speeding Ticket -

“*Good fortune*” - if you’re not caught.

“*Justice*” - if you’re caught and given a ticket.

“*Mercy*” - if you’re caught, but not given a ticket.

“*Grace*” - if you’re caught, given a ticket, but the officer pays the fine.

2. THE APOSTLE PAUL DESCRIBES WHAT I WAS LIKE BEFORE GOD SAVED ME, AND WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ME. (Discuss terminology as needed.)

Rom. 3:10-12 *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”*

Rom. 5:6-10 *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while 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.*

Eph. 2:1-9 *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Eph. 2:12 *remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, ... having no hope and without God in the world.*

Eph. 4:17-19 *... darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God ...*

3. GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF SUBSTITUTION

a. God's grace was evident even when Adam and Eve first disobeyed Him.

Genesis 2:15-17 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

2:25 *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

Genesis 3:

:6-7 *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

:8-12 *They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."*

:13 *Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

:20 *Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

:21-24 *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like One of Us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Adam & Eve were given one commandment, which they disobeyed. Then they tried to make themselves acceptable to God - represented by the fig leaf cover-up. They each blamed someone else. They got what they deserved - Justice. Then God gave them what they didn't deserve - Grace - represented by His animal substitute. An innocent animal's life was sacrificed as a result of their sin. This animal sacrifice was a representation of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for the sin of the entire human race.

b. The Passover - another picture of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice.

Exodus 12:1 *Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,*

:12-13 *'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord. 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

:21-22 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay **the Passover lamb**. “You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin **to the lintel and the two doorposts**; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

:23 “For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.

:24-27 “And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children **forever**. “And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’ ” And the people bowed low and worshiped.

:29-30 Now it came about at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.

John 1:29 The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Cor. 5:7 ... For **Christ our Passover** also has been sacrificed.

The Israelites were in **slavery** to the Egyptians. A lamb was killed as a **substitute**.

Wherever there was **blood** the inhabitants of the house were spared from God’s judgment.

When the Lord saw blood on a doorpost, He could say, “**Judgment has already been here**”.

(Illustration: One of the safest places during a forest fire is where the fire has already burned)

c. Jesus Christ’s sacrifice as our “Substitute” was God’s plan for our salvation.

Isaiah 53:4-6 **Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.** All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but **the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.**

2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake He made Christ [virtually] **to be sin** Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]. (Amplified New Testament)

Gal. 3:13 Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] **becoming a curse for us**, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); (Amplified NT)

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, **the Righteous** for the unrighteous (**the Just** for the unjust, **the Innocent** for the guilty), that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the spirit, (Amplified New Testament)

4. I HAVE BEEN SAVED BY HIS LOVE, NOT BECAUSE I AM DESERVING.

John 6:37 (Jesus said) All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away.

John 6:44 (Jesus said) “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Rom. 3:10-12 As it is written: “... there is ... no one who seeks God. ...”

Rom. 4:4-8 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

Eph. 1:3-8 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Titus 3:3-8 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; ...

5. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “RELIGION” AND “CHRISTIANITY”?

“Religion” worldwide teaches that there is something you can do to make yourself acceptable before God. “True Christianity” teaches that only what Christ has done on your behalf is able to make you acceptable before God.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

6. JESUS GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF SALVATION. (John 5:24 - a great verse to memorize)

(Jesus said) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Eternal life is not an object, but rather an endless quality of existence with God.