



Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation



Salvation

The Uniqueness of the Christian Faith



A Major Conundrum!

We have a perfect God who created man in His image, but man chose to sin.

1. Adam as our representative brought about the sentence of death:
 - a. Separation from God (no personal relationship).
 - b. Spiritual darkness (no way to get back to God).
 - c. Physical death & eternal separation (Romans 5:12-14; 6:23).
2. Man is born in sin and has a sin nature from conception (Psalm 51:5).
3. Everyone is personally responsible (Romans 3:23).

What Then?

How does a righteous, holy God have a relationship with sinful man?

1. Man has no options to make the relationship whole.
2. The only answer is that God must do something consistent with His character to rectify this overwhelming problem for man.

Table Discussion

Examine the attributes of God in the Scriptures listed and discuss these questions:

1. What attributes are unique to our God and the Christian faith?
2. What attributes are in play for answering our dilemma?

Attributes of God

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Spirituality – John 4:24 | 9. Righteousness / Justice – Deuteronomy 32:4, Isaiah 45:19 |
| 2. Invisibility – 1 Timothy 6:16 | 10. Jealous – Exodus 20:5, Isaiah 48:11 |
| 3. Omniscience – 1 John 3:20 | 11. Wrath – John 3:36 |
| 4. Wisdom – Romans 16:20 | 12. Will / Sovereignty – Ephesians 1:11 |
| 5. Truthfulness – John 14:6; 17:3 | 13. Omnipotence – Revelation 4:11 |
| 6. Goodness – Luke 18:19 | |
| 7. Love – 1 John 4:8 | |
| 8. Holiness – Exodus 26:33 | |

Story of Salvation, Grace & Hope

Background starts in Genesis.

1. Chapter 3 = The Fall.
 - Death entered creation.
 - First hint that God would make a provision.
2. Chapter 12 = The Covenant.
 - God makes a covenant with Abraham.
3. Isaiah 53 = The Prophecy.
 - God repeatedly foretells of a coming answer to the dilemma.

Story of Salvation, Grace & Hope

The Answer:

1. The Incarnation.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14
2. The Cross.

For the word 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

Answering Our Dilemma without Violating His Character

God Answered Our Dilemma:

- Philippians 2:3-11 – Emptied Himself and took on the form of man.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – Was made sin.
- 1 Peter 2:24 – Bore our penalty.
- Romans 5:9 – Bore the wrath of God.
- Romans 5:8 – Jesus died for us.

Answering Our Dilemma without Violating His Character

Without Violating His Character:

- Hebrews 9:22 – No forgiveness without the shedding of blood.
- 1 Peter 1:19 – Redeemed with blood.
- Romans 5:9 – Justified us by His blood.
- Romans 3:25 – God was propitiated through His blood.
- Romans 5:11 – God reconciled our relationship.
- Colossians 2:13 – He has forgiven us.
- John 1:29, Revelation 12:11 – He was the lamb of God.

Table Discussion

Match up God's attributes with the actions taken to save us.

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Actions Taken by God

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Philippians 2:3-11 – Emptied Himself and took on the form of man. | 8. Romans 5:9 – Justified us by His blood. |
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| 3. 1 Peter 2:24 – Bore our penalty. | 10. Romans 5:11 – God reconciled our relationship. |
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| 5. Romans 5:8 – Jesus died for us. | 12. John 1:29, Revelation 12:11 – He was the Lamb of God. |
| 6. Hebrews 9:22 – No forgiveness without the shedding of blood. | |
| 7. 1 Peter 1:19 – Redeemed with blood. | |

Man's Response to God's Provision

What Can a Dead Man Do?

Romans 3

Saved by Grace through Faith.

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.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Man's Response to God's Provision

Faith is the conviction of the heart and mind that what God says is true. It is expressed in different terms throughout Scripture:

1. Believe: that Christ died for your sins (Romans 10).
2. Trust: that His death reconciled you to the Father (John 3:16).
3. Accept: His death was sufficient to satisfy the debt (Romans 5:8).
4. Repent: Turn from self sufficiency and depend on Him for forgiveness (Luke 24:47).
5. Confess: Certainty of being made new and forgiven (2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 1:9).
6. Walk: by Faith (Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 5:7).

Salvation

SALVATION IS:

1. Justification – You were saved from the penalty of sin.
2. Sanctification – You are being saved from the power of sin.
3. Glorification – You will be saved from the presence of sin.

Salvation


