

SALVATION

The Gospel

The word “gospel” (Greek *euangelion*) literally means “good news.”

- What does the fact that the first four books of the New Testament are called “The Gospels” tell us about the content of the gospel message?
- How does Mark refer to itself in 1:1?
- What does Acts 20:24 call the gospel?
- What does Romans 15:19 call it?
- What does Ephesians 1:13 refer to it as?
- What does 2 Thessalonians 1:8 call it?
- How does 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 summarize the gospel message?
- How did Peter summarize it in Acts 2:22-24?
- How is it presented in Romans 4:25?
- How does Paul explain it in 2 Timothy 2:8?

The Gospel states that Jesus “died for our sins.” In other words, He died in our place and took our punishment on Himself. Theologians refer to this as “substitutionary atonement,” meaning that He served as our substitute. Sometimes it is also referred to as “Christ’s vicarious death.” A vicar is someone who stands in the place of another or represents another. Christ’s death was vicarious because He took our place and represented us on the cross.

- What does Romans 6:23 say about sin? How does this relate to “substitutionary atonement?”
- What words in Galatians 3:13 indicate that Jesus’ death was vicarious?
- According to 2 Corinthians 5:14, what did Christ do on the cross?
- How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 point to the fact that Christ served as our substitute?
- How does Isaiah 53:5-6 indicate that Christ’s death was vicarious?
- This doctrine is also closely tied to the OT sacrificial system. Animal sacrifices served as types of Christ (see John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:22; 10:1-3, 11-12). How does Genesis 22:13 indicate that the ram served vicariously for Isaac?
- How do the sacrificial rituals described in Leviticus 1:4 and 16:21-22 vividly portray their substitutionary nature?
- What important fact about Jesus’ resurrection does Luke 24:36-43 stress?
- According to 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, how many witnesses saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead?
- In 1 Corinthians 15:6, what is the significance of Paul’s statement that most of these witnesses were still living at the time he wrote this?
- What does Romans 1:16-17 tell us about the Gospel?
- How does 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 describe the Christians’ relationship to the gospel?

What do we have to do in order to be saved?

- According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how were we saved? How were we not saved? What does this mean?
- What was it that made salvation possible according to Titus 3:3-7?
- What is salvation described as being in Romans 6:23? What is this contrasted with?
- According to John 3:16, what ultimately lies behind salvation?
- How are we saved according to Acts 15:11?
- Romans 3:23-24 says that there is only one way anyone can be saved. What is it?
- According to Romans 11:6, when it comes to salvation, how are faith and works related to each other?
- How does Ephesians 1:6-7 describe God's love?
- According to Ephesians 2:4-5, what made salvation possible?
- How does Ephesians 2:7 describe the grace that made salvation possible?
- According to 1 John 5:11-12 where is life found?
- According to Acts 4:12 where is salvation found?
- What does John 14:6 tell us about Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to do in Mark 1:15?
- How did Paul and Silas answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" in Acts 16:31?

- According to Acts 20:21, what did Paul tell both the Jews and Greeks to do?

The Greek word translated “repent” throughout the New Testament is *metanoeo* (from *meta* “after” and *noeo* “to perceive”). It means “to change one’s mind or purpose.” It refers to a person who begins to see his sins for what they really are, and they completely disgust Him (in other words, changing one’s mind about sin). He wants nothing more to do with them. Forms of this word appear 62 times in the New Testament.

- What two words does Proverbs 28:13 use to describe repentance?
- How does Isaiah 55:7 describe it?
- What words does Ezekiel 14:6 use to describe repentance?
- What does Luke 3:8 imply about repentance?
- According to Acts 26:20, how does a person prove that his repentance is real?
- How does 2 Corinthians 7:10 describe the relationship between having sorrow over your sins and repentance?

The Greek word translated “believe” is *pisteuo*. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* defines it as ‘to believe,’ also ‘to be persuaded of,’ and hence, ‘to place confidence in, to trust’.

- What promise does God give us in John 3:14-18? What are the consequences of rejecting this?
- According to John 3:36, what will God give to all who believe?
- According to John 5:24, what happens to those who believe?
- According to John 6:40, what will God do for those who believe?
- What promise does Jesus give to those who believe in Him in John 11:25-26?

- According to John 20:30-31, why did the apostle write this Gospel?
- In Acts 10:43 what does God promise to do for those who believe?
- What does Acts 13:39 guarantee to everyone who believes?
- In Romans 3:22, what does God promise to give to all who believe?
- According to Romans 10:9-10, what do we have to do in order to be saved?
- According to Gal. 3:22, what will those who believe receive?

Faith is closely related to belief. The Greek word for faith is *pistis*. *Vine's* defines it as 'firm persuasion, a conviction based on hearing.' It goes on to list the main elements in faith as "(1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth; (2) a personal surrender to Him; (3) conduct inspired by such surrender."

- How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith?
- What does Romans 1:5 tell us about real faith?
- According to James 2:14-26, how can we recognize true faith?
- What does Hebrews 11:6 tell us about faith?
- According to Romans 3:28, what do we have to have in order to be saved? What won't result in salvation?
- How does Romans 4:4-5 describe the contrast between trying to earn salvation and receiving it by faith?
- According to Galatians 3:26, what does faith in Christ result in?
- According to Genesis 15:6, how did Abraham become righteous in God's sight? What does

this imply us about how people were saved in the Old Testament?

- What conclusion does Paul draw from this in Romans 4:1-25?
- What does Hebrews 11 imply about all the OT saints? What lay at the heart of their walk with God?

TERMS RELATED TO WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

Atonement: This is an OT word, which is primarily used in passages dealing with animal sacrifices (Lev. 1:4; 4:26). The Hebrew word translated “atonement” literally means “a covering.” Atonement is the act that provides or makes salvation possible. While the actual word doesn’t appear in the NT, the concept does. All the OT animal sacrifices pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God whose sacrificial death takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Redemption: The Greek word translated “redeem” in the NT means to pay a ransom in order to free someone from bondage or captivity. In the days of the Bible it was used to describe when a person purchased a slave in order to set Him free. It was also used to describe when a king paid an enemy to release the captive soldiers he was holding. Before we came to Christ, we were all slaves of sin, but Christ purchased our redemption with His own blood.

- According to Romans 6:6, 17, 19-20, why did we need to be redeemed?
- In Romans 7:14, how does Paul describe his life before he came to Christ?
- What warning did Jesus give us in John 8:34?
- According to Matthew 20:28, how did Jesus redeem us?
- How did God redeem us according to Romans 3:23-24?

- According to Ephesians 1:7, with what were we redeemed?
- How did Christ ransom us according to 1 Timothy 2:5-6?
- According to Titus 2:14, how did Jesus redeem us? From what did He redeem us?
- How did Christ ransom us according to Hebrews 9:15?
- According to 1 Peter 1:18-19, with what were we redeemed?

Propitiation: A sacrifice offered in order to turn away the wrath of an angry deity. Jesus' death is the sacrifice that makes propitiation for us. What makes this unique is that it was God Himself who made the sacrifice on our behalf.

- According to Romans 1:18, what results in God's wrath?
- What were we before we came to Christ (Ephesians 2:3)? Why?
- According to Romans 3:25, what serves as our propitiation?
- According to Hebrews 2:17, why did Christ have to become like us?
- According to 1 John 2:2, what is the propitiation for our sins?

Reconciliation: A change from the state of enmity to a state of friendship. We were at enmity with God because of our sin. Not only were we hostile and rebellious toward God, we were objects of His wrath. Now, through Christ's death, we have been reconciled to God. It was God who took the steps necessary for us to be reconciled to God.

- According to Psalm 51:4, why did we need to be reconciled to God?
- How does Isaiah 59:2 relate to our need for reconciliation with God?
- According to Colossians 1:21, why did we need to be reconciled to God?

- What did God do in order to reconcile us to Himself (Colossians 1:22)?
- According to Romans 5:10-11, what were we before we came to Christ? How did God remedy the situation?
- How did God reconcile us to Himself, according to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19?

Salvation: It means rescue or deliverance. Through His death and resurrection, Christ delivered us from the power of sin and death. There is a sense in which we were saved the moment we placed our faith in Christ. However, there is another sense in which salvation is yet to come.

- In Matthew 1:21, what does it say that Jesus will save us from?
- According to Matthew 10:22, when will we be saved? What do you think salvation refers to when it is used this way?
- What do we have to do in order to be saved (Acts 2:21)?
- According to Acts 4:12, there is only one way we can be saved. What is it?
- How are salvation and the Gospel related to one another according to Romans 1:16?
- What will we be saved from (Romans 5:9)? When do you think that this will happen?
- When does Romans 13:11 seem to indicate that our salvation will occur?
- How does 1 Corinthians 15:2 describe the relationship between salvation and the gospel?
- How does Ephesians 1:13 refer to the gospel?

- According to Ephesians 2:5, how were we saved?
- What does 1 Thessalonians 5:9 say about salvation?
- According to 1 Timothy 1:15, who is salvation for?
- Who does God want to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)?
- According to Titus 3:5, why did God save us?
- According to Hebrews 10:39, who are the ones that are saved?
- When will our salvation come, according to 1 Peter 1:5?

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION

Justification: A forensic (having to do with legal proceedings) term. It refers to the act of God in which He pardons a person's sins and declares him to be righteous in His sight. To justify is the opposite of to condemn.

- What does Acts 13:39 reveal about justification?
- According to Romans 3:22-24, what is the only way anyone can be justified?
- According to Romans 3:28, how do we have to be justified? What won't justify anyone?
- What does Romans 5:1 tell us about justification?

- According to Romans 5:9, what justifies us?
- What do we have to do in order to be justified, according to Romans 10:10?
- How were we justified, according to 1 Corinthians 6:11?
- According to Titus 3:7, how are we justified?
- What vivid image does Psalm 103:12 use to describe the results of justification?
- What image does the Lord use to describe it in Isaiah 1:18?
- What words and images does the prophet use to describe it in Micah 7:18-19?

Regeneration: The act of God in which He instantaneously transforms the believer from the inside out. It occurs at the moment of salvation and is also called being “born again.” Both terms emphasize that the Christian has been remade or re-created in Christ.

- According to John 1:12-13, how does a person become “born of God”?
- What phrase does Jesus use in John 3:3 to refer to regeneration? How does this phrase portray the transformation that occurs when a person comes to Christ?
- What does Jesus call it in John 3:8? What does this tell us about regeneration?
- What image does Paul use to describe regeneration in Romans 6:3-10?
- What word does 1 Corinthians 6:11 use to refer to regeneration? (Compare this to 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 3:1)

- How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 describe the change?
- How does Ephesians 2:10 refer to it?
- According to Titus 3:5, how did God save us?
- According to 1 Peter 1:3, what is it that makes the new birth possible?
- According to 1 John 2:29, how can you tell if a person has experienced the new birth?
- How does the new birth change a person, according to 1 John 3:9?
- According to 1 John 4:7, how else can you recognize someone who has been born again?
- According to 1 John 5:1, what do you have to do in order to be born of God?

Adoption: The act of God in which He receives us into His family and makes us His sons and daughters. This also occurs at the moment of salvation.

- According to John 1:12-13, how do we become children of God?
- What is the Holy Spirit called in Romans 8:15-17? What does He cause us to do?
- According to Galatians 4:4-5, what do we receive because Christ redeemed us?
- What did God do for us because we are His children (Galatians 4:6)? What happens as a result?
- According to Ephesians 1:5, how were we adopted?
- According to 1 John 3:1, what is it that demonstrates how great God's love for us is?

Eternal Life: The new life we receive in Christ. We receive it the moment we place our faith in Christ, and it will continue for all eternity.

- According to John 3:14-16, who is eternal life available to? What do we have to do in order to receive it?
- According to John 3:36, who has eternal life? What is the only other alternative?
- What has happened to those who believe in Christ, according to John 5:24?
- Who has eternal life according to John 6:47?
- What does John 10:28 say about those who have eternal life?
- What promise did Jesus give to all those who believe in Him in John 11:25-26?
- According to John 20:31, what do we have to do in order to receive eternal life?
- According to Romans 5:21, what makes eternal life possible?
- What do we have to do in order to have a new life, according to Romans 6:4?
- According to Romans 6:23, what is eternal life?
- According to 1 Timothy 1:16, what do we have to do in order to receive eternal life?
- Where is life found (2 Timothy 1:1)?
- According to 1 John 5:11-13, how can we know that we have eternal life?

Glorification: The final step in salvation. It will happen when Christ returns and raises the bodies of all believers who have died and transforms the bodies of all who are still living. The result is that all will have perfect resurrection bodies like His.

- According to Romans 8:17, what will we share in some day?

- What does Paul call glorification in Romans 8:23-24?
- According to Romans 8:30, what will God do for those He justified?
- How does 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 describe our glorified bodies?
- According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, how will our glorification take place?
- What does Paul call our heavenly bodies in 2 Corinthians 5:1-5? How should we feel about them?
- How does Philippians 3:20-21 describe our glorification?
- According to 1 John 3:2, what will we be like after our glorification?