

"The Doctrine of Salvation"

Romans 3:21-31 & Matthew 19:16 & Acts 16:30

- *Introduction to the text:*
 - Without viewing salvation, and specifically our salvation correctly, we will not grow in our affections for God, we will not strive for holiness as we ought, we will not worship as we ought, and we will drift away (Hebrews 2:1-4).
 - Paul is constantly appealing to the Old Testament to defend the gospel (Romans 3:21 & 31). He is saying that the Law and Prophets point towards Christ and that the work of Christ fulfills the Law (Matthew 5:17-18) and upholds it.
 - The focus of this portion of scripture is "faith". It is mentioned eight times in ten verses, showing the significance of faith in our salvation.
- *"The Righteousness of God":*
 - Our ability to be saved is not found in a righteousness of our own from rule keeping (Galatians 2:16), but in a foreign righteousness, the righteousness of God (Romans 1:16-17). The Law shows us God's perfect righteousness and our sinfulness (Romans 3:20). In salvation, by faith in the work of Christ Jesus, God's righteousness is placed on us because our sin was placed on Christ (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - The Commandments, the sacrifices and offerings, the Feasts, and all of the rest of the Old Testament could not save, but all of this pointed to the One who would, Christ Jesus (Romans 3:10-12; Philippians 3:9).
- *"Received by Faith":*
 - God's righteousness is only possessed/received by faith, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:5). Faith has always been the means of receiving salvation in both the Old and New Testament (Hebrews 11:1-2).
 - Faith is an assurance (a guaranteed confidence) in God's Word. Faith is a conviction (firmly convinced) in God's Word (Hebrews 11:1). And saving faith goes from faith to faith to faith (Hebrews 10:39; Romans 1:17). Salvation is only found in having faith in the work of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:5; Acts 4:11-12; John 14:6).
 - Saving faith always has these three components: *Willful obedience* to turn from my sin and follow Christ (1 John 1:9); an *emotional commitment* to follow Christ with everything in me (Luke 14:25-33); an *understanding of the work of Christ* on my behalf (Romans 10:9-10).
- *"Justified by His Grace":*
 - Justification is being declared righteous in God's sight and being made righteous in God's sight by having Christ's righteousness placed on our lives (Romans 5:1 & 9-11). God is both just and justifier (Romans 3:26). We add nothing to our salvation; there is no pride or boasting in it (Romans 3:27). It is simply received by grace, through faith, in Christ; God did it all! God's justice was seen in God pouring out His wrath on Christ for our sins. God's justice is shown in Christ dying for our sins. God's righteousness is shown by the perfect life of Christ and God's grace is shown by justifying us through faith in Jesus Christ!
- *"Christ Redeemed us and was our Propitiation":*
 - Christ has saved us from our slavery to sin (Romans 6:17). Christ has saved us from our hopeless condition (Romans 3:10-18). Christ has saved us to be slaves of righteousness and live our lives for His glory (Romans 6:18). He did this by His sacrifice on the cross (Hebrews 10:12-14). We are bought by the work of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
 - Propitiation is Christ absorbing the wrath of God that we deserve; His wrath was satisfied by the work of Christ. We were saved by God from God's wrath. This was done so that God is just in placing His righteousness on us (1 John 2:1-4) and when His righteousness is placed on us we will live righteous lives

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Worship: I Stand Amazed (Norton Hall Band) Tis So Sweet (Various Artists)
As the Deer (Various Artists) **Closing Song:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (CityAlight)
Service Times: Sundays: 3:30pm/5:30pm; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30pm/Men 7pm; Thursdays: 7pm

(Romans 2:13; James 1:22). We are now at peace with God and get to enjoy the favor of being His sons and daughters (Romans 5:1-12).

- *“His Divine Forbearance”:*

- God tolerates sin and doesn't have to. God forbears the foolishness of man and doesn't have to (1 Corinthians 3:19-20). God is holy and we are unholy and yet He exhibits kindness, patience, and goodness towards us (Romans 2:4-5). God's forbearance does not last forever. All sin will be punished, because God is just, either on the cross or in Hell (Revelation 20:14-15). God's patience also shows His strength and wisdom, in that man cannot thwart God's purposes (1 Corinthians 1:24-31; Proverbs 21:30; Job 42:2).

“In the creature's knowing, esteeming, loving, rejoicing in, and praising God, the glory of God is both exhibited and acknowledged; His fullness received and returned. So that the whole is of God, and in God, and to God; and God is the beginning, middle, and end of this affair.”

(Jonathan Edwards)