

Session 6

I. Question—How can I be saved?

II. Survey of Key Passages

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Big Idea: God's plan in salvation is to put right the whole world.

Genesis 15:5-6

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Big Idea: God grants righteousness based on faith.

Mark 1:15

¹⁵ *“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

...for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Big Idea: Conversion involves turning from sin and self to trust in God.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Big Idea: Faith moves us into Christ and eternal life.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Big Idea: God's power of salvation comes through the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

Big Idea: The Gospel is the Good News about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

Romans 4:4-5

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Big Idea: Our salvation is nothing we can earn, but rather is entirely a gift of God.

FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Romans 8:29-30

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Big Idea: Our salvation begins and ends with the action of God.

Ephesians 1:4-6

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Big Idea: God chose and predestined those who would believe to be His before the creation of the world.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Big Idea: God must draw to Himself and enlighten those who believe.

John 3:3

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Big Idea: God gives new life to those who trust in Him.

Romans 3:23-24

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Big Idea: God justifies (declares “not guilty”) believers as an act of grace.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Big Idea: Our justification gives us peace with God and removes all condemnation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Big Idea: We are brought into right relationship with Christ by having our sins forgiven in Christ.

Romans 6:6-7

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Big Idea: In Christ and by the Spirit, believers are set free from the power of sin in their lives.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Romans 8:15-16

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Big Idea: Through salvation, God adopts us as His children.

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Big Idea: Our salvation is a holistic process accomplished by grace through faith that moves us from our life of sin and death to a life of hope and good works.

III. Summary of Biblical Truth

1. Salvation from sins is found only in Christ Jesus.
2. To be saved, one must repent and trust in the person of Jesus.
3. Salvation is entirely by grace through faith.
4. Salvation transforms our relationship with God, self, and others.
5. Salvation results in a changed life of obedience and good deeds.

Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas

Salvation... We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient, substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are declared justified by the Father on the grounds of Jesus' death and resurrection. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith have been regenerated by and baptized in the Holy Spirit. They become, thereby, the children of God, forever, and members of the one true Church, the universal Body of Christ. This salvation will result in righteous living and good works as the believer submits his life to the control of the Holy Spirit who directs the life of the believer in harmony with the Word of God.

—John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 5:8;
1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10;
Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10-12; 1 John 5:11-13

IV. Scripture to Memorize

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:8-10

V. Difficult Questions and Objections

1. How is God choosing people for salvation fair?
2. Does grace mean that obedience and good works don't matter?
3. Can I ever really know I'm saved?
4. What about people from other religions?
5. What about those who have never heard?
6. Can I lose my salvation?

