

Study 1. A Personal Necessity

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: Genesis 1: 26 & 27; 2: 7-9, 15-17; 3: 1-13, 22-24



KEY VERSE: Romans 5: 12

“Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

If some people are trapped in a burning building, or are aboard a sinking ship, it is easy to understand that they need to be rescued. Because they are in great danger, everything possible must be done, without delay, to save them!

The Bible's message to us is that there is another sense in which we ALL need to be saved. We speak of it as **'being saved from our sins'**. Apart from this experience, we cannot be true followers of the Lord Jesus in this life, nor can we enter Heaven in the next life. It follows, then, that **'salvation'** is a very important subject, and we should try to understand what the Bible has to say about it.

Let us go back to the very beginning:-

God is our Maker. We are like one huge family, descended from the first man, Adam. The account of how God made Adam, as the most special part of His whole creation, is found in **Genesis 1 & 2**.

Because Adam and his wife, Eve, were so special, God set clear boundaries for them; He told them what they could do, and what they could not do. He warned them that to disobey Him would have the most serious consequences. (**Genesis 2: 16 & 17**)

At first all went well; Adam and Eve were living happily in the Garden of Eden. But when the test came, they failed! They yielded to Satan's temptations and disobeyed God. They became 'sinners', and now were no longer happy in the presence of God; indeed, their feeling of guilt was so great that they tried to hide from God. In a sense, they were 'dead' from the moment they disobeyed, and they found themselves 'cut off' from God, and later were expelled from His presence.

“In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.”
Genesis 3: 17



Adam is the head of the human family. His act of disobedience has affected all of us. In his 'fall', we have all 'fallen'! **“Through one man (i.e. Adam) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Romans 5: 12)** We are all 'children of Adam' in the sense that we come from a 'family' whose 'head' chose Satan's way, in preference to God's way.

This is one of the chief reasons why we need to be saved. By our natural birth we are joined to the first man, Adam, and thereby every one of us is a sinner. The penalty of sin for us, as for Adam, is death. (**See Romans 6: 23**) This means, then, that salvation is a personal necessity, if we are to escape God's judgment upon sin.

Have you ever wondered why there is so much evil and wrong doing in the world? Why do people everywhere lie, cheat, lust and murder? Why do even the best people so often fall when faced by temptation? The Bible's explanation is that these things are the 'fruit', coming from a sinful 'root'. Because our very nature is sinful, we inevitably fail to come up to God's standard for us.

In summary, then, salvation is a personal necessity because of:-

1. WHAT WE ARE -

'children of Adam', our fallen 'head'.

2. WHAT WE HAVE DONE -

“All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3: 23)

Study 1. A Personal Necessity

1 IN WHAT WAY DO WE ALL NEED TO BE SAVED?

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2 READ GENESIS 1: 26 & 27, AND WRITE A SENTENCE TO SAY WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT MANKIND AS CREATED BY GOD.

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3 STUDY GENESIS 2: 15-17, AND WRITE DOWN:-

A. TWO TASKS WHICH GOD GAVE ADAM TO DO.

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B. ONE THING WHICH HE WAS FORBIDDEN TO DO.

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4 THE STUDY SAYS, 'WHEN THE TEST CAME, THEY FAILED!' READ GENESIS 3: 1-6, AND EXPLAIN IN WHAT WAY THEY FAILED.

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5 A. WRITE OUT ROMANS 6: 23.

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B. IN WHAT WAY DID ADAM AND EVE'S SIN CHANGE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

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C. IN WHAT WAY DOES ADAM'S SIN AFFECT THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE?

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6 PUT TRUE OR FALSE AFTER EACH OF THESE:-

Salvation is a personal necessity:-

- (a) because we are all children of Adam,
- (b) only for very wicked people.
- (c) because we all have come short of God's glory.
- (d) for Jewish people only.
- (e) for me.

5

25

Total marks for this study

Study 4. A Powerful Life-Force

This study sheet belongs to:



KEY VERSE: Ephesians 4: 1

"I . . . beseech you to lead a life worthy of the calling with which you were called."

A rescue is often the act of a moment, as when a person is pulled from a burning building, or from a crashed vehicle. The remainder of the rescued person's life, however, may be totally changed as a result of what happened. The event of that one day may become the turning point in somebody's life!

That is how it is with God's salvation. We reach, as it were, a 'crossroads' in life, where we repent of our sins, believe in the Lord Jesus and are saved, as Study 3 has taught. From that point on, things are different. A new force, or power, has entered our lives, changing everything. **(See Romans 1: 16)**

In this 'powerful life-force' there are several factors of which we should be aware.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE.

By carefully reading what God has said, we learn how people, who are saved, should behave. We discover for example, that believing in the Lord Jesus is to have an effect upon our conduct EVERY DAY of the week! This is what Paul means when he writes to the Christians at Ephesus about their 'walk'. **(See Ephesians 4: 1, 4: 17, 5: 1 & 2, 5: 8, and 5: 15)** Our salvation should impact upon every department of our lives. (It might be helpful to underline in your Bible the word 'walk' from these references. This will help you to understand the strong emphasis which Paul gives to the Christian's walk or lifestyle.)

This lifelong regulating of our conduct by the Bible (the Word of God) requires regular reading of the Scriptures. We can never develop spiritually if we neglect our Bibles! If you have accepted God's offer of salvation, and have not been reading His Word, NOW is the time to begin! Aim at reading at least a little bit every day, and soon you will find that salvation is indeed a powerful force in changing your life.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Another important thing to understand is that the Holy Spirit comes to live in, and with, every person who is truly saved. Many Bible verses speak about this, e.g. **Ephesians 1: 13 and Romans 8: 9**. This

READ: Titus 2: 11-14,

Ephesians 1: 12-14 and 4: 1-3

at first may be very puzzling to us, but as we accept, in faith, what God is telling us in His Word, we are strengthened in the ongoing battle against temptation. We can rejoice in knowing that **"God is for us"**. **(Romans 8: 31)**

These two, the Bible and the Holy Spirit, work together, guiding us into a lifestyle which is pleasing to God.

It would be a mistake to think that being saved means that we never again face temptation, or commit sins. The plain fact is that a spiritual conflict goes on in the life of a Christian; the reason for this is that he is a person with TWO natures. In receiving the Lord Jesus, he has been given new life - a new nature which desires to please God, but his former old nature - sinful and fallen - is still with him! Hence a 'war' rages unceasingly. The important thing is to 'feed' the new nature by submitting to the Holy Spirit and obeying the Word of God. At the same time, we must 'starve' the old nature, by turning away from all that we know to be sinful.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RISEN SAVIOUR.

A third factor in the enjoyment of our salvation is the realization that our Saviour lives! It is true that **HE DIED FOR US**. **(Romans 5: 8)** But it is equally true that **HE LIVES FOR US**. **(Hebrews 7: 25)** He is NOW in Heaven, an exalted and glorified Saviour, and He acts there in our interests. Because of His activity there on our behalf, we can experience an ongoing salvation day by day. He helps us to have victory over Satan and temptation. A Christian who grasps the teachings of the New Testament can say meaningfully, **"I HAVE BEEN saved, because Jesus DIED for me; I AM BEING saved because He LIVES for me in Heaven."** We would never have this salvation if the Lord Jesus had not been raised from the dead.

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF FUTURE SALVATION.

The knowledge that our Lord Jesus is coming again for us is yet another factor in making our salvation a powerful life-force. This motivates us to live a holy life and to serve Him in whatever way we can. **(See 1 John 3: 1-3)** When He comes again, our salvation will be complete, because we shall lose forever our old, sinful nature and become like the Lord Jesus. **(Philippians 3: 20-21)**

Study 4. A Powerful Life-Force

1 'IF YOU HAVE BELIEVED ON THE LORD JESUS, AND ARE SAVED, IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE HOW YOU BEHAVE.' DOES THE BIBLE SUPPORT THIS VIEWPOINT? GIVE REASONS FOR YOUR ANSWER.

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2 WRITE OUT THE KEY VERSE.

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3 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN SAVED, ABOUT READING THE BIBLE? (SEE 1 PETER 2: 1 & 2 FOR HELP!)

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4 IN OLDEN TIMES, A KING WOULD 'SEAL' DOCUMENTS BY PRESSING HIS RING INTO SOFT WAX UPON THEM; THIS SHOWED HE HAD GIVEN THEM HIS APPROVAL. PAUL USES THIS AS A 'PICTURE' OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ALL WHO HAVE RECEIVED HIS SALVATION. READ EPHESIANS 1: 13 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 1: 22, AND WRITE A SENTENCE TO SAY IN WHAT WAY GOD HAS 'SEALED' HIS CHILDREN.

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5 A. A 'SAVED' PERSON NEVER / SOMETIMES SINS. CROSS OUT THE WRONG WORD.

B. WHEN A CHRISTIAN KNOWS HE HAS DONE WRONG, WHAT SHOULD HE THEN DO? (1 JOHN 1: 8-2: 2 WILL HELP YOU TO GIVE A GOOD ANSWER!)

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6 OUR SALVATION DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS, BUT ALSO ON THE FACT THAT HE LIVES AGAIN. READ HEBREWS 7: 25, AND EXPRESS IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS.

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7 THINK ABOUT THREE STATEMENTS:-

James says, "I was saved from my sins when I believed that Jesus died for me.".....

Alan says, "I am being saved every day because Jesus lives for me."

Philip says, "I shall be saved when Jesus comes again for me."

ALL THREE are Biblically CORRECT! Read these verses, and decide which verse supports what each statement says. Put the right Bible reference after each statement.

Hebrews 7: 25

2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Hebrews 9: 28

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Return your study sheets to:
 PBS Centre or to:

100

Total marks for this Unit

25

Total marks for this study

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 2. A Costly Provision

READ: Romans 5: 6-11, Titus 3: 3-7



KEY VERSE: Acts 4: 12

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

To carry out a rescue can be very costly! Think of the cost of saving miners who are trapped hundreds of feet below ground, or seamen whose ship has foundered in a violent storm. We can never put a price on the courage and devotion shown by those who put their lives at risk to save others.

In this Study, we shall focus on something greater - the ‘salvation’ which God has provided at great cost, to rescue perishing sinners.

1. SALVATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY GOD.

It is impossible for us to save ourselves from our sins. We are totally unable to change our sinful nature. In spite of all human skill and cleverness, we are **“without strength”** to bring about a deliverance from our sins. **(Romans 5: 6)** If we are to be saved, our only hope is in God!

2. SALVATION IS ROOTED IN GOD’S LOVE FOR US.

It is true that God is absolutely pure and holy. He must, therefore, condemn our sin, and punish it with its proper penalty. But it is equally true that He loves each one of us and wants to save us. **“God our Saviour . . . desires all men to be saved”.** **(1 Timothy 2: 3 & 4)** In His provision of salvation for us, He has found a way of punishing our sin, and yet saving us!

3. SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE.

The word ‘grace’ means ‘undeserved favour’. In making salvation available to us, God is showing us favour which we do not deserve. As sinners, we all deserve His punishment! But the good news is that we can be freed from punishment, and come into

unlimited favour with Him by grace alone. **(See Ephesians 2: 8 & 9)** Our own efforts, either at being good or doing good, can have no place in obtaining salvation from God!

4. SALVATION IS IN, AND THROUGH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Salvation from sin is not found in religious rules or ceremonies, but in a living Person, the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. His very name ‘Jesus’ (which means Saviour) was given to Him because **“He will save His people from their sins”.** **(Matthew 1: 21)** Paul and Silas said, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”.** **(Acts 16: 31)** Look again at what Peter said in the **Key Verse**.

5. SALVATION IS PROVIDED BY HIS DEATH FOR OUR SINS.

It is when we think about the Lord Jesus dying on the cross at Calvary, that we begin to understand how costly our salvation is. In order to save us, the Lord Jesus, who had no sins of His own, died for our sins. **(1 Corinthians 15: 3)** This means that He bore the penalty which we deserved. Because He did this, we do not need to bear it! Instead of having to suffer the penalty of sin, which is death, we can have God’s gift, which is eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. **(Read Romans 6: 23)**

We should never think that it was an easy thing for God to provide salvation for us. It cost Him more than we can ever know, to give His own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die that we might be saved from our sins. As we shall learn in our next Study, for us, salvation is FREE, but for God it was COSTLY!



Study 2. A Costly Provision

1 HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER A PERSON WHO SAYS THAT HE CAN SAVE HIMSELF FROM HIS SINS AND THEREBY MAKE HIMSELF READY FOR GOING TO HEAVEN?

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2 A. EXPLAIN WHAT 'GRACE' IS.
B. WRITE OUT *TITUS 2: 11*.

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3 SOME PEOPLE SAY, 'THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF BEING SAVED FROM OUR SINS'. HOW WOULD PETER'S WORDS IN *ACTS 4: 12* CONTRADICT SUCH A STATEMENT?

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4 PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN TITLE FOR THE LORD JESUS IS 'SAVIOUR'. PUT THESE WORDS IN THE CORRECT SPACES:- 'OUR', 'THE', 'A', 'MY'.

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| 1. " Saviour." <i>Luke 2: 11</i> | 2. " Saviour." <i>John 4: 42</i> |
| 3. " Saviour." <i>Titus 3: 4</i> | 4. " Saviour." <i>Luke 1: 47</i> |

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5 IN WHAT WAY IS THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR DELIVERING SINNERS FROM THEIR SINS?

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6 THE PERSONAL SINLESSNESS OF THE LORD JESUS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE.

A. SUMMARIZE WHAT THE APOSTLES PAUL, PETER AND JOHN SAID ABOUT HIM:-

1. "He" *2 Corinthians 5: 21*
2. "He" *1 Peter 2: 21 & 22*
3. "In Him" *1 John 3: 5*

B. WHY IS HIS SINLESSNESS IMPORTANT TO US?

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25

Total marks
for this study

Study 3. A Present Possession

READ: Ephesians 2: 4-10, 2 Timothy 1: 8-10, Isaiah 12: 1-3



KEY VERSE: Isaiah 12: 3
"Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

All of us have things which are our special possession! Other people may have things which are the same as ours, but we really enjoy being able to say, "This is MINE!"

It's like that with salvation! For each of us, it becomes a precious, personal possession, if, and when, we accept it.

God has done His part, by providing salvation in the Lord Jesus, as we saw in Study 2. Now the question is, "**How does it become ours?**" There are some important things to understand:-

1. SALVATION IS A GIFT.

Everything necessary to save us from our sins has been done by the Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection. It is as though He 'paid for' our salvation by giving His life for us. Now He offers it to us as a free gift. Read what Paul wrote about this in *1 Timothy 2: 5 & 6*.



2. SALVATION IS NOT A REWARD OR A PRIZE FOR OUR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

We may be inclined to think that, if we do good, God will 'pay us back'; by forgiving our sins. This, however, is NOT what the Bible teaches. Our sin has spoiled us so completely that even the best things we do can never be accepted by God. *Ephesians 2: 8 & 9* says "**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works**". When the Bible says, "**not of works**", it means we cannot be saved on the basis of good deeds which earn us favour with God.

3. SALVATION IS RECEIVED BY FAITH WHICH IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY REPENTANCE.

The readiness to admit our sinfulness and to turn away from it is called 'REPENTANCE'. You will find in the Bible that God calls upon all to repent (*See Acts 17: 30*) People who sincerely repent, respond readily to the good news that the Lord Jesus died for their sins!

Our faith in the Lord Jesus is meaningful when we find out, from God's Word, that we are sinners, and we are truly sorry about the wrong we have done.

'Faith' in the Bible means 'trust' or 'belief'. The terms upon which God gives us His salvation are that we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus. (*See Acts 20: 21*) This means that we are to put our trust entirely in Him, believing that He died for our sins. This is stated very clearly in *Acts 16: 30 & 31*. Read it for yourself.

You may wonder why salvation is 'by faith ALONE'. There are TWO important points to remember:

1. The work which Jesus did for us upon the cross is so perfect that it does not need anything added to it by us! (*See Hebrews 10: 14*)
2. Even the best we do is spoiled by sin, and cannot be accepted by God. (*Read Isaiah 64: 6*)

4. SALVATION IS A PRESENT POSSESSION.

Must we wait until we die to know if we are saved? No, indeed! God assures us that the very moment we repent and believe the Gospel, we are saved. Many Bible verses speak of our salvation as an accomplished fact. (*Read Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 and 2 Timothy 1: 8 & 9 again.*) In the light of these, a person is not being boastful or presumptuous when he or she says, "I am saved", or, "God has saved me by His grace, through the Lord Jesus Christ."

A precious possession! Let each of us ask, "Have I personally received God's great salvation?" If not, why not take the gift He is offering you NOW!

"Behold, NOW is the day of salvation."
(2 Corinthians 6: 2)

Study 3. A Present Possession

1 WHAT 'PRICE' DID THE LORD JESUS 'PAY' FOR OUR SALVATION? SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER, IF POSSIBLE, BY A VERSE FROM THE BIBLE.

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2 (A) EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 'PRIZE' AND A 'GIFT'.
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(B) WHICH OF THESE TWO WORDS DESCRIBES GOD'S SALVATION?

(C) WRITE OUT *EPHESIANS 2: 8 & 9*

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3 EXPLAIN AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN WHY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE SAVED BY OUR 'GOOD WORKS'.

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4 BESIDE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS PUT A ✓ OR AN X TO INDICATE WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT OR WRONG.

- 1. The Bible meaning of 'believe' is 'trust'.
- 2. No one can be sure about being saved until this life is over.
- 3. God will save us in exchange for our 'good deeds'.
- 4. God's salvation becomes ours when we repent of our sins and trust the Lord Jesus.
- 5. Being baptized is the same as receiving salvation.

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5 WRITE OUT A STATEMENT FROM THE BIBLE WHICH SHOWS THAT IT IS FOOLISH TO PUT OFF RECEIVING GOD'S OFFER OF SALVATION TO A FUTURE DATE.
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6 IN *ACTS 20: 21* PAUL SUMS UP THE GOSPEL WHICH HE HAD PREACHED TO BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES (OR GREEKS). WHAT WERE THE TWO MAIN PARTS OF HIS MESSAGE?

- A)
- B)

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A PRECIOUS PERSONAL POSSESSION! IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION, WRITE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HOW YOU OBTAINED IT.

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25

Total marks
for this study