

10 To Reveal The Truth About Salvation

“Think of it carefully;
Study it prayerfully;
Deep in thy heart let its oracles dwell.
Ponder its mysteries;
Slight not its histories;
None can e'er love it too fondly or well.”

This week we conclude a four week study of the purpose of God's wonderful Word. What is the four-fold purpose of God's Word? To reveal...

- The Truth about God
- The Truth about Man
- The Truth about Sin
- The Truth about Salvation

Thus far we have looked at the first three of these purposes. Today we look at the fourth—God's Word reveals the truth about salvation.

MAN'S VIEWS OF SALVATION

First, we will look at man's own views of salvation as seen in modern worldviews and philosophies.

Communists/Socialists

Of course communists deny the supernatural and place all their faith in science. So when we talk salvation to a communist, we are talking about the perfect society here on earth. This perfect society will have no class divisions—groups that are poor or rich, educated or uneducated—and no crime. This society will offer an equality in our obligation to work, to enjoy life, and to develop physical and mental abilities. Of course this perfect society will have abolished the church and the family.

Psychologists

To the psychologist, a person is “saved” when they have become self-actualized. This is a term which means that a person's needs for security and significance have been met and they are then able to help other people. Unfortunately there are very few people that ever become self-actualized because their lower level needs of love, belongingness, self-esteem, and significance have not been met.

Salvation is when a person has conquered all their sicknesses (sin) and they are now self-actualized. This, of course, takes years of therapy.

Humanists

Humanist Manifesto I and II directly states, “No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”¹ Like communism, with which it has much in common, humanism strives to create the perfect society on earth. Man must create his own salvation. In fact, they find the idea of eternal salvation to be harmful to man because it keeps man from dealing with present problems and injustices. The Bible view of salvation is an obstacle to human progress in their minds. “Humanism can provide the purpose and inspiration that so many seek; it can give personal meaning and significance to human life.”²

New Age Philosophies

Of course there is a wide variety of New Age philosophies but in general they believe that salvation occurs when a person realizes their own divinity (they are a god). Because you haven’t realized your own godhood, you need to be redeemed by man. In other words, “The New Age concept of salvation is diametrically opposed to Christian belief. The Bible declares that man fell and God redeems him. But the New Age Movement claims God fell and man redeems God.”³

PHILOSOPHY	VIEW OF SALVATION
Communism/Socialism	Perfect society with no class distinctions
Psychology	Self-actualization
Humanism	Human progress
New Age	Realizing your own divinity

It is obvious that all these world philosophies are man-centered. None of them looks beyond man for his salvation. Of course the Bible is the only source that can give us the truth about salvation.

GOD’S TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION



Man Cannot Save Himself (Romans 8:3)

? The last two weeks we have seen man’s utter helplessness to save himself. What term describes man’s total and utter sinfulness and thus his complete helplessness to save himself? (Total depravity) **Romans 8:3** reveals what about man’s ability to save himself? (He is weak.) This verse teaches that the law of the

¹ *Humanist Manifesto I and II*, (Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973), 16.

² *Ibid.*, 15.

³ Erwin Lutzer, “The Four Flaws Of The New Age,” in *Word Of Life Quarterly* (Winter 1991), 14.

Old Testament cannot save mankind because man is totally incapable of keeping the law (cf. **Romans 5:6**).



This leads to an interesting question. Why did God give the law?

Romans 3:19-20 reveals why the law was given. 1) To stop people from bragging about how good they are, by 2) showing them how totally unable they are to keep God's commands. In other words, God's law is like a mirror, given to reveal to man his total inability to please God. Before God gave the law, man bragged about how good he was. He saw no need of a Savior. Thus, God gave man the law which represented God's righteousness. Men looked into the mirror of the law and saw that if that was what God required, then he was not as good as he thought! The law doesn't save men, but actually condemns man and reveals to him that he is condemned!



Active Learning: Draw a several lines of different lengths on the chalkboard and have the teens guess how long the lines are. Bring out a tape measure and say, "We would never know how long these lines are if we didn't have a standard to measure them by. God gave the law so man would know that he didn't measure up to God's standards."

Thus, Paul concludes in **verse 20** that no man can be saved by keeping the law, and that the law was given to let men know (realize) how sinful he really was.

Christ Provided The Way Of Salvation Through His Death, Burial, And Resurrection (Romans 5:6-8)

The key word in salvation is substitution. We are condemned, guilty sinners. We must pay for our sin by dying and going to hell. There is no escape. However, God will accept a substitute—that is, someone else may take our place!

The substitute must meet three criteria:

- He must be innocent of sin.
- He must be human.
- He must be willing.

That presents quite a problem. First, since all humans are guilty of sin, the first two qualities rule out all mankind!

God, however, had a plan. In His wisdom, He sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. That is, He came to this earth and became a man, yet "*without sin*." Thus, Christ is the only man who has ever lived on this earth entirely apart from sin. Since He was virgin born, He did not have our sinful nature. Since He never sinned, He did not fall under our condemnation.

Christ met the first two criteria. He was innocent of sin and He was human. Now, only the third criteria remains. Was He willing? He answers the question Himself in **Matthew 20:28**. Yes, He was willing!

Teacher's Note: Use WOW 9 along with WOW 10B. First, place WOW 9 on the projector and briefly review what we learned about the separating effects of sin in last week's lesson. Then place Transparency WOW 10B on the projector. In the right hand column the cross is now on top of the snake. Then read **John 3:14-16** and comment on what Christ did to do away with the sin that separates.



Man Is Saved By Faith In Christ Alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 16:31)

Teacher's Note: As you read these verses, point out the right-hand side of the overhead. Here is the result of faith in Christ's work on the cross. Sin is removed and we are connected to God again.

Only through faith in God can man be saved. These other philosophies all put their trust in man, but man will never save himself. He must trust Christ.

CHALLENGE

One word of caution. It is not enough to just believe what the Bible says about man, sin, and salvation. You must take a step of faith and trust Christ as your Savior and Lord, receiving what He did for you on the cross as the full payment for your sin. Have you done this? It is through faith in Christ that He removes our sins. Thus, you must not only believe the Bible, you must act upon it and place your faith in Christ alone for salvation. Have you done so?

Quiz Answers

1. Substitution
2. (1) To stop people from bragging about how good they are
(2) To show how totally unable they are to keep God's commands
3. (1) Man cannot save himself.
(2) Christ provided the way of salvation through His death, burial, and resurrection.
(3) Man is saved by faith in Christ alone.
4. (1) He must be innocent of sin.
(2) He must be human.
(3) He must be willing.
5. (1) Perfect society with no class distinctions
(2) Self-actualization
(3) Human progress
(4) Realizing your own divinity

LESSON 10 QUIZ — TO REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION

NAME _____ ISC # _____ DATE _____

CHURCH/CITY _____

LEVEL _____ SCORE _____ (6 points Level One; 13 points Level Two)

LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO

(1) 1. What is the key word in salvation? _____

(2) 2. What are the two reasons why the law was given?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) 3. What is God's truth about salvation?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

LEVEL TWO ONLY

(3) 4. What are the three criteria that the substitute for our punishment must meet?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) 5. List the view of salvation of these four philosophies.

PHILOSOPHY	VIEW OF SALVATION
Communism/Socialism	(1)
Psychology	(2)
Humanism	(3)
New Age	(4)

