



BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTER

April 8 & 15, 2018

Help Me Understand Sin and Salvation

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Two-Week Outline

Part 1 – Sin – The Fall – What is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Fall – What is it?• Results of the Fall	Part 2 – Salvation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gospel – What is it?• Results of believing the Gospel
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The Fall – What is it?

God's Creation was Originally Perfect

- “Let there be **light**” ... “it was **good.**” (Genesis 1:3,4)
- “Let dry **land** appear” ... “it was **good.**” (vv. 6,10)
- “produce **vegetation**” ... “it was **good.**” (vv. 11,12)
- “**lights... stars**” ... “it was **good.**” (vv. 14,16,18)
- “Let the **water teem... birds**” ... “it was **good.**” (vv. 20,21)
- “livestock... **animals**” ... “it was **good.**” (vv. 24,25)

God Created Humans with Free Will

“Then God said, “**Let us make mankind in our image**, in our likeness, so that **they may rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (Genesis 1:26)

“So God created mankind **in his own image**, in **the image of God** he created them...” (Genesis 1:27)

“God saw all that he had made, and **it was very good.**” (Genesis 1:31)

Think About:

- There was **no evil**: everything on earth functioned the way God intended (can't blame bad environment).
- Adam/Eve would have **lived forever** (death not yet present; Gen. 2:17, Rom. 15:21).
- They were in **perfect communion** with God (God walked/talked with them; Gen. 3:8).

Adam/Eve Freely Chose Wrong

Part of “image of God” is free will (ability to do right/wrong).

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the **Garden of Eden** to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are **free to eat from any tree** in the garden; but **you must not eat** from the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, for **when you eat from it you will certainly die.**” (Genesis 2:15–17)

“When **the woman** saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also **gave some to her husband**, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and they **realized they were naked**; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (Genesis 3:6-7)

Think About:

- Satan caused Eve to **question/doubt God's word**.
- Got her to believe God was **unfair** (“you won't die... you'll be like God!” (Gen. 3:4,5)
- Eve was **deceived** (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14; Rev. 12:9); Adam **was not** (1 Tim. 1:13-14)

Defining “Sin”

Pastor:

“Sin is **missing the mark.**”

Original term comes from archery.

Philosophy Professor:

There's a **right and wrong way** to act in God's created order; sin is acting the wrong way (teleological worldview).

Biblical Theology Professor:

"Sin is missing the mark, badness, **rebellion, iniquity**, going astray, **wickedness**, wandering, **ungodliness**, crime, **lawlessness, transgression**, ignorance and a falling away... the chief characteristic of sin is that it is **directed against God.**" (Charles Ryrie)

Results of the Fall

Result of The Fall: Death

Death = Separation

The biblical picture of death is **separation**.

Spiritual Death – Separation from God

- Adam & Eve's **spiritual death** was **immediate**: They were instantly **separated** and **alienated** from God.
- "For in the day that you eat of it [i.e., that **very day/moment**] you shall surely die." (Gen. 2: 17)
- They **hid themselves** from the presence of the lord God.

Physical Death – Separation of spirit from body

- There would also be eventual **physical death**.
- Some see **death process** beginning immediately ("dying you shall die"; Gen. 2:17).
- Man expelled from the garden "lest he reach out his hand and take also of **the tree of life** and eat, and **live forever**" (Gen. 3:22).

Eternal Death – Hell

- Eternal death is the final result of spiritual death.
- Unbelievers will be **physically raised** from dead with nowhere to go but **Lake of Fire** forever (Rev. 21:8).
- This is the fate of all who **reject God's free gift of salvation** of Jesus Christ.

In short, mankind's fellowship with God, integrity and dominion became shame, fear and toil.

Other Effects of the Fall

Ecological and Environmental Consequences

- The environment became cursed (Romans 8:19-22).

- Man's **paradise** became a **wilderness**.
- Ground would produce **weeds** (hindered productivity).
- **Natural evil** is a result of **moral evil**.

Social Consequences

- Cain immediately **murders his brother**, Abel (Genesis 4)
- Beginning of man's **inhumanity/cruelty** to other men.
- Societies progressively become **more ungodly** (Genesis 6; 10)

Personal Effects of Sin

Sin affects the will

- Fallen humans are **slaves to sin** (Rom. 6:20).
- Fallen humans have **an inclination in their hearts** to sin by nature.
- Sin can become **habits** or **addictions**.

Sin darkens the mind (Rom. 1:28)

Sin sickens the body

- **Not all sickness** is because of sin, but some evidently is (John 5:14; lame man at Pool Bethesda).
- Years of inner conflict can produce **unbearable emotional duress** (Psa. 32:3-4)

Sin leads to many other sins

- Sometimes **larger sins** are required to **cover smaller ones**.
- **David** committed **murder** to conceal **adultery**.

Sin produces insensitivity

- If we continue to sin, we become **less responsive** to promptings of our conscience.
- Could lead to a **calloused heart** or **seared conscience**. (Eph. 4:19; 1 Tim. 4:2)

Sin creates anxiety over death (Heb. 2:15)

Sin results in pain and sorrow

Discussion:

As if our situation were not bad enough... God Added "The Law!" ... Why?

Galatians 3:24: _____

Romans 3:19–20: _____

In short, the Bible says the **purpose of the 10 Commandments** was to _____ us that **we** _____ **our way to heaven!** We need a savior!

Part 2 – Salvation

- The Gospel – What is it?
- Results of believing the Gospel

Gospel: Good News!

Big Idea:

Long ago, **God promised to send a Savior** (Messiah) who would save people from the **consequences of sin** (Isaiah 53:5). **Jesus Christ** was this promised Messiah (John 4:26). **Jesus was perfect:** he did not have a **sin nature** (Luke 1:35); neither did he commit any **personal sins** (1 Peter 2:22). He allowed himself to be **crucified on the cross** (Matthew 26:53) so he could take the **punishment of our sins** (1 Peter 2:24). He **died** on the cross, was **buried**, and **resurrected** from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-6). His resurrection is **proof** that his sacrifice for our sins was **accepted** (Romans 4:25). Anybody who believes this by **placing their faith/trust** in Jesus Christ has their **sins forgiven** based on the **finished work of Christ** upon the cross (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9). This is good news!

Content of “the Gospel”

It’s the death, burial, resurrection of Christ

- 1 Corinthians 15:1,3-6 – “Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of **the gospel I preached** to you... that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that he was **buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he **appeared to more than five hundred** of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”

It’s anything related to Christ’s work of salvation

- Includes the **historical events** of Christ’s life and work of salvation contained in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

- Includes the **meaning** of Christ's salvation found in other NT letters.
- Includes **OT promises** and **typology** looking forward to Jesus.

Point of the Gospel: Atonement

- Jesus' sacrifice of himself needs to be understood in the **context of the Old Testament sacrificial system** where **bulls** and **goats** were offered to **"atone"** (**cover or wipe away**) **for the sins** of the people.
- The Bible says Jesus' sacrifice of himself fulfilled the sacrifice offered on **Day of Atonement** (Hebrews 9:13-14; 2:17; 9:25-26; 10:11-18). On that day the **high priest** offered **one sacrifice** to atone for the sins of the nation.
- The Bible also says Jesus **fulfilled** the **Passover Lamb sacrifice** (1 Corinthians 5:7; John 1:29,36; 1 Peter 1:18-19). This comes from **Exodus** 12:7,12-13: whoever had the **blood of the Lamb** on their doorway—their house was "passed over" by the Angel of Death. In the same way, those who are **under the blood of Christ** escape judgment.
- **John the Baptist** said Jesus is our Passover Lamb: "Look, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
- The Bible says the Old Testament sacrifices could never really take away sin because they were offered **year after year** (Hebrews 10:3-4). But **Jesus' one sacrifice was perfect**, and it **completely atones** for all sin for anybody who receives it (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Other Ideas Connected to Atonement

Substitution

- The phrase "substitutionary atonement." carries the idea that **Christ died in our place**.

Key verse:

"He was **pierced for our transgressions**, he was **crushed for our iniquities**; the punishment that **brought us peace** was **on him**, and **by his wounds** we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

Also implied in these passages (notice word "for"):

- 1 Timothy 2:6 – "[Jesus] gave himself as a **ransom for all people**."
- Hebrews 2:9 – "he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might **taste death for everyone**."
- Luke 22:19 – "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is **my body given for you**; do this in remembrance of me.'"

- Matthew 20:28 – “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give his life as a ransom *for many.***”

Imputation

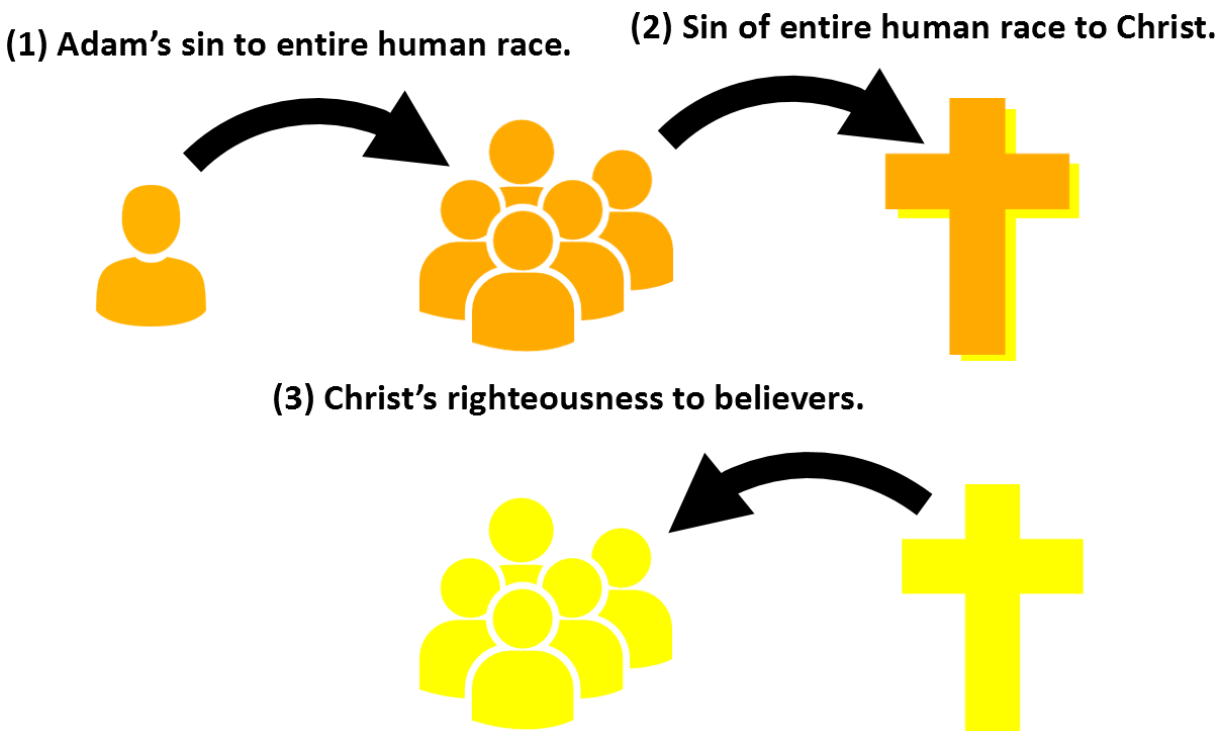
- This word is found Romans 3-4 and is translated “to reckon,” “to consider” or “to credit.”

Ways it is Used

- “Abraham believed God, and it was **credited to him** as righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)
- “the blessedness of the one to whom **God credits righteousness** apart from works...” (Romans 4:6)

The 3 Great Transfers of the Bible (imputations)

1. The transfer of **Adam’s sin** to the entire **human race**. (Romans 5:12-21)
2. The transfer of all **human sin** to **Christ**. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)
3. The transfer of **Christ’s righteousness** to **believers**. (Romans 4:24)



How to Receive Salvation: Faith

- 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.**”
- John 1:12 – “Yet to all who did **receive him, to those who believed in his name,** he gave the right to become children of God...”
- (**Challenge:** go through John and highlight “believes.”)
- Ephesians 2:8–9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**not by works,** so that no one can boast.”
- Galatians 3:24 – “So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be **justified (declared righteous) by faith.**”
- Theme of Romans: “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is **by faith from first to last...**” (1:17)

Results of believing the Gospel

Results of Salvation

Justification

- God **declares us righteous**; used in **legal sense**. This is salvation from the **penalty of sin**.
- A person **becomes “sinless”** in the sense that **God no longer counts** a man’s sin against him.
- Romans 8:1 – “Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus...”

Regeneration

- Literally **“re-birth.”** This is where **“born again”** comes from.
- John 3:3 – “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again.**’”
- Titus 3:5 (NKJV) – “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit”
- This is the **giving of spiritual life** to those **“dead in trespasses and sins”** (Eph. 2:1)
- Ephesians 4:22–24 – Believers have a **“new self”** in addition to their **“old self.”**

Adoption

- Believers are adopted and placed into God’s family.

- John 1:12 – “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the **right to become children of God**”
- Galatians 4:4–5 – “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive **adoption to sonship.**”

Propitiation

- Means “to **turn away God’s wrath**” or “to **satisfy God** on behalf of sinners.”
- 1 John 2:2 – “He is the **atoning sacrifice** (**‘propitiation’** in NKJV) for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”
- 1 John 4:10 – “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice (**‘propitiation’** in NKJV) for our sins.”
- Also called **expiation**.

Redemption

- Means “to **buy back**” (i.e., from the ownership of sin and law).
- 1 Peter 1:18–19 – “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that **you were redeemed** from the **empty way of life** handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

Reconciliation

- Means to “**bring back together.**”
- Idea is **our sin separated us from God**. But Christ’s sacrifice has brought us back together.
- 2 Corinthians 5:19–20 – “**God was reconciling the world** to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the **message of reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: **Be reconciled to God.**”

Recommended Reading

Bruce Demerest, *The Cross and Salvation* (Wheaton: Good News Publishers, 1997).

Cornelius Plantinga, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).

Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004.

Joel Green, *Body, Soul and Human Life* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

Norman L. Geisler, *Systematic Theology, Volume Three: Sin, Salvation* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2004)

Class Schedule

Help Me Understand Sin and Salvation

- Apr. 8: The Problem & The Solution – Part 1
- Apr. 15: The Problem & The Solution – Part 2
- Apr. 22: Seven Truth and Three Aspects of Salvation
- Apr. 29: Election, Predestination, Security and Assurance
- May 6: The Process of Becoming More Like Jesus

If you know somebody who would be blessed by this class, feel free to invite them; visitors welcome at any time!

Where: Sundays second service (10:45AM) in the upstairs chapel building room C-205B