

Salvation

1. To whom does the “atonement” apply? Did Jesus die for the sins of all humanity, or just for the sins of believers or the “elect?”

- Particular atonement: Jesus died only for the sins of the elect.
- General atonement: Jesus did for the sins of all humanity.
- Some NT texts seem to indicate that some of those for whom Jesus died will perish, therefore we must make a distinction between those for whom Christ died and those who are finally saved.
 - 1 Corinthians 8:11; Romans 14:15; Hebrews 10:29; 2 Peter 2:1

2. If everyone’s sin is forgiven in general atonement, why do some people perish and others do not?

- God desires the salvation of all people – general atonement
- In Christ, God has provided salvation for every person.
- In the course of our personal histories, God draws us to Him.
- If the sinner will not respond, he or she is to blame, and not God. God will not force every person to believe in Christ and be saved. It is unbelief which causes people to perish. And God has always known who will believe and who will not.
- He could save no one and condemn all people. Violates His character.
- He could save all people and condemn none. Also violates His character.
- He could save some and condemn some. This seems to be consistent with the biblical record.
- Is this unfair?
 - No, for God owes mercy to no one and has a right to do as He pleases with His rebellious creatures.
 - Romans 9:14-23
 - The wonder is not that God withholds mercy from some, but that He should be gracious to any.

3. What are the conditions of salvation in Christ?

- What is the spiritual attitude one must assume in receiving the grace of God that saves from sin?
- Repentance
 - OT: to turn or return; a personal decision to turn away from sin and to God.
 - NT: a change of mind about the reality of sin and the need for a savior.
 - Involves:
 - Intellect – I understand that I am a sinner, I grasp the holiness of God and my utter failure to come close to it; I hear the gospel truth, I am enlightened by the Spirit. I agree with scripture and the Spirit about my sin.
 - Emotions – the love of sin dies in my heart.
 - Sorrow and remorse for our sin
 - godly sorrow in contrast to being superficially sorry for sin
 - Feeling the awfulness of sin and its destruction
 - Broken and contrite heart – grief over sin and what it means to God
 - Will – I renounce my sinful ways and turn from them. I don’t want this; I will not live like this anymore.
 - Makes the decision to repent; deliberate, willful turning away from sin and following after God.
 - 2 Cor. 7:8-11
 - Repentance is an aspect of the daily life of the Christian.
 - The more we live in the light of Truth, the more we see our sin in all of its horror. We daily take up our crosses, die to self, and turn to Christ.
- Faith: confident trust in or reliance on Christ
 - I trust Christ for my salvation

- I trust in Christ as my Savior: person and work of Christ
- I surrender to Christ as my Lord: I surrender my life to him; I live for and in him, obey him, etc.
- Romans 10:14-17
- God draw us, reveals truth to us, we understand/know/agree with the truth, we trust in Christ.

4. What is *justification*? “We have been saved.”

- God declares a person to be righteous. God looks upon us “in Christ,” as having Jesus’ perfect righteousness.
- Does not make us personally righteous, but it declares us to be righteous in a legal sense, as far as God is concerned.
- Debt has been paid, sin is forgiven, and we are brought into a right relationship with God.
- Based on:
 - The death of Jesus – our substitute, satisfied the claims of God’s holy law. Rom. 5:8-9
 - God assigns us Christ’s righteousness, Rom. 5:19
- Comes by faith, Rom. 1:17. We do not earn it or become worthy.

5. What is *sanctification*? “We are being saved.”

- The process of becoming more like Christ, more holy and set apart for God.
- Maturity, progressive, takes a life time.
- “Sanctify” means to be set apart for God’s use or service.
- Making the personal life of an individual Christian holy.
- Involves God’s work and our response to it. Phil. 2:12-13
- Based on faith, we continue to live each day trusting in Jesus, knowing we are not perfect.

6. What is *glorification*? “We will be saved.”

- We have been saved from the power of sin; and we shall be saved from the very presence of sin.
- Complete and final sanctification
- 1 John 3:2