



Comprehensive Review: The Way of Salvation

A Complete Study Guide for New Believers

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Scripture Memory Verse: Acts 16:31 - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Introduction

The most important decision of our life is to accept our Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. This comprehensive review provides detailed answers to all questions from Lesson 1: "The Way of Salvation," along with additional supporting scriptures and explanations specifically designed for new believers.

When we accept Christ, we experience the New Birth of the Spirit of God, which makes us a new creature. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 states: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This transformation brings newness of life, new convictions, and a new understanding of God's plan of redemption.

Definition of Salvation

Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is to deliver or protect. The word carries the idea of victory, health, or preservation. In the biblical context, salvation refers to our eternal, spiritual deliverance from sin and its consequences. It is "the deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin that is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus."



Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on God alone for provision and assurance. Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God (Ephesians 2:5, 8) and is only available through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

I. NEED OF SALVATION

Understanding our need for salvation is the foundation of the Christian faith. Every human being, without exception, stands in desperate need of God's saving grace due to the universal problem of sin.

1. (Romans 3:23) Who have sinned?

Answer: ALL have sinned.

Detailed Explanation: Romans 3:23 declares unequivocally that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This verse establishes the universal nature of sin—it affects every single human being who has ever lived, with the sole exception of Jesus Christ. The word "all" (Greek: *pantes*) is comprehensive and excludes no one. This includes people of every race, nationality, social status, education level, or moral background.

The phrase "fall short of the glory of God" indicates that sin is not merely breaking rules, but failing to reflect God's perfect character and holiness. God's glory represents His perfect moral excellence, and every human being has failed to measure up to this divine standard. This shortfall is not a matter of degree—it is absolute. Whether someone appears more or less moral than others, all have equally failed to achieve God's perfect standard.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:



- **1 John 1:8:** "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

- **Ecclesiastes 7:20:** "Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins."

- **Psalms 14:2-3:** "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

- **Isaiah 53:6:** "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8) Who is the father of sinners and of sin?

Answer: Satan (the devil) is the father of sinners and of sin.

Detailed Explanation: Jesus Himself identifies Satan as "the father of lies" in John 8:44, where He tells the religious leaders: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

First John 3:8 further clarifies this relationship: "The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning." Satan is the originator and instigator of sin. He introduced rebellion against God into the created order, first in heaven and then on earth through the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

This does not excuse human responsibility for sin, but it helps us understand the spiritual battle we face. Satan actively works to lead people away from God through temptation, deception, and lies. He is described as "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4) who blinds the minds of unbelievers.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Genesis 3:1-6:** The account of Satan's temptation of Eve



- **Revelation 12:9:** "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray."
- **2 Corinthians 4:4:** "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."
- **1 Peter 5:8:** "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

3. (Exodus 32:33) What happens to a person who has sinned?

Answer: Their name is blotted out of God's book.

Detailed Explanation: Exodus 32:33 records God's response to Moses' intercession for Israel after the golden calf incident: "The Lord replied to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.'" This refers to the "book of life" mentioned throughout Scripture, which contains the names of those who belong to God and will inherit eternal life.

To have one's name "blotted out" means to be removed from God's record of the living, to be separated from His presence and blessing. This represents spiritual death—the severing of the relationship between God and the sinner. Sin creates a barrier between holy God and sinful humanity that cannot be crossed through human effort.

The concept of the book of life appears throughout Scripture as God's record of those who belong to Him. Being blotted out represents the ultimate consequence of unrepentant sin—eternal separation from God.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalms 69:28:** "May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous."
- **Revelation 3:5:** "The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life."
- **Isaiah 59:2:** "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."



- **Romans 6:23:** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

4. (Revelation 20:15) What will eventually happen to a person whose name is blotted out of the book of life?

Answer: They will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Detailed Explanation: Revelation 20:15 provides the sobering answer: "Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire." This represents the final judgment and eternal punishment for sin—what the Bible calls the "second death" (Revelation 21:8).

The lake of fire represents eternal separation from God and eternal conscious punishment. This is not annihilation but ongoing existence in a state of torment, separated from all that is good, pure, and loving. It is the ultimate consequence of rejecting God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.

This reality underscores the absolute necessity of salvation. Without Christ, every person faces this eternal destiny because of their sin. The urgency of the gospel message stems from this sobering truth—people are not merely missing out on blessings, they are heading toward eternal judgment.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Revelation 21:8:** "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

- **Matthew 25:46:** "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

- **Mark 9:43:** "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out."

- **2 Thessalonians 1:9:** "They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might."



II. WRONG WAY OF SALVATION

Understanding what cannot save us is crucial for new believers. Many people have misconceptions about how to obtain salvation, often relying on their own efforts rather than God's grace. This section addresses common false paths to salvation.

1. (Titus 3:5) Can a person be saved by doing good works?

Answer: NO, a person cannot be saved by doing good works.

Detailed Explanation: Titus 3:5 clearly states: "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." This verse definitively eliminates good works as a means of salvation.

The reason good works cannot save us is multifaceted. First, our good works are tainted by sin and fall short of God's perfect standard. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" before God. Second, salvation requires payment for sin, and good works cannot pay the debt of sin—only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ can do that. Third, if we could be saved by works, it would make Christ's death unnecessary and would give us reason to boast before God.

Good works are important in the Christian life, but they are the result of salvation, not the cause of it. Ephesians 2:10 explains that "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Works follow salvation; they don't produce it.

Many religions and philosophies teach that good deeds, charitable acts, religious rituals, or moral living can earn salvation. While these may be commendable from a human



perspective, they are powerless to remove sin or reconcile us to God. Only God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ can accomplish this.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **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."
- **Romans 3:20:** "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."
- **Galatians 2:16:** "Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ."
- **Isaiah 64:6:** "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."

2. (Galatians 2:16; James 2:10) Can a person be saved by keeping the law of Moses (including the Ten Commandments)?

Answer: NO, a person cannot be saved by keeping the law of Moses or the Ten Commandments.

Detailed Explanation: Galatians 2:16 explicitly states: "Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified."

James 2:10 explains why law-keeping cannot save: "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." This means that to be saved by law-keeping, one would need to keep every commandment perfectly throughout their entire life. Since all have sinned (Romans 3:23), this is impossible for any human being.

The law serves several important purposes, but salvation is not one of them. Romans 3:20 tells us that "through the law we become conscious of our sin"—the law shows us our need for a Savior by revealing our sinfulness. Galatians 3:24 describes the law as a



"guardian" that leads us to Christ. The law is like a mirror that shows us our spiritual condition, but it cannot clean us up.

Many people, including religious people, mistakenly believe that following the Ten Commandments or other religious laws will make them right with God. While the moral law reflects God's character and provides guidance for living, it cannot provide salvation because we have all failed to keep it perfectly.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Romans 3:20:** "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."
- **Galatians 3:11:** "Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because 'the righteous will live by faith.'"
- **Acts 13:39:** "Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses."
- **Romans 7:7:** "What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law."

3. (Proverbs 14:12) Can a person be saved by sincerity, relying on his own ideas with regard to the way of salvation?

Answer: NO, a person cannot be saved by sincerity or their own ideas about salvation.

Detailed Explanation: Proverbs 14:12 provides a sobering warning: "There is a way that appears to be right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." This verse teaches us that human reasoning and sincere beliefs, apart from God's truth, can be dangerously deceptive.

Sincerity, while admirable, is not sufficient for salvation. A person can be sincerely wrong. Many people throughout history have been sincere in their religious beliefs, yet those beliefs led them away from the true God. The Pharisees in Jesus' time were extremely sincere in their religious devotion, yet Jesus condemned their self-righteousness.



Human wisdom and reasoning are limited and corrupted by sin. First Corinthians 1:21 tells us that "since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe." God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His plan of salvation through the cross appears foolish to human wisdom but is actually the power of God.

Many modern philosophies and religions teach that all sincere religious paths lead to God, but this contradicts Jesus' clear teaching in John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Truth is not determined by sincerity but by correspondence with reality—and the reality is that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **1 Corinthians 1:21:** "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9:** "'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"
 - **Matthew 7:13-14:** "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
 - **John 14:6:** "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
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III. RIGHT WAY OF SALVATION

After understanding what cannot save us, it is essential to understand what can and does save us. God has provided one way of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. This section explores the biblical foundation for the true way of salvation.



1. (John 14:6) How can a person desiring salvation reach God?

Answer: Only through Jesus Christ.

Detailed Explanation: Jesus declared in John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This statement establishes the exclusivity and necessity of Jesus Christ for salvation. He is not merely "a way" among many, but "the way"—the only way to God.

Jesus is "the way" because He is the bridge between holy God and sinful humanity. Sin has created an impassable chasm between God and man, and only Jesus can span that gap. He is "the truth" because He reveals God accurately and completely—He is the perfect revelation of God's character and will. He is "the life" because He alone can give eternal life to those who are spiritually dead in their sins.

This exclusivity is not narrow-mindedness but necessity. Just as there is only one cure for a specific disease, there is only one cure for sin. Jesus is uniquely qualified to be our Savior because He is both fully God and fully man. As God, He has the power to save; as man, He can represent us and die in our place.

The phrase "no one comes to the Father except through me" eliminates all other paths to God. This includes religious works, moral living, philosophical systems, or other religious figures. While this may seem narrow to some, it actually demonstrates God's love—He has provided a way when there was no way.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Acts 4:12:** "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."
- **John 10:9:** "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."
- **Romans 5:1:** "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."



2. (1 Peter 2:24) Whose sins did Christ bear in His body on the cross?

Answer: Our sins (the sins of all humanity).

Detailed Explanation: First Peter 2:24 declares: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." This verse teaches the doctrine of substitutionary atonement—Jesus took our place and bore our sins.

The word "bore" (Greek: anaphero) means to carry up or lift up, often used in the context of offering sacrifices. Jesus literally carried our sins upon Himself as He hung on the cross. This was not merely symbolic but a real transfer of guilt and punishment. Our sins were imputed (credited) to Christ, and His righteousness was imputed to us.

The phrase "our sins" is comprehensive. It includes the sins of all who would ever believe in Him—past, present, and future. This includes every sin ever committed by every believer: sins of thought, word, and deed; sins of commission and omission; sins we remember and sins we've forgotten.

This substitution was necessary because the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23), and we could not pay that penalty ourselves and live. Jesus, being sinless, could die for others. Being infinite God, His death could cover the sins of all who believe. This is the heart of the gospel—Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 53:6:** "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- **2 Corinthians 5:21:** "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- **1 John 2:2:** "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."



- **Galatians 3:13:** "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.'"

3. (1 Peter 3:18) For what reason did Jesus suffer for your sins and mine?

Answer: To bring us to God.

Detailed Explanation: First Peter 3:18 explains the purpose of Christ's suffering: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." The ultimate goal of Christ's sacrifice was reconciliation—bringing us back into relationship with God.

Sin had separated us from God, creating enmity and alienation. Romans 5:10 describes us as "God's enemies" before salvation. This separation was not merely positional but relational—we were cut off from fellowship with our Creator. The purpose of Christ's suffering was to remove this barrier and restore the relationship.

The phrase "the righteous for the unrighteous" emphasizes the substitutionary nature of Christ's death. Jesus, who was perfectly righteous and had no sin of His own, took the place of us who are unrighteous. This exchange—His righteousness for our sin—makes reconciliation possible.

"To bring you to God" indicates that salvation is not just about escaping hell or gaining heaven, but about being restored to relationship with God. This is the highest purpose of salvation—to know God, fellowship with Him, and enjoy Him forever. This relationship begins the moment we believe and continues throughout eternity.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Romans 5:10:** "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

- **2 Corinthians 5:18:** "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."



- **Ephesians 2:13:** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

- **Colossians 1:21-22:** "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

4. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Why was it absolutely necessary that Jesus, instead of some other man, bear our sins?

Answer: Because Jesus was sinless, and only a sinless sacrifice could pay for sin.

Detailed Explanation: Second Corinthians 5:21 reveals the necessity of Christ's sinlessness: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." This verse highlights the unique qualification of Jesus Christ as our substitute.

Jesus was uniquely qualified to be our Savior because He was "without sin." This means He had no sin of His own to pay for. Every other human being has sinned and therefore deserves death for their own sins. They cannot die for someone else's sins because they owe their own life as payment for their own sins. Only someone who owed no debt of sin could pay the debt for others.

Furthermore, Jesus was not merely a good man or a great teacher—He was God incarnate. His divine nature gave infinite value to His sacrifice. The death of an ordinary man, even a sinless one, could not pay for the sins of all humanity. But because Jesus was God, His death had infinite worth and could cover the sins of all who believe.

The phrase "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us" describes the great exchange that took place at the cross. Our sin was imputed (credited) to Christ, and His righteousness was imputed to us. This is why Paul can say we "become the righteousness of God" in Him—not because we are righteous in ourselves, but because Christ's righteousness is credited to our account.



Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Hebrews 4:15:** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."
- **1 Peter 1:19:** "But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."
- **Hebrews 7:26:** "Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens."
- **John 8:46:** "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?"

5. Give two reasons: (1) God's feeling toward man and (2) man's condition, why God sent Christ to die for our sins (John 3:16).

Answer: (1) God's love for the world, and (2) man's perishing condition without Christ.

Detailed Explanation: John 3:16, perhaps the most famous verse in the Bible, provides both reasons: "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."

Reason 1: God's Love for the World

The first reason God sent Christ is His incredible love for humanity. The phrase "God so loved the world" emphasizes both the intensity and the scope of God's love. The word "so" (Greek: houtos) indicates the manner or degree of love—it was love of such a kind and to such an extent that it moved God to give His most precious possession.

This love is not based on human worthiness or attractiveness. Romans 5:8 tells us that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God's love is unconditional, unmerited, and universal in its offer. It extends to all people regardless of race, nationality, social status, or moral condition.

Reason 2: Man's Perishing Condition

The second reason is humanity's desperate condition—we are perishing without Christ. The word "perish" (Greek: apollumi) means to be destroyed, to be lost, to suffer eternal



ruin. This describes the natural state of all humanity apart from Christ—we are heading toward eternal destruction.

This perishing is not just physical death but eternal separation from God. Without Christ's intervention, every person would face the judgment of God and eternal punishment for their sins. The urgency of the gospel stems from this reality—people are not merely missing out on blessings, they are in immediate danger of eternal destruction.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - **1 John 4:9-10:** "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
 - **Ephesians 2:4-5:** "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
 - **John 3:36:** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."
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IV. MAN'S PART IN SALVATION

While salvation is entirely God's work and gift, humans have a part to play in receiving this gift. This section outlines the steps a person must take to be saved, emphasizing that these are not works that earn salvation but rather the means by which we receive God's free gift.

1. (Acts 16:31) What is the first great step in a person's being saved?



Answer: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Detailed Explanation: Acts 16:31 contains the famous response of Paul and Silas to the Philippian jailer's question about salvation: "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'" This verse identifies faith as the fundamental requirement for salvation.

The word "believe" (Greek: *pisteuo*) means much more than intellectual agreement or mental assent. It involves complete trust, reliance, and commitment. It's not enough to believe that Jesus existed or even that He died on the cross—saving faith involves trusting in Him personally for salvation. It means relying entirely on Christ's work rather than our own efforts.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus" encompasses several crucial elements:

- **Lord:** Acknowledging Jesus' authority and deity
- **Jesus:** Recognizing Him as the Savior (the name Jesus means "Yahweh saves")
- **Christ:** Understanding Him as the Messiah, the Anointed One sent by God

This belief is not a one-time intellectual decision but an ongoing trust relationship. It involves turning from self-reliance to Christ-reliance, from trusting in our own goodness to trusting in His righteousness. Romans 10:9 connects this belief with confession: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Faith is the instrument by which we receive salvation, but it is not the ground of our salvation. We are not saved because of our faith but through our faith in Christ. Faith is like a hand that reaches out to receive a gift—the hand doesn't earn the gift, but it is necessary to receive it.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **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."
- **Romans 10:9:** "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."



- **Ephesians 2:8:** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."
- **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."

2. (1 John 1:9) In the second step: (a) What must we do about our sins?

Answer: (a) Confess our sins.

Detailed Explanation: First John 1:9 provides the promise: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Confession is an essential component of receiving salvation and maintaining fellowship with God.

The word "confess" (Greek: homologeo) literally means "to say the same thing" or "to agree with." When we confess our sins, we are agreeing with God about our condition—acknowledging that we have sinned, that our sins are wrong, and that we deserve judgment. This is the opposite of making excuses, blaming others, or minimizing our guilt.

True confession involves several elements:

- **Acknowledgment:** Admitting that we have sinned against God
- **Responsibility:** Taking personal responsibility without excuses
- **Specificity:** Being honest about particular sins, not just sin in general
- **Remorse:** Feeling genuine sorrow for having offended God
- **Humility:** Approaching God with a humble heart, not demanding forgiveness

Confession is not just a one-time event at salvation but an ongoing practice in the Christian life. However, in the context of salvation, it represents the initial acknowledgment of our sinful condition and our need for God's forgiveness. It demonstrates the humility necessary to receive God's grace.



Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalm 32:5:** "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin."

- **Proverbs 28:13:** "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

- **Luke 18:13:** "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

2. (1 John 1:9) (b) What will the Lord then do with respect to our sin?

Answer: (b) He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Detailed Explanation: The second part of 1 John 1:9 contains God's wonderful promise: "he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." This verse reveals both what God does and why He does it when we confess our sins.

God's Response - Forgiveness and Cleansing:

God promises to do two things:

1. **Forgive our sins:** The word "forgive" (Greek: *aphiemi*) means to send away, to dismiss, to cancel a debt. When God forgives our sins, He completely removes our guilt and cancels the debt we owe Him. The sins are not merely covered or overlooked—they are completely removed from our account.

2. **Cleanse us from all unrighteousness:** The word "cleanse" (Greek: *katharizo*) means to purify or make clean. This goes beyond forgiveness to actual purification. God not only removes the guilt of sin but also cleanses us from its defilement. This cleansing is complete—"from all unrighteousness"—covering every sin, not just the ones we remember or confess specifically.

God's Character - Faithful and Just:

God's response is guaranteed because of His character:



- **Faithful:** God is reliable and trustworthy. He keeps His promises. When He promises to forgive, He will forgive.
- **Just:** God's forgiveness is not arbitrary or unfair. It is just because Christ has already paid the penalty for sin. God can forgive without compromising His justice because justice has been satisfied through Christ's sacrifice.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalms 103:12:** "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."
- **Isaiah 1:18:** "'Come now, let us settle the matter,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'"
- **Micah 7:19:** "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."
- **Hebrews 8:12:** "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

3. (Luke 13:3) In man's next step toward salvation, what will happen to him if he does not turn from and give up his sins?

Answer: He will perish.

Detailed Explanation: Luke 13:3 records Jesus' sobering warning: "But unless you repent, you too will all perish." This verse introduces the necessity of repentance in salvation and the consequences of refusing to repent.

The Nature of Repentance:

Repentance (Greek: metanoia) literally means "a change of mind" but involves much more than intellectual change. True repentance includes:

- **A change of mind:** Thinking differently about sin, self, and God
- **A change of heart:** Feeling genuine sorrow for sin and its offense to God
- **A change of will:** Deciding to turn from sin and turn to God



- **A change of direction:** Actually turning away from sinful practices

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry for getting caught or for the consequences of sin—it is genuine sorrow for having offended God. Second Corinthians 7:10 distinguishes between "godly sorrow" that leads to repentance and "worldly sorrow" that leads to death.

The Consequences of Refusing to Repent:

Jesus states clearly that without repentance, people "will perish." This perishing refers to eternal destruction, not just physical death. The word "perish" (Greek: *apollumi*) indicates complete ruin and loss. Those who refuse to repent will face God's judgment and eternal separation from Him.

This warning emphasizes the urgency of the gospel message. Repentance is not optional—it is essential for salvation. While God is patient and merciful, He will not overlook unrepentant sin forever.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Acts 3:19:** "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

- **2 Peter 3:9:** "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

- **Acts 17:30:** "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent."

- **2 Corinthians 7:10:** "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

4. (Romans 10:9) In the last step, what do witnessing for Jesus and confessing Him as Lord indicate?

Answer: They indicate genuine faith and result in salvation.



Detailed Explanation: Romans 10:9 connects confession with salvation: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This verse shows that public confession is both an evidence of genuine faith and a component of salvation.

The Nature of Confession:

The word "declare" or "confess" (Greek: homologeo) means to speak the same thing, to agree openly. Confessing "Jesus is Lord" involves several crucial elements:

- **Acknowledging Jesus' deity:** Recognizing Him as God
- **Submitting to His authority:** Accepting His lordship over our lives
- **Public declaration:** Making our faith known to others
- **Personal commitment:** Not just stating a fact but making a personal declaration of allegiance

What Confession Indicates:

Public confession indicates several important things about a person's spiritual condition:

1. **Genuine Faith:** True faith naturally expresses itself. Jesus said, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Matthew 12:34). If someone truly believes in Jesus, they will want to tell others.
2. **Courage and Commitment:** Confessing Christ often requires courage, especially in hostile environments. This willingness to identify with Christ publicly demonstrates genuine commitment.
3. **Understanding of the Gospel:** To confess Jesus as Lord indicates understanding of who He is and what He has done.
4. **Transformation:** Public confession represents a turning point—a willingness to be identified with Christ regardless of consequences.

The Connection Between Heart and Mouth:



Romans 10:9 connects believing in the heart with confessing with the mouth. Both are necessary:

- **Heart belief:** The internal reality of faith
- **Mouth confession:** The external expression of faith

This is not suggesting that salvation requires a public ceremony or that mute people cannot be saved. Rather, it indicates that genuine faith will find expression. The heart and mouth must agree—what we believe internally should be expressed externally.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Matthew 10:32:** "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."
 - **Romans 10:10:** "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."
 - **1 John 4:15:** "If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God."
 - **2 Timothy 2:12:** "If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us."
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V. TIME FOR SALVATION

The timing of salvation is crucial. God's offer of salvation is available now, but it will not remain open indefinitely. This section emphasizes the urgency of responding to the gospel.

1. (2 Corinthians 6:2) What day is the best for a person to be saved?



Answer: Today (now is the day of salvation).

Detailed Explanation: Second Corinthians 6:2 declares: "For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." This verse emphasizes the immediacy and urgency of salvation.

The phrase "now is the day of salvation" indicates that the present moment is the optimal time for salvation. Several factors make today the best day to be saved:

God's Favor is Available Now: The "time of God's favor" refers to the current age of grace, the period between Christ's first and second coming when salvation is freely offered to all. This is a limited-time offer that will not last forever.

Uncertainty of Tomorrow: We cannot guarantee that we will have another opportunity. Life is fragile and uncertain. James 4:14 reminds us that life is "a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

The Danger of Hardening: Hebrews 3:15 warns, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." Each time we hear the gospel and reject it, our hearts can become harder and more resistant to God's call.

Present Conviction: When the Holy Spirit convicts someone of their need for salvation, that is the optimal time to respond. The Spirit may not always strive with a person (Genesis 6:3).

No Guarantee of Future Opportunity: While God is patient, His patience has limits. There comes a time when opportunity ends, either through death or through God's final judgment.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Hebrews 3:15:** "As has just been said: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.'"
- **Isaiah 55:6:** "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."



- **James 4:14:** "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

- **Proverbs 27:1:** "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."

2. (Proverbs 27:1) Why should a person not put off salvation until tomorrow?

Answer: Because we do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Detailed Explanation: Proverbs 27:1 warns: "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." This verse highlights the uncertainty of the future and the folly of presuming upon tomorrow.

The Uncertainty of Life:

Human life is inherently uncertain. We cannot control or predict what will happen in the future. Several factors make postponing salvation dangerous:

1. **Death Can Come Unexpectedly:** Accidents, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances can end life suddenly. Hebrews 9:27 reminds us that "people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

2. **Opportunities May Not Return:** The Holy Spirit's conviction may not continue indefinitely. God's patience, while great, is not unlimited.

3. **Hearts Can Become Hardened:** Each rejection of the gospel can make the heart less sensitive to God's call. What seems clear today may seem less compelling tomorrow.

4. **Circumstances May Change:** Current favorable circumstances for hearing and responding to the gospel may not continue.

The Presumption of Tomorrow:



Postponing salvation assumes several things that we cannot guarantee:

- That we will live to see tomorrow
- That we will have another opportunity to hear the gospel
- That we will be as receptive to the message in the future
- That God's offer will remain open indefinitely

The Wisdom of Immediate Response:

The wise person responds to God's call immediately. This is not impulsive decision-making but prudent recognition of reality. When God calls, the appropriate response is immediate obedience.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Hebrews 9:27:** "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."
 - **Luke 12:20:** "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"
 - **2 Corinthians 6:2:** "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:1:** "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them.'"
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VI. VALUE OF SALVATION

Understanding the value of salvation helps us appreciate the magnitude of God's gift and the importance of sharing it with others.

1. (Mark 8:36-37) How would you estimate the value of a soul?

Answer: A soul is more valuable than the entire world.



Detailed Explanation: Mark 8:36-37 records Jesus' profound question: "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" These verses establish the infinite value of the human soul.

The Soul's Infinite Worth:

Jesus presents a hypothetical scenario—gaining the entire world—and declares that this would be a poor trade for one's soul. This means that the human soul is worth more than:

- All the wealth in the world
- All the power and prestige available
- All the pleasures and experiences possible
- All material possessions combined

Why the Soul is So Valuable:

Several factors contribute to the soul's infinite worth:

1. **Created in God's Image:** Humans are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), giving them inherent dignity and worth that transcends material value.
2. **Eternal Nature:** The soul is eternal—it will exist forever either in heaven or hell. Material things are temporary, but the soul's destiny is permanent.
3. **God's Love:** The value of something is often determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. God paid the ultimate price—His Son's life—for human souls.
4. **Unique Relationship with God:** Humans alone among earthly creatures can have a personal relationship with God, worship Him, and enjoy Him forever.

The Impossibility of Exchange:

Jesus asks, "What can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" The implied answer is "nothing." Once the soul is lost, no amount of wealth, power, or anything else can buy it



back. This emphasizes the finality of spiritual decisions and the importance of making the right choice while opportunity exists.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Genesis 1:27:** "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
- **Matthew 16:26:** "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"
- **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."

2. (Matthew 6:31-33) What material blessings are promised by the Lord to Christians which are not promised to the unsaved?

Answer: God promises to provide all their needs (food, clothing, and necessities) when they seek first His kingdom and righteousness.

Detailed Explanation: Matthew 6:31-33 contains Jesus' promise: "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The Promise to Believers:

Jesus promises that Christians who prioritize God's kingdom and righteousness will have their material needs met. This includes:

- **Food:** Basic nutritional needs
- **Clothing:** Adequate covering and protection
- **Shelter:** Though not explicitly mentioned here, other passages include housing among God's provisions
- **General Necessities:** The phrase "all these things" encompasses basic life requirements



The Condition:

This promise comes with a condition: "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."

This means:

- **Priority:** God's kingdom must be the top priority, not material things
- **Pursuit:** Actively seeking God's will and ways
- **Righteousness:** Living according to God's standards
- **Trust:** Relying on God rather than worrying about material needs

The Contrast with Unbelievers:

Jesus contrasts believers with "pagans" (unbelievers) who "run after all these things."

Unbelievers must worry about and strive for their material needs because they don't have a heavenly Father who has promised to provide for them. Christians, however, can trust in God's provision and focus their energy on spiritual priorities.

The Basis of the Promise:

This promise is based on our relationship with God as our "heavenly Father." A good father provides for his children's needs, and God is the perfect Father who knows our needs before we ask (Matthew 6:8) and delights to give good gifts to His children (Matthew 7:11).

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **Philippians 4:19:** "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
 - **Psalms 23:1:** "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."
 - **Psalms 37:25:** "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."
 - **Matthew 7:11:** "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"
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VII. SUMMARY OF THE WAYS OF SALVATION

This final section summarizes the exclusive nature of salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

1. (Acts 4:12) List the names of each individual (including disciples, relatives, and parents of Christ) and each church organization (past or present) whereby a person can be saved.

Answer: NONE. There is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved except Jesus Christ.

Detailed Explanation: Acts 4:12 makes one of the most exclusive claims in Scripture: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." This verse eliminates all other possible sources of salvation.

The Exclusivity of Christ:

This verse teaches that salvation is found in:

- **No other person:** Not in any religious leader, prophet, guru, or teacher
- **No other name:** Not through any other religious system or philosophy
- **No other means:** Not through any human effort, organization, or method

What This Eliminates:

The exclusivity of Christ's salvation eliminates:

1. **Religious Leaders:** No prophet, teacher, or religious figure can save
2. **Church Organizations:** No denomination, church, or religious institution can save
3. **Family Connections:** Not even being related to Jesus (like Mary, Joseph, or the disciples) can save
4. **Good Works:** No amount of charitable deeds or moral living can save



5. **Religious Rituals:** No ceremonies, sacraments, or religious practices can save

6. **Philosophical Systems:** No human wisdom or philosophical approach can save

The Reason for Exclusivity:

This exclusivity exists because:

- Only Jesus is both God and man, qualifying Him to mediate between God and humanity
- Only Jesus lived a sinless life, making Him a perfect sacrifice
- Only Jesus died for sins and rose from the dead, proving His victory over sin and death
- Only Jesus satisfies God's justice while expressing God's mercy

The Universal Scope:

The phrase "under heaven given to mankind" indicates that this applies universally—to all people, in all places, at all times. There are no exceptions based on culture, geography, or historical period.

Additional Supporting Scriptures:

- **John 14:6:** "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."
- **John 10:9:** "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."
- **1 John 5:12:** "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

Acts 16:31 (from memory):

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."



This verse encapsulates the essence of salvation—it is received through faith in Jesus Christ. The promise extends not just to individuals but to entire households, indicating God's desire to save whole families.

READING ASSIGNMENT

Between now and Lesson 2, read Acts chapters 1-7 (at least one chapter per day).

If you complete Acts 1-7 before receiving the next lesson, read John chapters 1-5.

Purpose of This Reading:

- Acts 1-7 shows the early church's understanding and proclamation of salvation
 - John 1-5 provides deeper theological insight into the person and work of Christ
 - Both books reinforce the lessons learned about salvation
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ESSENTIAL PRACTICES FOR NEW BELIEVERS

Every Christian who desires to be a fruitful servant of Jesus should strive to:

1. **Be Baptized:** Public declaration of faith and identification with Christ
2. **Read the Bible Daily:** Spiritual nourishment and growth
3. **Publicly Confess and Witness for Christ:** Share your faith with others
4. **Attend Church Worship Services:** Fellowship and corporate worship
5. **Pay Tithes:** Financial stewardship and support of God's work



ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES FOR NEW BELIEVERS

Scriptures on God's Love and Grace

- **Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **Ephesians 2:4-5:** "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
- **1 John 4:9:** "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."
- **Titus 3:4-5:** "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."

Scriptures on Assurance of Salvation

- **1 John 5:13:** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."
- **Romans 8:38-39:** "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **John 10:28-29:** "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

Scriptures on New Life in Christ

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"



- **Galatians 2:20:** "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- **Ephesians 4:22-24:** "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Scriptures on Growing in Faith

- **1 Peter 2:2:** "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."
 - **2 Peter 3:18:** "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."
 - **Colossians 2:6-7:** "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."
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CONCLUSION

The way of salvation is both simple and profound. It is simple enough for a child to understand—believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Yet it is profound enough to occupy the greatest minds throughout history in exploring its depths and implications.

Key Truths to Remember:

1. **All Have Sinned:** Every person needs salvation because all have sinned and fall short of God's glory.
2. **Christ Alone Saves:** Jesus Christ is the only way to God. No other person, religion, or method can provide salvation.



3. Salvation is by Grace Through Faith: We cannot earn salvation through good works or religious observance. It is God's free gift received through faith.

4. Response is Required: While salvation is God's gift, we must receive it through faith, repentance, and confession.

5. Urgency Matters: Today is the day of salvation. We should not postpone this most important decision.

6. The Soul's Value is Infinite: Nothing in this world compares to the value of the human soul.

7. Assurance is Possible: We can know with certainty that we have eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

For the New Believer:

If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have made the most important decision of your life. You are now a child of God, forgiven of all your sins, and guaranteed eternal life. This is just the beginning of your journey with Christ.

Continue to grow in your faith by:

- Reading God's Word daily
- Praying regularly
- Fellowshiping with other believers
- Sharing your faith with others
- Living in obedience to Christ

For Those Still Considering:



If you have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, consider the evidence presented in this study. The Bible clearly teaches that you need salvation, that Christ alone can provide it, and that you must receive it by faith. Don't delay this crucial decision—today is the day of salvation.

The prayer of salvation is simple: "Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner and deserve judgment. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust in You alone for my salvation. Please forgive my sins and give me eternal life. I commit my life to following You as my Lord and Savior. Amen."

May God bless you as you study His Word and grow in your understanding of His amazing grace and love demonstrated through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This comprehensive review was prepared to help new believers understand the fundamental truths of salvation and to provide additional biblical support for their growing faith. Continue to study God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

"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 3:16