

**“What Is Salvation and Why Do I Need It?”**  
“What We Believe Matters” — Part 3  
*Ephesians 2:8-9*

**Review:**

- Humanity has an inner sense of God.
- There is evidence of God in both Scripture and nature.
- There are multiple, rational arguments for God’s existence.
- The God of the Bible claims to be the one true God.
- The one true God of the Bible is a triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The one true God of the Bible is a trustworthy God.
- When you BELIEVE God is good, it will change your actions. You will think and act differently. You will relate to others around you in a completely new way.
- When you BELIEVE God is near and that He cares for you, your worry and stress will fade; your joy and peace will grow.
- When you BELIEVE God is actively involved in all of your circumstances, you will be flexible, you will learn, but more importantly, your character will become more and more Christ-like.
- When you BELIEVE God has a perfect plan for you, you can be assured that your place in life is exactly where it should be, and as long as you’re here, God is not finished with you yet.

***What we believe in our hearts will define  
how we live and who we become.  
What we believe matters!***

**How do I have a relationship with God?**

***“I believe that a person comes into a right relationship  
with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.”***

For it is by *grace* you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

**1. What is salvation?**

Salvation is about the restoration of a broken relationship!

- Salvation is not about religion!
- Salvation is not “Christianese” for church attendance!
- Salvation is not about your social status!
- Salvation is not about your home.
- Salvation is not about the country you were born in.

**2. What’s the problem? (OUR SIN)**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

*Romans 3:23*

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

*James 2:10*

### 3. What's the penalty? (DEATH)

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

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.  
Isaiah 59:2

### 4. What is the solution? (Faith in Jesus)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."  
John 14:6

- Salvation is Jesus dying in my place.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.  
1 Peter 2:24-25

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
Isaiah 53:5-6

- Salvation is not unconditional. (It is not universal.)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.  
Revelation 20:12-15

### 5. What is the result of faith in Jesus? (A lasting relationship with our loving God.)

- We are justified and have peace with God.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand...  
Romans 5:1-2

- Our debt is paid and we are redeemed.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace

through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood... Romans 3:23-25

- Salvation is by grace through faith.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

## 6. How do you respond to God's gift? (ACCEPT IT)

... "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Romans 10:8-11

... all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

**Question:** Can you remember when you believed God's message of salvation? Do you remember when you confessed it, accepted it by asking Christ to come into your life? If you believe this truth in your heart and in your head, and publically confess it for the world to hear, your relationship with God is restored and you become part of His eternal family. **What you believe matters!**