

Sunday August 19th 2007
The Full Scope of Salvation – Part Two
Salvation by Grace Through Faith

1). When we think of the word salvation mostly we will think of the cross of Calvary, and we think of an eternity in heaven for those who are saved and an eternity in hell for those who are lost.

a). In these statements however there is much that is scripturally incorrect.

b). And the reason for this is very simple – our understanding of ‘salvation’ is much too narrow and it is too narrow because most often we don’t begin our understanding of it in the right place.

2). When Jesus is walking with two of His disciples on the Road to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection He reprimands them for not having properly understood scripture - Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

a). He reprimands them and then to correct their misunderstanding of the scriptures He began at Moses and then going to all the prophets, expounding in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

b). He began at Moses – and Moses began at Genesis and so must we if we are going to understand the full scope of salvation.

c). And this you will remember is exactly what we did last week as we went to the opening verse of scripture to help us to understand the context for salvation.

d). And as we saw last week this context has to do with God’s plans and purposes for the ages, which have been constructed by and for His Son, with a particular focus on this earth and the rule that takes place from the heavens connected to this earth and with Man, who was created a little lower than the angels, ultimately elevated to a position of coheir with the Son.

e). Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

f). 2Ti 1:8 *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

g). And salvation being an integral part of His purpose, before there was ever a man who needed saving - Re 13:8....*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

h). So as we begin this week to study exactly what God's plan of salvation is we will once again begin at the beginning.

3). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

a). This is the very place where Moses began and this opening sentence in all of scripture provides us with a particularly significant piece of information

i/ God = Elohim - El = God / Him = 3 or more

ii/ We know from comparing scripture with scripture that God is a trinity - in three persons – God the Father / God the Son / God the Holy Spirit

4). Now this is significant because of what God says concerning the creation of man

a). Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion*

b). Notice the first two things God says in respect of Man –

i/ '...in our image according to our likeness.....'

ii/ 'Let them have dominion...'

c). So being made in the image and likeness of God man is made a three part being - spirit, soul and body - 3 is the number of Divine perfection. It is the perfect number for the expression of who God is and God's perfect design for His new creation – Man.

d). That Man is indeed a three part being is borne out by comparing scripture with scripture - 1Th 5:23 ¶ *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

i). The soul and the spirit are not one and the same thing as many people believe - Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit,*

ii). In fact the words for soul and spirit in both the Hebrew and Greek languages are entirely different and are never used interchangeably.

e). You will have also noticed in our Genesis scripture that not only does God make Man in His image He creates Man for a specifically stated purpose – ‘let them have dominion’ – literally – ‘let them rule over’.

f). God used the plural pronoun ‘them’ pointing to the fact that in order to fulfill the purpose for his creation the man needed a helper comparable to him.

g). Ge 2:18 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

h). This of course gives us the type to be fulfilled in the antitype by Christ and His Bride.

5). The helper was created in Adam, removed from his body, literally built by God and then presented to the man who named her - Ge 2:23 *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

a). Again, more detail in the type to be fulfilled in the antitype of Christ and His Bride.

6). Their condition at this time is described as ‘naked but not ashamed’

a). Hebrew word for naked used here before the fall – *arowm* - does not mean totally naked = having a covering such as an inner garment but lacking the mantle / cloak - the outer garment

i/ After the fall an entirely different Hebrew word is used for naked - *eyrom* = totally naked.

b). Before the fall they were covered with the glory of God being created in His likeness, but did not have the royal robes of rulership - these would only be granted once man was proved worthy.

i/ There is a Biblical principal of rulership that says an incumbent ruler will only be replaced, regardless of his wickedness, when the one to replace him is present and proven worthy – Saul and David are our picture of this.

c). Ge 2:16 ¶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

d). See what God said would happen to them – ‘you shall surely die’

e). Please note that their entering into sin had a consequence and this consequence adversely affected the purpose for their creation they were now

totally naked - they no longer had the covering of glory - without that they could not wear the royal robes of dominion, which meant they could not rule over the earth as God had intended, in that condition.

f). Please remember that the Woman was deceived, but the Man knew exactly what he was doing – As a type of Christ – Romans 5:14 – Adam took his wife’s sin looking to redemption.

g). So what died?

7). Their sin also had a consequence for all three parts of their being. Man as a whole being was now under a death sentence

a). They became spiritually dead

b). Their soul became corrupted - they had a sin nature

c). Their bodies started to decay

d). (Visualization of this)

e). Eternal separation is now what awaited them and not them only.

8). Ro 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death,*

A death sentence is passed on Adam and the Woman and on all who would be born subsequently in Adam’s likeness - Heb 9:27 *And as it is appointed for men to die once,*

Something would need to happen if man were ever to be free from the sentence of death, and be free from the sentence of death he would have to be in order to attain the position God had intended for him, so as to be able to fulfill the purpose for his creation.

i/ And that something is God’s plan of salvation, which He had set in place before time began to deal with the death sentence, the eternal separation - Ro 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

a). And the place we need to begin in our understanding of what must happen in this plan is again at the beginning of Genesis

b). Ge 1:2 *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

c). Here we find God’s creation in a ruined condition, just as the Man and the Woman were in a ruined condition, completely unable to do anything itself to get out of that condition. Just as the Man and the Woman couldn’t do anything – remember the fig leaves.

d). So in order to bring His creation out of ruin God must act entirely of Himself - Ge 1:3 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light*

from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

e). We see then God acting sovereignly to begin the process of the creation's restoration – bringing light where there was only darkness and making a division between the two. This is entirely God's work as the ruined creation is completely unable to help itself.

f). The total restoration of the creation takes another five days – followed by a day of rest. Setting the pattern that must be followed.

9). Then in God's dealing with Satan, after the Fall of the Man and the Woman, He makes the promise of salvation for Man through the work of a Redeemer - Ge 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

a). The seed of the woman is the Lord Jesus Christ

b). The bruising of His heel is the cross of Calvary

c). And bruising the head of Satan speaks clearly of taking Satan's crown and overthrowing his rulership and replacing him with a new group of rulers - those whom God had created for that very purpose – Mankind, as coheir with His Son.

d). Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

10). Adam heard what God said in Genesis 3:15 and believed Him

a). He exercised faith towards the coming Redeemer

b). Then acted as a result of that faith - Ge 3:20 ¶ *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

c). Changing the name from Woman to Eve is enormously significant

i/ Remember we are all born - Eph 2:1 ¶ *....dead in trespasses and sins,*

ii/ It is only by placing faith in God's provision for redemption that we pass from 'death unto life' - this is what 'the mother of all living' refers to - Adam's faith in God's promise to redeem His creation

d). It is in direct response to Adam's faith that God then acts providing the first picture in scripture of how that redemption will be accomplished - Ge 3:21 ¶ *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

e). And here is the next part of the foundational picture of redemption – redemption is based on death and shed blood and is performed as a

sovereign act of God completely apart from the one being redeemed. Just as we saw with the earth at the beginning of Genesis - Heb 9:22b...*without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

f). Adam and Eve having become what we would call, 'eternally lost', because of sin, a spiritual death, are now eternally saved by an act of God's grace and their faith in His provision of a covering for their sin.

g). Salvation by grace through faith is not a NT idea, it is a God idea that has been in place since the beginning.

11). The details of the picture of the Redeemer are then added to in – Ge 4:8 ¶ *Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

a). What we see here is that Cain represents the nation of Israel and Abel the Lord Jesus Christ. When both of these are in the field together, in the world together, as they were at Christ's first coming, one would be responsible for killing the other. Which is exactly what happened.

12). More detail of the Redeemer is then given in - Ge 22:1 ¶ *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

a). Here we see the son of promise, whom his father loved, being offered as a sacrifice.

b). Jesus is the Son who was promised, who was His Father's beloved Son, who was offered as a sacrifice on the same mountain 2000 years later.

c). These are the only two incidents of human sacrifice in relation to God in the scriptures. One pointing to the other.

13). These examples also teach us about how redemption happens – notice there is death and shed blood in each. Then with Abraham and Isaac another detail is given to us, the provision of a substitute – the ram caught in the thicket – whose death God accepts in place of Isaac – who did die, from God's perspective.

14). We see the substitute again in - Ex 12:12 *'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute*

judgment: I am the LORD. 13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

a). Please understand this – this is the means by which Israel will be redeemed – God is looking for the blood of the lamb that was killed in place of the firstborn.

b). All Israel was required to do to receive this redemption was to put faith in that which God had provided for their redemption by putting the blood on the door posts and lintels of their houses.

c). All the firstborn of Egypt and Israel died that night – the difference was God accepted the death of another, the Passover lambs, in the place of the firstborn of Israel.

15). Having faith in God's provision for redemption is all that is required by anyone to be eternally saved.

a). This was true for all the OT saints who put faith in God's provision for their redemption, which in the OT would be the sacrifice of animals, leading to the Passover lambs.

b). And for the NT saints who put faith in God's provision for their redemption – the death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ –

1Co 5:7For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(Link this back to what has gone before).

16). In the Book of Acts the Philippian Jailer asks Paul and Silas how he can be eternally saved - *Ac 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

a). And I want you to see very clearly what they say in answer to his question - *Ac 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,*

b). 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' – put faith in God's provision for your eternal salvation – 'and you will be saved'.

c). *Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

17). Please see from God's own words that all we have to do to be eternally saved is 'believe'. It really is that simple, and does not require us to do anything else - *Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and*

that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

a). Eternal salvation is the gift of God and is based on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary and there is nothing we are able to do to be saved other than believe.

b). You do not have to repent

c). Say the sinners' prayer

d). Join a church

e). Be baptized

f). Dress in a certain way

g). Just believe.

18). Also, please see this - Ro 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

a). In other words once God has given a gift, He does not take it back again.

b). Joh 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

c). When Jesus said 'It is finished' he meant exactly that – He had done all that was necessary for unredeemed man to be eternally saved and there was nothing else that remained to be done. This work was completed in time past and continues in this finished/completed condition into the present and into the future – it can never cease to be completed.

d). What I want you to see is that once you are eternally saved you can never again be unsaved, irrespective of what you do. As we could do nothing to be saved we cannot do anything to become unsaved again.

e). If you could lose your eternal salvation then Christ's work on the Cross was not finished as there would still remain something more to do and God would be a liar when He says that His gifts are irrevocable – Is God a liar?

f). The Firstborn has died and He cannot die ever again.

g). The Red Sea did not open again to let Israel through it to go back to slavery in Egypt – there was no way back.

19). Now let us ask the question, 'What has been eternally saved?' and 'What does it mean?'

20). Well let's go back to our original picture of Adam in the Garden

a). Do you remember what died that day? – the spirit

b). And we are all born - Eph 2:1 ¶ *....dead in trespasses and sins,*

c). Now before we were saved we were very much alive – so what part of us was dead? – the spirit

d). Joh 5:24 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

e). So when we believe and receive everlasting life, which part of us passes from death into life? – the spirit

f). Joh 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

g). (Visual of passing from death into life)

21). We will remember from Heb 9:27 *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*

a). We can choose to keep this appointment with death and judgment in Christ or apart from Christ.

b). In other words we can choose to receive the One who has kept the appointment on our behalf, or we can choose to keep the appointment ourselves.

c). For those who have believed, the blood has been properly applied to show that the firstborn has died, and that is the end of the matter – eternal salvation is signed, sealed and settled.

d). For those who do not believe, there is no application of the blood and the end of the matter still awaits them – death and judgment.

22). As we look at this you will see the obvious – our spirit alone is now eternally saved, but our soul and our body remain in an unredeemed state – so what happens to them?

23). Well we have noted that God has set the pattern in Genesis for six days of work to effect the complete restoration of a ruined creation – what has taken place with the salvation of our spirit corresponds to day one

a). 2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

b). 1Pe 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

c). What must happen with the soul and body must correspond to days 2 through 6 in Genesis Chapter 1 and can only be subsequent to the events of day 1.

24). This is exactly what we see in relation to Israel – who is the type given to us – 1Co 10:11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

a). It is following the death of the firstborn and the application of the blood – redemption brought about sovereignly by God – that we see this - Ex 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

b). It is only after receiving eternal salvation that issues surrounding God's purpose for Man – rulership – can come into view.

c). And the things surrounding God's purpose for Man are inextricably connected with the two unredeemed parts of Man's being – the soul and the body.

c). And this we will look at next week – God willing.