


Christianity: The Basics

The Blessings of Salvation

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2020.10.1&4



A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion


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...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Pastor Doug explained the "blessings of salvation" from Ephesians 1:3-10—but let's read further!
Read Ephesians 1:18-19a. Paul prays that "the _____ of our hearts may be enlightened."

This was "**so that** we could know" three things. What are they? List them here:

- _____
- _____
- _____

As a group, explain a bit more what each of those might mean. Which ones confuse you?

Paul prayed that believers would know those three things—**which** of them do **you** know?

- Pastor Doug noted that Christ "redeems" believers (see [2] in the **Sermon Summary**).
How much do you **really believe** that you were a "slave to sin"? Color in this "thermometer": 

Now look ahead at Ephesians 2:1-3. **How else** is a "slave to sin" described?

Under whose wrath are sinners? (See Psalm 7:11-13.) Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

In light of this truth, **how shocking** is Ephesians 2:4-7.

Now, look at [4] in the **Sermon Summary**.
How often does God's grace evoke spontaneous praise within you?

Do you possess the blessings of salvation?
Write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- For those who **have** placed their trust in Christ as sin-bearer—praise him for the spiritual blessings that have come to you because you are "in Christ".
- For those who **have not yet** responded to what God has done for us through Christ—respond today. **Today is the day of salvation!**



Sermon Summary (Key Text: Ephesians 1:3-10)

We are in a series on the basic beliefs of the Christian faith as outlined in the Apostles' Creed. When the Creed affirms, "I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting," it's talking salvation. Ephesians 1:3-10 is about salvation, and in the original Greek is one long sentence. Paul clearly was excited by this topic! Let's take a look at the spiritual blessings of salvation:

[1] To whom do these spiritual blessings come? They come to believers ("us", v. 3), because they are "in Christ". In fact, for those who are "in Christ", every blessing already is ours (notice the verb tense). God **chose** us (v. 4) in Jesus, "the Beloved" (v. 6). It's "in Jesus" that we have redemption (v. 7). If you have Jesus, you have **every** spiritual blessing. If you don't have Jesus, you have **none**. Every spiritual blessing comes "in Christ". Our "union with Christ" is both **legal** and **vital**—like marriage. When you marry, your assets **legally** become shared equally. In salvation, all of Jesus' assets become ours. His payment for sins also becomes ours (Romans 6:3-10, 23). We also are united with him in his resurrection. His vindication becomes our vindication. As a result of our union with Christ, we get credit for what Jesus did! We also have everything we need for life and godliness, because we've been made partakers of Jesus' divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4). Jesus' **vitality** becomes ours. This truth is both comforting and convicting—because it means that we have no excuse for sinning! Each person either is, or is not, born again, he either has every spiritual blessing or he has none. Just as in marriage, there is a wooing process. God draws sinners to himself, and when anyone says "I do", every spiritual blessing becomes his! You may not be sure the exact day or hour that you crossed the line (John 5:24), but you're either united with Christ or you're not. You either have life in him, or you don't. You either have all of the spiritual blessings, or you don't.

[2] What are some of these spiritual blessings? There are many, but Paul focuses on three: adoption (v. 5), redemption (v. 7), and consummation (v. 10). ❶ In biblical times, people adopted not because they wanted to raise children, but because they wanted an heir to carry on their name and receive their wealth. God is everyone's creator, but in adoption he becomes our loving father; we receive unprecedented access, intimacy, and security. ❷ "Redemption" means to be purchased out of slavery. We all enter life as a slave to sin (John 8:34 & Romans 6:20). Even a good thing, such as your children, if you're living for it, it is your master. What happens when your kids go off the rails—who are you then? If you have any identity other than "child of God", it is enslaving you. ❸ The spiritual blessing of consummation is that eventually God is going to put an end to all evil and suffering, conquer death, and make the world new. The Paradise lost in Eden will be restored in Christ when he makes all things new. This world is chaotic, and we ourselves are falling apart. Even so, one day you will die, and if you are a Christian, you will be raised to live out eternity with God and with his people in a perfect, disease-free, death-free world!

[3] What enables us to receive these blessings? Redemption through Jesus' death is the complete payment for your sins (v. 7). When you rest in what Jesus has done for you, and ask God the Father to accept you because of what he has done, you are united with Jesus, and these spiritual blessings become yours. **All** of them—*lock, stock and barrel!*

[4] How can we know if we have these blessings? Experientially, we know we have these blessings when Christ is praiseworthy to us (v. 6). So, do you find that God's grace evokes your praise? We have earned condemnation and deserve hell (Romans 6:23). The "good news" of the gospel is that in Christ is God's grace. So, when you think about salvation, does it evoke gratitude to God and worship in you? If it does, that is a good sign that you are in possession of the spiritual blessings that Paul talks about here.

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asks you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn about "our great salvation in Christ"...

Monday—Study John 6:10-14 & 26-29.

Tuesday—Study John 6:32-36.

Wednesday—Study John 6:37-40.

Thursday—Study John 6:41-44.

Friday—Study John 10:24-30.

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord with your church family,*** study John 14:15-26.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]

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Leaders' Guide

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...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?

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This was "**so that** we could know" three things. What are they? List them here:

- 3 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- 4 As a group, explain a bit more what each of those might mean. Which ones confuse you?

- 6 Paul prayed that believers would know those three things—**which** of them do **you** know?

- Pastor Doug noted that Christ "redeems" believers (see [2] in the **Sermon Summary**).

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Now look ahead at Ephesians 2:1-3. **How else** is a "slave to sin" described?

- 10 **Under whose** wrath are sinners? (See Psalm 7:11-13.) Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

- 11 In light of this truth, **how shocking** is Ephesians 2:4-7.

Now, look at [4] in the **Sermon Summary**.

- 12 How often does God's grace evoke spontaneous praise within you?

Application-Challenge

- 14 For those who **have** placed their trust in Christ as sin-bearer—praise him for the spiritual blessings that have come to you because you are "in Christ".

- 15 For those who **have not yet** responded to what God has done for us through Christ—respond today. **Today is the day of salvation!**



- 1 This is a “soft ball” starter question. It’s always good to start with a question that focuses on content (rather than personal application, which requires vulnerability). This is not, however, just a “throw away” question. Note any strong emotional reactions—they are a window into the soul! Don’t make a big deal about reactions. Jot down who reacted strongly and how they reacted, and follow up with them individually later on.
- 2 After filling in the blank, follow up with a comment or question highlighting the importance of “heart insight”.
- 3
 1. “the hope of His calling”
 2. “the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”
 3. “the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”

Just get these phrases down not.
You’ll explore them in the next question.
- 4
 1. “hope” = confident, joyful anticipation of a promised blessing not yet received;
“his calling” = the calling to salvation. Therefore this is talking about our confidence that the fullness of our salvation, which we have not yet experienced, is certainly on the way.
 2. “saints” = all believers; everyone who has trusted Christ—not some special, elite, holy subset of believers. We inherit Christ’s riches. This inheritance is gloriously rich!
 3. “us who believe” = “saints”
All of God’s power is available to us for trusting him in difficulties and for living holy lives.
- 5 Help group members not be embarrassed to admit that things confuse them. You can do this by making comments such as, “Wow, these sure are some deep things. Let’s see if we can figure them out together.” (Caution—be prepared to hear some wrong answers [for example, about “saints”]; handle them graciously.)
- 6 This question is more significant than it appears. In biblical thought, to “know” something is to have intimate experience with it. So, which of those three things do group members think they have intimate experience of?
- 7 These two questions are really just two ways of asking the same thing. Read them both together, and urge
- 8 folks first to mark the thermometer, then lead them in a discussion about how much they buy into the biblical doctrine that they truly were “slaves to sin” (and still are, if they’re unsaved).
- 9 “dead” in sin. The formerly “lived” in sin. They were a “son of disobedience”. The “prince of the power of the air” = Satan (see John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 and 2 Corinthians 4:4). They lived “in the lusts of the flesh/mind”; they were by nature “children of wrath”.
- 10 It is **God’s** wrath! God is angry at sin and at sinners. Today we speak so much of God’s love that we’ve convinced ourselves that he’d never punish. This is not true. In fact, love requires wrath—because you love your child you are wrathful at the person who endangers him. If you didn’t get mad at that, it means that you don’t really care about your child. Explore this with group members. We really need to grow in this truth. In fact, **because** God is the most loving person in the universe, he also is the angriest!
- 11 God’s love is shocking, scandalous! **What kind of a person** seeks after and woos those who have betrayed him and who **do not want to be** reconciled to him (see Romans 3:10-18)? God has to beg us to turn to him! (2 Corinthians 5:20b). This point corresponds to [4] in Doug’s sermon (see [Sermon Summary](#)).

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- 13 Keep attentive to who may need TCC’s free biblical counseling. Talk to them privately afterwards.
- 14 At the close of your group discussion, direct people’s attention to these two points of Application-Challenge. Urge group members who thank God and worship him for his marvelous salvation.
- 15 For those who may not yet be saved, send them to tcc.org, “Know Jesus” at the top of the web page. But don’t just send them to a website—if you sense that someone in your group is not yet born again, suggest getting coffee together. Before your coffee, contact Pastor Dan for training on clarifying the gospel.