

Summer Volunteer Mentorship – Session 3 – How Great a Salvation

We believe that redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin is possible only through the vicarious, sacrificial death and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Representative and Substitute. Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

– BCM Int'l Statement of Faith

Enemies to friends. Rebels to brothers. Death to life. Despair to hope. Darkness to light. Far off to brought near. There is no shortage of starkly contrasting imagery given to us in Scripture for the miraculous change that takes place at and through our salvation.

The gospel, and the salvation that it offers, is simultaneously universal and exclusive – it is for 'any who call on the name of the Lord' – but also eliminates any other means of attaining a right relationship with God – 'I am the way, the truth, and the life, *no one* can come to the Father *except through me*.' It's a glorious truth, but one that we must be sure to get right – Christ (and all of Scripture) warns again and again against those who think they can gain heaven through other means.

And an understanding of the gospel, of salvation, is not just essential for those who need to trust in Jesus to be saved! It is utterly vital for those of us who *are* Christians, to keep our eyes and hope fixed on Christ alone as we 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling...', all while trusting that 'it is God who works in you...'

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 together.

Q. According to this passage, what is our condition apart from Christ? How does it describe our salvation?

Q. What are two aims of salvation that Paul mentions here?

Q. Paul is clear that our salvation is by grace, through faith in Christ alone – but also that part of our response (and God's purpose) is for us to be faithful in good works. How can holding on to both these truths guard us equally from legalism and spiritual laziness?

Read Romans 3:20-26 together.

Q. What truths about God can you see in this passage? What truths about humans/yourself? How might they affect how we think about those we are ministering to this summer?

Q. How might you explain to a young person why they need to be saved? How would you point them to Jesus as the only true Saviour?

For Application/Reflection

Think about some of the different things that Jesus' death and resurrection accomplishes for us – reconciliation (*Col 1:22*), redemption (*Rom 8:22-25*), restoration (*1 Pt 5:10*), atonement (*Heb 2:17*), access (*Heb 10:19-25*) and many more – pick one or two and discuss (or encourage them to think on) how the gospel provides these things, why they are important, and how they should or do affect the way we live today.

Ephesians 2:1-10 – “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Romans 3:20-26 – “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”