

## **PICTURE THIS!**

### **The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!**

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!  
September – December 2016*

#### **Week #7 - Salvation**

**Picture It!**



**Caption It!**

*Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God has provided a way to rescue and restore sinners who could never save themselves. Through repentance and faith people can be saved and brought back into 'the dance' of God's presence.*

**Save It!**

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Isaiah 12:2*

## Picture It!

### 1. Salvation is from God!

- a. The word 'salvation' implies a person is 'saved' by something or someone outside of themselves. When a person is 'saved' it is because they are in great danger and they cannot escape on their own. God and God alone can save people from the danger of sin, which separates us from Him and leaves us deserving of His judgment. As our memory verse for this week says, *"God is my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2)*.
- b. This is why the cross extends out of the center of the Trinity symbol at the top of this week's picture. God has taken the initiative to provide salvation for sinners who can't save themselves.

### 2. Salvation is Provided through the Cross of Jesus

- a. Notice in the picture how the cross provides a bridge over the chasm that sin has created between people and God. But why is the cross the only means of salvation from sin?
  - i. It is God's way! Salvation has been planned since before time began (Ephesians 1:4), to bring broken sinners back into 'the dance' of God.
  - ii. Salvation requires a perfect sacrifice! On the cross, Jesus Christ died for sinners. As the Son of God, He lived a perfect life. He had no sins of His own that required judgment, so He was able to stand in the place of sinners as our substitute (Hebrews 7:27).
  - iii. Since the beginning, it has only been through the shedding of blood that sins can be atoned for (Hebrews 9:22). Unlike other forms of execution, the crucifixion of Jesus was horrific and bloody. His blood was shed to save sinners from spiritual death.

### 3. There are Many Aspects to Salvation!

- a. **Justification:** In salvation, God declares us righteous like a judge would declare a person innocent (Romans 3:24). He can do this because at the cross, our sin was laid upon Jesus and now His righteousness has been applied to us.

- b. **Adoption:** In salvation, God makes us His own children (Ephesians 1:5). Amazingly, the adoption fee He paid to buy us out of our slavery to sin was His one and only Son, Jesus!
- c. **Regeneration:** In salvation, God makes us spiritually alive (Titus 3:5). This is what it means to be 'born-again' (John 3:3). As sinners we were spiritually dead and salvation places the life of God within us. This is why the 'saved' person in the picture has the Trinity symbol inside of them.
- d. **Forgiveness:** In salvation, all our sins are forgiven, and God chooses to remember them no more! (Ephesians 1:7)

#### 4. Salvation is Both a Crisis Point and a Continual Process!

- a. From one stand point, salvation takes place in a crisis moment of repentance and faith. At that moment a person is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light (Col. 1:13); from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive (Eph. 2:4-5); from being an enemy of God to being His child (Col. 1:21-22); from facing God's judgment to being a recipient of His grace (Eph. 2:3-5). Everyone is either saved or unsaved. Though coming to faith can happen over time there is no middle ground. This is why there are still broken people in the salvation picture.
- b. From another perspective salvation is a continual process:
  - i. Believers were chosen by God before time (Ephesians 1:4-5). This is called **predestination**. While this doesn't change the fact that everyone is invited to believe in Christ for salvation, it reminds us that salvation is the sovereign work of God, not people.
  - ii. Believers are invited by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ. He shines the light of the Gospel into their hearts to show them their need of a Savior. This could be called **conviction**.
  - iii. Through repentance and faith believers are saved from sin and declared righteous before God. This is called **justification**.
  - iv. Throughout their lives on earth, believers are being gradually transformed from their old, sinful self into the character of Jesus. This happens through the work of the Spirit and the washing of God's Word. This process is called **sanctification** (1 Thess. 4:3)

- v. Someday, when believers enter eternity they will be given new, heavenly bodies and the struggle with sin will be over. This is called **glorification** (Rom. 8:30). Yet even in eternity God's people will learn and grow as they live in the presence of God forever.

#### 5. Salvation is Glorious!

- a. Notice the three golden glory arrows coming from the cross! Amazingly, although the crucifixion of Jesus was a horrific, gruesome event, the Bible speaks of the cross as glorious! In fact the three aspects of God's glory are seen in the cross:

- i. **God is Great:** In His sovereignty, God had the plan of salvation in place from the beginning. His plan of salvation turns the mess of sin into something better than the original Creation!
- ii. **God is Good:** In salvation, God provides a means to save guilty sinners while maintaining His perfect righteousness and justice. He doesn't "sweep sin under the carpet." His perfect justice was poured out on Jesus (Romans 3:26).
- iii. **God is Grace:** In salvation, God, who is perfect and holy, is able to save and forgive underserving sinners. It demonstrates the depth of God's love and compassion for sinful, broken people. It shows His grace to those who have nothing to offer in return, and His mercy to those who deserve nothing but judgment (John 3:16).

#### 6. Salvation Comes Through Repentance and Faith!

- a. Although salvation is a work of God, the Bible explains that it is by repentance and faith that a person can receive salvation from sin. The Bible makes it clear that repentance and faith are not religious works that a person can boast in, (Romans 4:5) but the humble surrender of a heart that recognizes its need and places all its hope in Jesus. This is why the person kneels at the foot of the cross in the salvation picture.
  - i. **Repentance** means recognizing the seriousness of sin, seeing it the way God sees it, grieving over it, turning from it and heading in a new direction (2 Corinthians 7:10).

- ii. **Faith** is trusting God. It is far more than agreeing that something is true (James 2:19). It requires being so sure of what is true that you rest the whole weight of your life upon it. Saving faith trusts in Jesus and His sacrificial death as the only means of salvation.

### **Panorama!**

From the beginning of time, God knew that sin would mar His Creation, but He already had a plan to restore what sin would destroy. His plan was to give Himself for the life of the world with the end result being better than the beginning, with saved sinners living face-to-face with God in 'the dance' of His being for all eternity.

### **Selfie!**

Though I am a sinner, both by choice and by nature, God has made a way for me to be rescued from my sin and restored to spiritual life in 'the dance' of God's being. Through repentance and faith in the sacrificial death of Christ I can be saved!

### **Instagram!**

We live in a world that has been infected by sin and evil, and if we are honest we will admit that we too have been infected by sin. This is why we naturally pursue personal gain at the expense of others. But God offers us salvation. It is a restoration to true life; God's life. It has been provided through the ultimate act of sacrifice and through faith and repentance we can be saved from our sin and selfishness and be brought back into a relationship with God.

### **Key Story!**

The Conversion of Zaccheus - Luke 19:1-10

- Zaccheus was rich but spiritually hungry.
- Jesus chose to have a meal in Zaccheus' home.
- Zaccheus came to understand his sin and he repented.
- His changed life was evidence of salvation.

### Key Questions:

1. Why are there still broken people in this week's picture about salvation?
2. Why is the 'saved' person kneeling before the cross? What two things does a person need to do in order to be saved from sin? How would you explain those two things?
3. Why are the glory arrows coming out of the cross in the salvation picture? What makes the cross glorious? How does the cross demonstrate the three areas of God's glory that we have been learning about?
4. Why do you think people so often fall into the error of believing they can earn salvation or achieve it by their own efforts?
5. How does the cross of Jesus put 'the dance' of God on display? How does salvation draw a person back into 'the dance' of God?
6. How can a Christian either help or hinder the process of sanctification in their life?
7. Which aspect of salvation is most meaningful for you (justification, adoption, regeneration, forgiveness)? Why?
8. There are many Biblical reasons why a Roman crucifixion was a very fitting way for God to provide salvation. How many can you think of?