

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What does it mean to you that we're "saved by grace?" When did grace become more than just a word to you?
- ❖ Is there an idea from this message that you find new or intriguing? Is there a truth in this message that has "cleared up" things for you? Are there questions raised you need to learn more about?
- ❖ Many Christians, and (including some denominations) don't accept that we're secure in our salvation by God's grace. Do you think it's important to have assurance and security about eternity? See John's words in 1 John 5:11-13. Which scriptures from this message speak most powerfully to you about this?
- ❖ Which of these statements is true – "I have been saved"; "I am being saved"; "I will be saved"? Why?
- ❖ Review the section at the end of the notes "For Further Study." Why is it significant that Jesus is the "prototype" for our experience of death and resurrection? See Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:17-19 about Jesus and his resurrection. What points does he make? Why are they true if Christ wasn't raised? If you could ask Jesus a question about death and resurrection, what would it be?
- ❖ Is there someone your group could help you pray for that you'd like to share the good news of salvation with?

Bible Versions used: KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; MSG-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS - New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; HCSB-Holman Christian Standard; Phi-Phillips Translation; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard

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FOUNDATIONS

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"Salvation: Making Us Whole Again"

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (MSG) *May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together -- spirit, soul, and body -- and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!*

God's saving work in us

Phase 1:

I'm _____ from sin's _____
_____ me.

☛ Bible term: " _____ "

Romans 3:22-24 (NIV) *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...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.*

☛ The focus: Our _____.

John 5:24 (NIV) *"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

Ephesians 2:8 (TEV) *It is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.*

Phase 2:

I'm _____ from sin's _____
_____ me.

☛ Bible term: " _____ "

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV) *By a single offering [his sacrifice on the cross] he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

☛ The focus: Our _____.

Romans 6:13-14 (TLB) Give yourselves completely to God -- every part of you -- for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes. Sin need never again be your master...you are free under God's favor and mercy.

Phase 3:

I'm _____ from sin's _____
_____ me.

☛ Bible term: " _____ "

Romans 8:18-23 (NIV) Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed...in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God...as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

☛ The focus: Our _____!

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

☛ We'll receive _____.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 42-44; 51-52 (NIV) Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him...So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

☛ Salvation isn't _____!

Hebrews 2:3 (NRSV) How can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

Truths for further study

Jesus is the "prototype" for our glorious future. His own experience of death and resurrection gives us assurance of what happens to us when we die, as we await his return and the end of the ages. His promise is that, in him, we also will conquer death and experience eternal life.

John 11:25-26 (NIV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies [future resurrection]; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die [surviving death in the "intermediate state"]. Do you believe this?"

☛ Jesus experienced the death of the body, and burial.

James 2:26 (NIV) ...The body without the spirit is dead...

Mark 15:43-46 (NIV) Joseph of Arimathea...went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead...When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.

☛ Jesus' spirit (and soul) survived the death of his body, in a conscious, "intermediate state" prior to resurrection.

Luke 23:42-43 (NIV) Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:46 (NIV) Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

1 Peter 3:18-19 (NAS) For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison...[a proclamation of his victory over death and sin]

☛ Jesus was raised with a visible, tangible, physical resurrection body. He moved between heaven and earth, could suddenly appear/disappear and yet was in a "normal" body.

Luke 24:36-43 (NAS) He Himself stood in their midst and said* to them, "Peace be to you." But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. And He said to them, "...See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; touch me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."...They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them.

Romans 6:9 (NKJV) Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.