

# Soteriology 101

## Week 1 – Introduction

*“[Soteriology is] the pinnacle of Christian theology because the themes and topics addressed in the study of salvation run to the very heart of the gospel and to the center of redemptive history.” – MacArthur and Mayhue*



### Definitions of Soteriology

- *Soteria* (Greek) == *soter* (savior) + *ology* (study)
- A branch of theology that focuses on the **study** of **salvation**.
- Describes **why** we need saving, **what** we are saved from, **Who** saves us, **how** we are saved, and the **purpose** for which we have been saved.



**Salvation:** The **sovereign** act of God in which He **redeems** sinners from sin and its consequences through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, **applied** to them by the Holy Spirit, **guaranteeing** them eternal life.

### Why do we need to be saved?

1. We are **born** in **sin**. (Psalm 51:5)
2. We sin because we are **naturally sinners**. (Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:3)
3. We are **unable** to **remedy** our sin problem on our own. (Psalm 14:3, Romans 7:18)

*“Total depravity spells inability. It means we are active ‘sin-aholics’ by nature. There is no thought, no word, no act, and no area of human life that is not affected by sin... In ourselves, we are unable to do anything about our condition. We are spiritually impotent by nature, unable and unwilling to save ourselves. We cannot appreciate the Christian faith and we are powerless to work toward our conversion... Total depravity is active in us. It is not simply the absence of righteousness, but the presence of corruption. Our depravity is enormously creative and inventive, ever devising new ways of violating God’s will. It is a growing cancer within us—a rampant, productive, energetic, and self-propagating entity. It is fire out of control—a living, fierce, powerful force.” – Joel Beeke*

4. We face the **wrath** of God in His **judgment** against our sin. (Hebrews 9:27, Romans 2:5)

*“The fundamental issue of human existence, then, is how deeply ingrained sin can be forgiven and how the spiritual chasm between God and His creatures can be bridged. As Job posed the question millennia ago, ‘How can a mortal be righteous before God?’ (Job 9:2)” – Bruce Demarest*

### What do we need to be saved from?

1. **Sin**. (Acts 3:19)
2. The **consequences** of **sin**. (Isaiah 59:2)
3. **Satan**. (1 Peter 5:8, 2 Timothy 2:26)
4. This present **evil age**. (Galatians 1:4, 1 John 5:19)
5. **Ourselves**. (Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:28-32)
6. **Death**. (Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:6)
7. Our present **unglorified** condition. (1 Corinthians 15:50,53; Philippians 3:20-21)
8. **God Himself**. (Romans 2:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Romans 5:9)

*“Jesus then puts Himself into our place, to free us from the arrest of justice, and bear those strokes, which, by virtue of the law, wrath had prepared for us... It was a death which justice required, and at the sight of it justice was so calmed, that the sharp revenging sword drops out of its hand.” – Stephen Charnock*

## Study outline

Part 1 - Plan of Redemption: Election and Reprobation

Part 2 - Accomplishment of Redemption – The Atonement

- Obedience of Christ
- Penal substitution
- Sacrifice
- Propitiation
- Reconciliation
- Redemption
- Conquest
- Incomplete theories, sufficiency, extent

Part 3 - Application of Redemption:

- Order of salvation
- External call
- Internal call and Regeneration
- Repentance and Faith
- Union with Christ
- Justification
- Adoption
- Sanctification
- Perseverance
- Glorification

Salvation is **purposed** by the Father, **accomplished** by the Son, and **applied** by the Holy Spirit.

Ultimate purpose of salvation: God’s **glory** (Ephesians 1:5-6, 1 John 2:12)

*“Though man is the recipient of God’s great love in salvation, he is not the ultimate concern of God’s saving grace. God Himself and the glory of His name are uppermost in God’s affections. Any view of salvation that exalts man as God’s chief regard necessarily denigrates the glory of God.” – MacArthur and Mayhue*

## Benefits of studying soteriology

1. It builds a **foundation** of understanding **Scripture**.
2. It helps us **see** ourselves more **clearly**.
3. It compels us to **love** and **worship** God.
4. It bolsters **assurance** of our **salvation**.
5. It develops theological **discernment**.
6. It strengthens our **witness**.
7. It fuels us to **glorify** God more.

## Take aways

1. When thinking of the doctrine of salvation, always remember why it’s **needed**.
2. Anything related to salvation always begins with **God**.
3. View this study not as an academic exercise, but rather **training** for **life**.