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## ***Bible Study***



Tuesday, November 17, 2021

6:30 p.m. Online

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Ministerial Chief of Staff

**SOTERIOLOGY** - Derived from Greek word *sōtēria*: deliverance/salvation (from *sōtēr*: a savior) + -OLOGY from the Greek word *logia*: to study – Collins Dictionary.

So do you now know what is **SOTERIOLOGY**?



- Theology dealing with **salvation** especially as effected by **Jesus Christ** - Merriam-Webster dictionary.
- beliefs and doctrines concerning **salvation** in any specific religion, as well as the study of the subject. The idea of saving or delivering from some dire situation logically implies that humankind, as a whole or in part, is in such a situation – Encyclopedia Britannica.
- the doctrine of **salvation** through **Jesus Christ** – dictionary.com.

In short, Soteriology describes why we need saving, who saves us, how we are saved, and the purpose of our being saved. Topics such as redemption, propitiation, justification, and sanctification all fall under the umbrella of soteriology.

What is **salvation**?

and its  
believed by  
brought  
Christ.



Deliverance from sin  
consequences,  
Christians to be  
about by faith in

## **Bible verses on salvation**

- **Psalm 60:5** That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand, and answer us!
- **Matthew 19: 23-26** Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
- **John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life."
- **Acts 4:12** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- **Acts 16:30-31** "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household."
- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- **Romans 10:9-10** "That if you **confess** with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are **justified**, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness** of God in Him."
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by **grace** you have been **saved** through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

**Jean Wilund gives us a biblical example Paul uses to teach soteriology.**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-5** “Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.”

**She noted that Paul** addressed the Corinthians’ false beliefs, corrected their understanding, and in [1 Corinthians 15:1-5](#), defined true salvation (soteriology in action).

1. Christ died for our sins (v. 3).
2. Christ was buried (v. 4).
3. Christ was raised on the third day (v. 4).
4. Christ appeared to many after His resurrection (v. 5).
5. These truths happened according to and in fulfillment of Scripture (v. 3-4).

**Paul also demonstrated how the Corinthians could know they’re saved.**

1. They heard the true gospel (v. 1).
2. They received the gospel as truth (v. 1).
3. They stood (believing, evidenced by their life) upon the gospel as truth (v. 2).

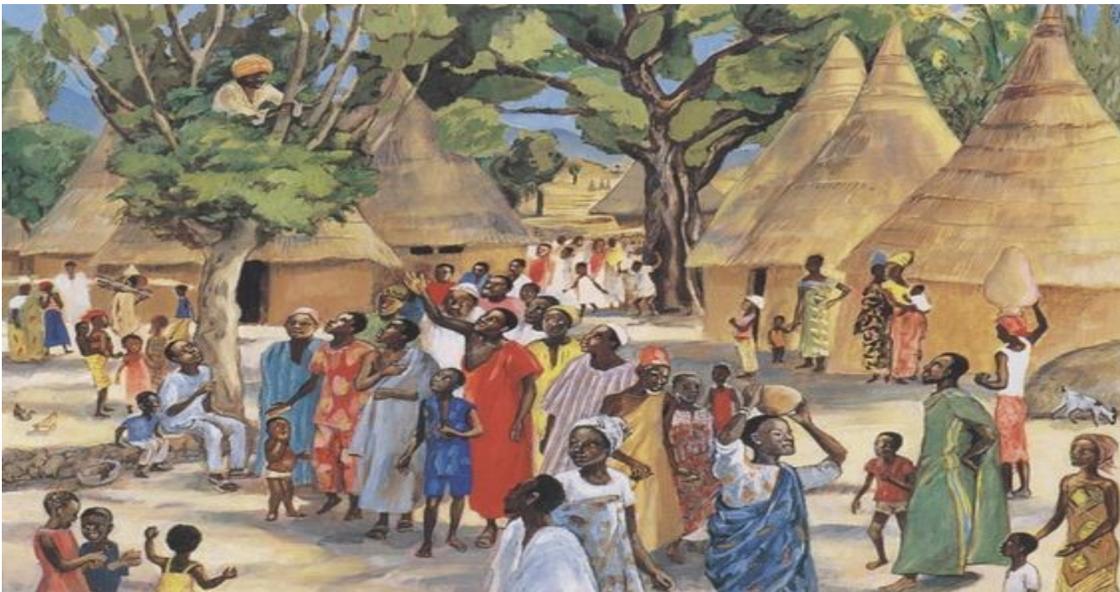
Soteriology exposes false teaching by examining the Bible in context and provides a clear understanding of salvation based on the evidence.

- Salvation isn’t a reward we receive for properly following a certain formula or “ABC steps to salvation” (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Good deeds can be evidence of salvation, but they can’t earn salvation (Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5-8; James 2:14-26).
- Salvation comes by believing in the heart, not by simply repeating words in a prayer as if they held magic power. A prayer that leads to

salvation must be made with true faith in the Gospel (Romans 10:10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5).

- Being born into a Christian home or heritage doesn't save you. Each person must personally believe in Christ for salvation (John 14:6; Galatians 4:4-6).
- Knowing who God and Jesus are doesn't save you. The demons know, and they're not saved (Acts 19:15; James 2:19).
- Salvation is a work of God alone by His merciful grace through faith in Christ alone (John 6:37-40; Romans 1:16; 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Mankind is born dead in their sins, and dead people are powerless to seek after God (Romans 3:11, 5:6; Ephesians 2:1).
- No one can come to the Son unless the Father draws him and opens his heart and mind to understand and believe in the revealed Christ (Matthew 16:17; John 6:44-45).
- There's salvation in no other name than Jesus (Acts 4:12).

### Let us look at Zacchaeus and Jesus



#### Luke 19:2-10

Dave Early in the book he wrote with David Wheeler on Evangelism Is... asks some very important questions. Why did Jesus come to earth? Was it to set a good example? Was it to teach great lessons? Was it to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead? Early points us to Jesus' own words in this story, that he came to "seek and save that which was lost."

**Jesus loves lost people.** Jesus told the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. When one is lost, Jesus seeks and saves. Can we be lost as Christians? The parable of the lost son seems to say so. We leave the protection and care of Jesus until we come to our senses. That is why the invitation is given to return to Jesus. Lost people need a relationship with God. Lost people lack righteousness before God. What would you say to God if he were to ask you, **“Why should I let you in to heaven?”**

A definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be “The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God’s conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.” Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.

### **Still Confused? Got Questions?**

**Q: Who needs saving?** Everyone (John 3:17; Romans 3:9-10, 23)

**Q: What do we need saving from?** Sin—imputed sin (the sin born in us originating from Adam’s sin recorded in Genesis 3) and actual sin (the sin we commit by our own choices.) (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12, 6:23; Hebrews 9:27).

**Q: What are we saved from?** In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from “wrath,” that is, from God’s judgment of sin (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9). Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin.

**Q: Who does the saving?** Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sin’s penalty (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5).

**Q: How does God save?** In the Christian doctrine of salvation, God has rescued us through Christ (John 3:17). Specifically, it was Jesus’ death on the cross that purchased the salvation of all who will believe in His atoning death (that His death was sufficient payment for their sin) and subsequent resurrection (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 1:7 Galatians 3:3, Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 5:9; Hebrews 9:12). Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift

of God (Ephesians 2:5, 8) and is only available through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

**Q: How do we receive salvation?** We are saved by faith. First, we must hear the gospel—the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection (Ephesians 1:13). Then, we must believe—fully trust the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ (Acts 3:19), and calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

### **What does the AME church believe about Salvation?**

Let’s go to the Doctrine & Discipline of the AMEC

#### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead’ he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **ARTICLES OF OUR FAITH – Just a few**

- **2. OF THE WORD OR SON OF GOD, WHO WAS MADE VERY MAN**  
The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man’s nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the God-head and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.
- **3. OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST**  
Christ did truly rise from the dead, and took again his body with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and sitteth until he returns to judge all men at last day.

- 5. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES FOR SALVATION

The Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

- 9. OF THE JUSTIFICATION OF MAN

We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by faith, and not by our own works or deservings; wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

The word justified means “pronounced or treated as righteous.” For a Christian, justification is the act of God not only forgiving the believer’s sins but crediting to them the righteousness of Christ. The Bible states in several places that justification only comes through faith (e.g., Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:24). Justification is not earned through our own works; rather, we are covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5). The Christian, being declared righteous, is therefore freed from the guilt of sin.

Justification is a completed work of God, and it is instantaneous, as opposed to sanctification, which is an ongoing process of growth by which we become more Christlike (the act of “being saved,” cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Sanctification occurs after justification.

**Everyone’s journey to salvation is not the same.**

Some hear the salvation story once and believe immediately while for others it takes a while.

What is your story? Care to share?

**After salvation now what do I do?** Go tell the good news that Jesus saves. Do no harm. Do all the good you can for all that you can. Live saved.

<https://youtu.be/UYFI5JnUrmI>

<https://youtu.be/AbhKu8n7eho>

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The Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC