

Doctrine for Dummies

Lesson 6

Salvation

In our biblical study of the nature of mankind (anthropology), we discovered the doctrine of what theologians call “total depravity”. Total depravity does not deny the greatness or goodness of humanity, nor the loveliness in many aspects of life. It only says that nothing can be untouched by humanity’s fall and rebellion against God. We are all sinners by position (our state of being before God), and we cannot save ourselves, therefore God must intervene and take the initiative to provide the necessary atonement. WHAT GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDED, HIS LOVE PROVIDED.

1. Based on the example of Abraham, how were people saved in the Old Testament (Genesis 15:6, Rom 4:2-3)? Was Abraham aware of the future perfect sacrifice that his descendant, Christ, would make (John 8:56-58, Galatians 3:6-9, 16)?
2. Were Moses and the prophets expecting the Christ (Acts 3:18-26)? Since the sacrifice of Jesus Christ came after Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, how were their sins forgiven (Romans 3:21-25)?
3. The blood sacrifices in the Mosaic Law demonstrated the presence of sin, and the necessity of a sacrifice for sin. Were the majority of sacrifices made for unknown and unintentional sin (Leviticus 4:2, 22, 27, 5:15)? The big annual sacrifice was on the Day of Atonement in which sacrifices were made for the entire nation. Does it sound like it was an accepted fact that everyone was “impure” (Lev 16:16-17, 22-23, 34)?
4. By the atonement, we mean the entire work of Christ on the cross. What is the motivating factor of the atonement (Jn 3:16, 1 Jn 4:10, Rom 5:8)? What is the problem that God’s love moved Him to overcome (Rom 3:23)?

5. Is God perfectly holy and righteous (1 Jn 1:5, Isaiah 6:3, Ex 15:11)? Must we also be judged according to the righteousness of God (Lev 19:2, 20:7, Matt 5:48)? Can God just overlook sin (Ex 34:7, Nahum 1:3)?

6. Since only God could pay the necessary price to atone for sin, and only man should pay that price, then only a God-man can. Therefore, who alone perfectly fits the bill (John 14:6, Acts 4:10-12)?

7. Explain what it means to be redeemed (1 Cor 6:20, Eph 1:7, Gal 3:13). What is the result of being redeemed (Gal 3:26, 4:5, Rom 8:15-17)?

8. How could God remain just while justifying the wicked (1 Jn 2:2, Gal 3:13, Rom 5:18-19)? Did He take the penalty of sin upon Himself in the person of His Son (Rom 3:21-26)? Since He took the penalty upon Himself, could He then declare us righteous (Rom 4:4-5, Phil 3:9)?

9. According to Romans 8:30 (2 Tim 1:9, 2 Cor 4:6), what seems to be the order of salvation? What is our necessary response to God's effective calling (Eph 2:8, Heb 11:1, 6, Jn 3:18)?

10. Faith is defined by many terms such as trust, belief, confidence, and commitment. How important is the object of your faith (Rom 10:2-3, Ex 20:2-3, Colossians 2:8-10, Hebrews 10:11-12)?