

# Christian Basics: Salvation

Lesson 1

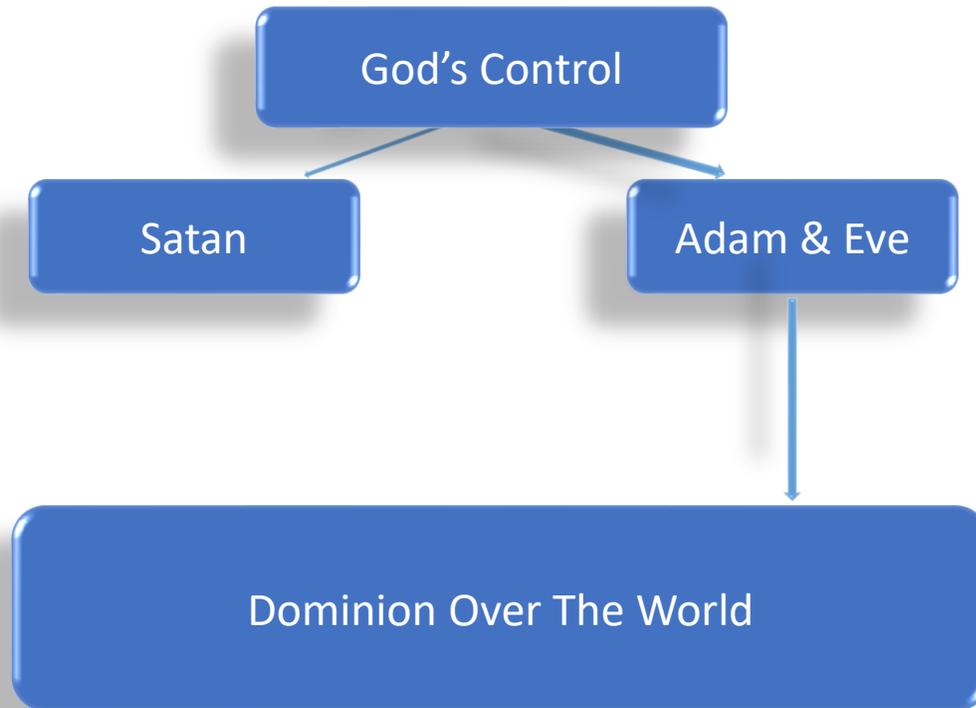
# Ephesians 2:1-10: Mankind Is Spiritually Dead

- Sin, as defined in the original translations of the Bible, means "to miss the mark." The mark, in this case, is the standard of perfection established by God and evidenced by Jesus. Viewed in that light, it's clear that we are all sinners. The Apostle Paul says in [Romans 3:23](#): "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"
- Why does anyone need salvation and salvation from what to what?
  - Genesis 1-2 describes the beginning of our universe, world and mankind.
  - Genesis further describes the paradise given to "sinless" Adam & Eve and their obligations
  - Genesis 3 describes the "Fall" of mankind from God's Grace to becoming a sinner.
    - Deceived by Satan, Man sins,
    - Sin is punishable by physical and spiritual death.
    - Spiritual death is eternal separation from God.
    - Punishment for sin must be paid. This is an absolute truth.
- Ephesians 2:1: The Bible is clear that man is spiritually dead.
  - This is the fundamental reason we are unable to save ourselves.
  - A dead man cannot climb out of his own grave and live again.
  - A spiritually dead person cannot save himself/herself
  - "Dead means dead toward God – unable to communicate with him. Many rightfully say, man is depraved (about as bad off as one can get.) in their standing (status) before God.
  - The sinless spirit that Adam & Eve had in the Garden of Eden was made "dead" by Sin.
  - All mankind 'inherits' the sin nature from Adam & Eve, thus all mankind is 'lost' from birth.
- To be saved means to be restored eternally to God as in Adam and Eve's original status.
- Man cannot save himself.
  - The punishment for sin requires eternal, spiritual death
  - We have no ability to live a perfect, sinless life and 'earn' our way to heaven.
  - We have no ability to experience spiritual death (eternal separation from God) and return to be with God forever.
  - Example of coal miners trapped underground
  - God must give us new life if we are to be reunited with Him.

# Mankind Was Deceived

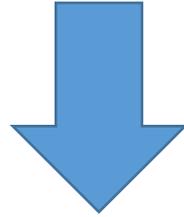
- Because mankind sinned. They are dead in their sins.....
  - [Genesis 2:26-31](#). Man no longer ruled the earth
  - Adam and Eve abdicated their rule over the world to Satan
  - Man lives according to the values and beliefs of this world.
  - Instead of living according to God, this world lives according to Satan
  - This world is dominated by Satan, “the prince of the power of the air”
  - God is ultimately in charge of everything in the universe, but for the time being has allowed Satan to have dominion over this earth.
  - Satan continues to deceive this world to make it look “normal”; and because we are spiritually dead, we are deceived into agreeing with Satan that the values and beliefs of this world are truth and good.
  - This will continue until our eyes are opened to God’s truth.

# Paradise



Man's Position  
Before God

"Lost"



Rejection of  
God's Divine  
Revelation

Man's  
Relationship To  
The World

Man's  
Relationship To  
Satan

Man's Sin

Man's  
Relationship To  
God

Citizenship

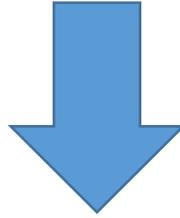
Conformist

Enemy

God's Judgment: Eternal Separation From God In Hell

Man's Position  
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Rejection of  
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Man's  
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Man's Sin

Man's  
Relationship To  
God

Creation

Citizenship

Image of God

Conformist

The Bible

Enemy

God's Judgment: Eternal Separation From God In Hell

## Romans 8:29-30

Foreknowledge

For those whom God foreknew

Predestination

Those whom He foreknew, He Predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son. Holy and blameless before him

Called

Those whom He predestined, He called

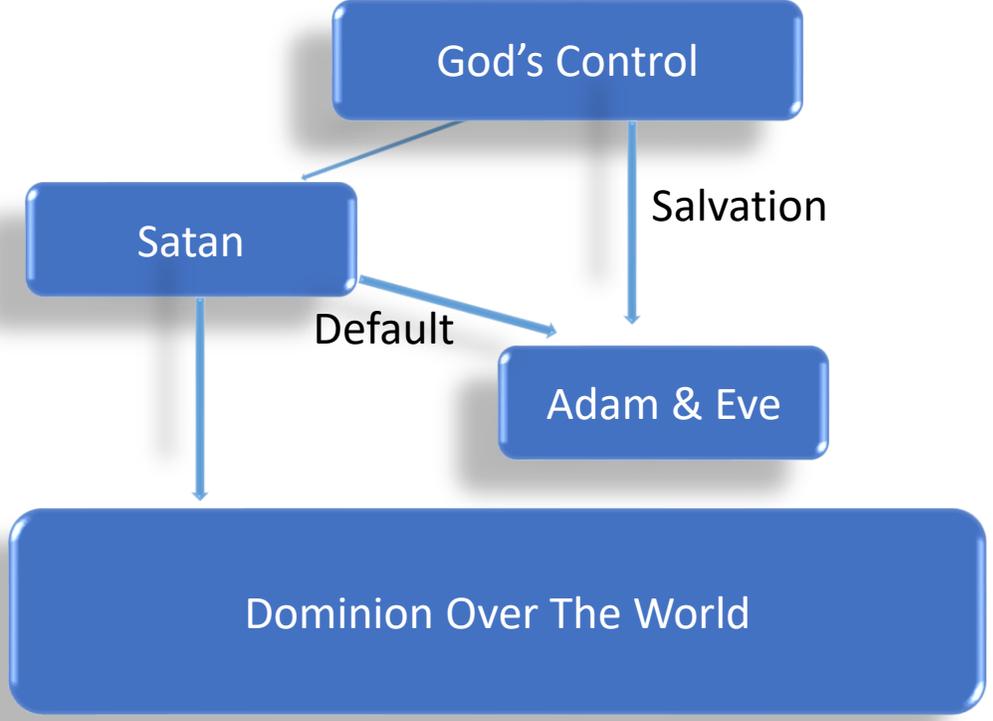
Justified

Those whom He called, He justified

Glorified

Those whom He justified, He glorified.

# After The Fall



# Man Was Disobedient

- [Ephesians 2:2](#) says that Satan's spirit now works in the 'sons of disobedience'.
- In our lost condition, we are those 'sons of disobedience.'
- Everybody in the world has disobeyed not only God's standards, but their own as well.
- Nobody does what they think is the right thing to do all the time.
- To fail in one standard is to fail in all of them ([James 2:10](#))
- There are two types of families in the world: God's family & Satan's family.
  - Satan's family consists of the sons and daughters of disobedience
  - God's family consists of His children through faith in Christ.

# Man Is Doomed

- Man, by his nature from birth, were 'children of wrath'
  - Dead
  - Deceived
  - Defiled
  - Doomed.
- But God .....
- Had it not been for the power of God as mentioned in [Eph 1:19](#), all would still be in that lost condition and destined to spend eternity in hell.
- I was lost, but God ....
  - Adam and Eve were lost forever of their sin, but God ....
  - Noah would have been drowned with the rest of the people, but God ...
  - Abraham would have been forever forsaken because of his sin, but God ...
  - Jonah would never have been given a second chance, but God ....
- All the way through the Bible, God is the one who makes the difference. He is the one who stays in and saves mankind from himself.

# Mankind Is Sinful

- Paul refers to us as “sons of disobedience in our lost condition.”
  - As children of this world, we are children of the ruler of this world.
    - Everybody in this world has disobeyed not only God’s standards, but their own as well.
    - All of us have the ‘tendency’ to sin as an inheritance from Adam & Eve.
    - But, all of us sin.
  - Nobody does what they think is right to do all of the time without fail.
  - There are only two types of people in this world.
    - Children of the Devil, which consists of the sons and daughters of disobedience
    - Children of God, which consists of those who have repented of their sins and accepted by faith, Jesus Christ as their savior.
- To fail in one standard (law) is to fail in them all ([James 2:10](#))
  - Example: In our world today, our justice system, decides punishment on the severity of which particular law is broken. So, different punishment for different laws. We call that fair.
  - God has only one punishment for all the different laws. That punishment is the ‘second death’ There are no other punishments, no purgatory, only eternal separation from God, irrespective how minor the infraction. This is why to break one law is equivalent to breaking all laws under God.
- It does not matter how ‘good’ you are.
  - Example: Swimming from California to Hawaii.

# To Save ....

- The Greek verb for “save” in [Ephesians 2:8](#) (“For by grace, you have been saved”) is *sozo* which comes from the word *sos*, meaning safe or well.
- Salvation from sin, therefore, is to make one well from, or save one from the effects of, sin.
- *Sozo* can also mean to cure, to bring safely, to restore to preserve, or to recover. In [Ephesians 2:8](#), *sozo* is written in the perfect passive Greek form.
  - The perfect tense indicates an action that took place in the past with results that continue in the present (as opposed to an event in the past with no continual effects)
  - The passive voice indicates that action of salvation was performed “on” the person, not “by” the person himself.
- Therefore, we did not save ourselves, but were saved by God

# Five Elements of Salvation

- God's Mercy
  - Mercy is when we don't get something we deserve as opposed to justice which is when we get what we deserve.
  - God is rich in mercy—not giving us the wrath and eternal death that our sins deserve
  - Justice was meted out to Christ in our place.
- God's Love
  - It was because of God's 'great love with which He loved us" that he extended His mercy to us. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10)
  - We did nothing to deserve Christ's love. God loved us even though we were sinners.
- God's Grace
  - We are saved by God's Grace (God's Richest At Christ's Expense)
  - God's grace is giving us what we don't deserve
  - Christ took what we did deserve (judgment) so that we could receive what we didn't deserve (forgiveness and salvation).
- God's Free Gift To Us
  - Grace through faith is 'the gift of God'
  - The only way to become a Christian is to accept the free gift of salvation God offers by His grace.
  - Salvation is not of ourselves, not of works. If you work for something, it is not a gift. It is something you earned under your own power
  - If you receive something without doing anything on your own, it's a gift. Salvation is a gift since there is nothing, as spiritually dead people, we can do to earn it.
- Through Faith
  - Salvation is by faith instead of by works. We cannot 'boast' of earning our way to heaven.
  - One becomes a Christian by receiving the gift of God like you would receive any other gift. You reach out and take it. And faith is the hand that reaches out.
  - This salvation through Christ is mine. I take this gift as my possession, thankful for its provision. I believe in Christ and what He has done for me." That's how you become a Christian.

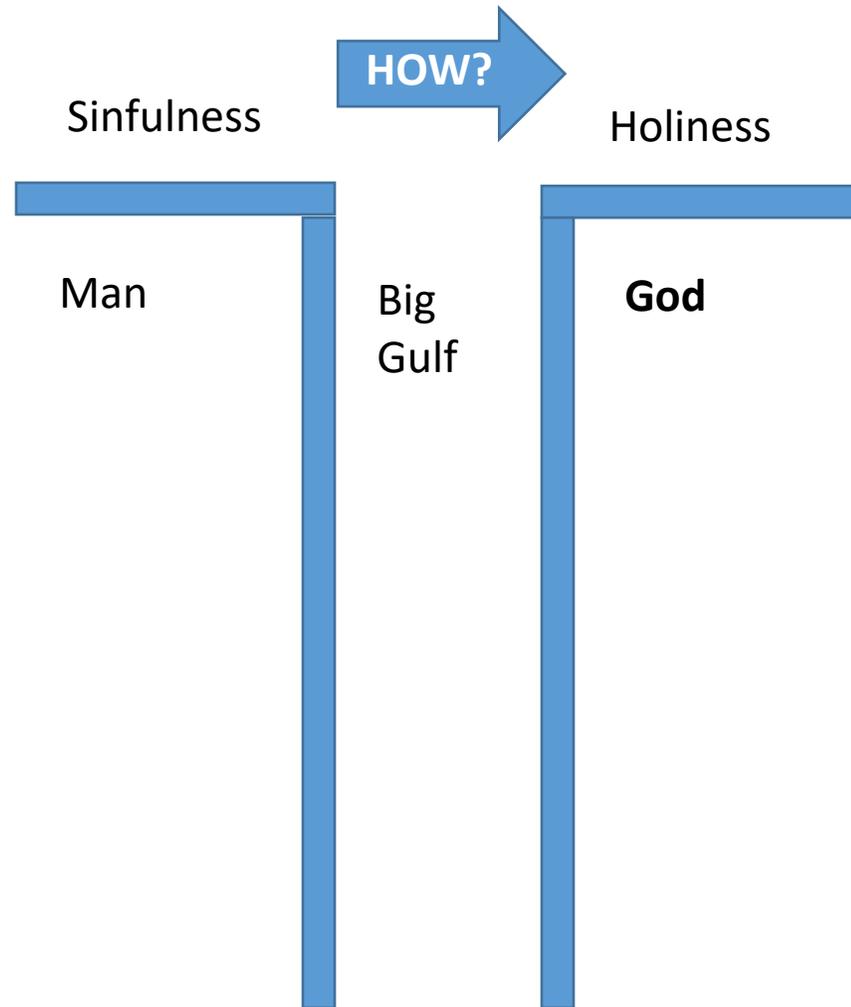
# The Results Of Salvation

- God's Goal and Result in salvation is to show ....
  - The exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus
  - Every Christian saved by grace will be a trophy of that grace for all eternity in heaven.
  - God gets the evidence of His own grace as a result of our salvation eternity with His redeemed children.
- The result for man is that we get to walk in the 'good works, which God prepared beforehand" for us.
  - We are not saved by good works, but we are most definitely saved for good works.
  - The Christian's responsibility is to be good and do good ([John 15:8](#); [2 Corinthians 9:8](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [Titus 2:14](#); [James 2:20](#))
  - It's absolutely imperative to maintain the distinction between being and doing good to earning salvation (which is impossible) and being and doing good as a result of salvation (which is expected).
  - If you are a Christian, you are God's 'workmanship' fashioned by Him to represent Him on this earth and in heaven for eternity.
  - God has done all the work necessary to save us in order that we might become His workmanship – prepared and equipped to do works that glorify Him.

# You Can Be Sure Today You're Ready For Jesus' Second Coming

- No matter what God has planned for Satan, you do not have to share Satan's future.
- God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Read [John 3:16](#), [John 10:10](#).
  - How does God feel about you personally?
  - What kind of plan does God have for you?
- Man is sinful and therefore separated from God Read [Romans 3:23](#)
  - Therefore man cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
- Man was created to have fellowship with God, but because of his own stubborn will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken
- This self will characterized by an attitude of active self-will or passive indifference is an indifference of what the Bible calls sin.

# Man Is Separated From God



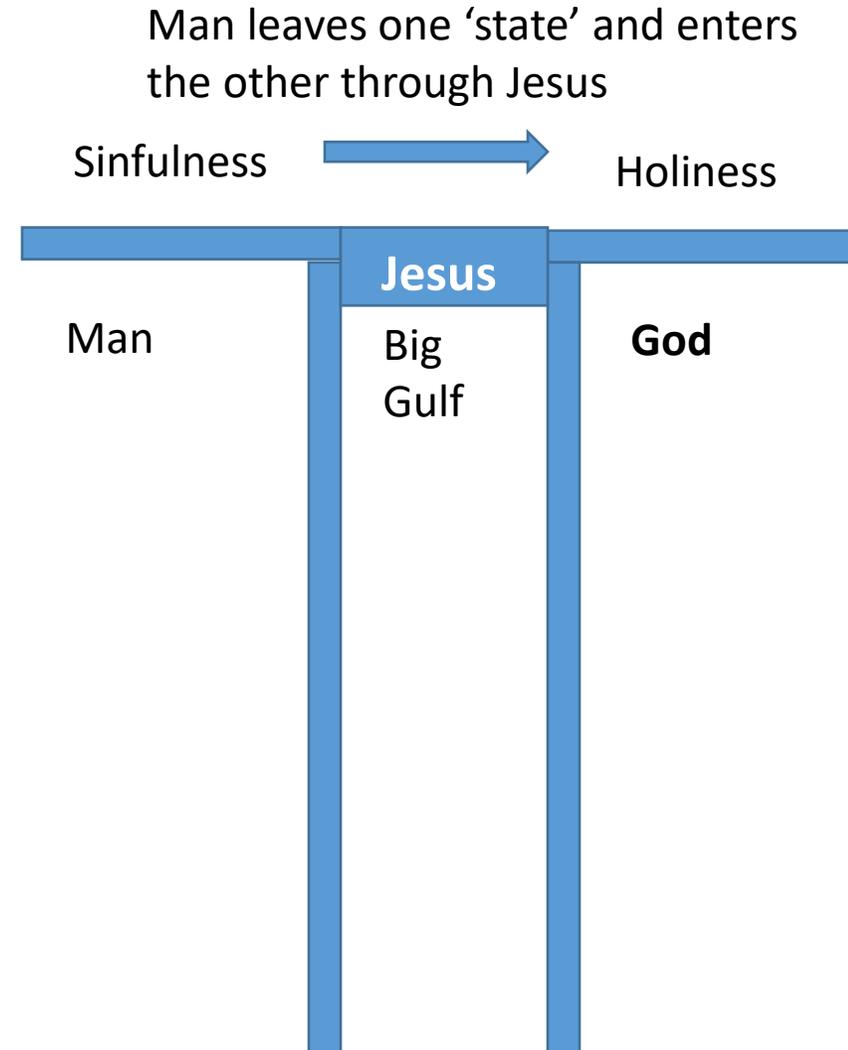
- Read [Romans 6: 23](#)
- This drawing illustrates that man is sinful and God is Holy. A great gulf separates the two.
  - The arrows indicate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, religion, But man inevitably fails.
  - But there is one way and only one way to bridge this gap.

# Jesus Is God's Only Provision For Sin

- Through Jesus Christ you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
- Read [Romans 5:8](#). How did Jesus show his love toward us?
- Read [1 Corinthians 15:3-6](#). How did Jesus rescue us?
- Read [John 14:6](#) What is Jesus saying about man's efforts to reach and please God? How can man find peace with God?

# Man Can Be Restored To God Through Jesus

- Chart shows Jesus bridging the gap and God reaching out to man
- This diagram illustrates that God loved man so much He took the initiative to restore mankind by sending Jesus, His only son to die for our sins instead of us.
- But it is not enough to know and understand God's plan and what he has done.



# We Must Individually Receive Jesus Christ As Lord And Savior

- When we receive Jesus Christ As Lord and Savior than we can experience God's love and plan for our lives.
- [John 1:12](#) We must receive God
- [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) We receive Christ through faith.
- [John 3:1-8](#) When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth.
- [Revelation 4:20](#) We must receive Christ through a personal invitation to come into our lives
- You can receive Christ right now by prayer in faith asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior
  - Tell God you understand that you have sinned and fallen short
  - Ask His forgiveness for your sins
  - Tell Him you repent of your former life and will now follow Him
  - Ask Jesus to come into your life as your Lord and Savior
  - Accept in faith that God has forgiven you your sins, and that Jesus is now your Lord and Savior
  - Accept in faith that you are now an adopted son of God and that this relationship can never be reversed.
  - You will now spend eternity with God.

# Is Salvation Forever?

- When people come to know Christ as their Savior, they are brought into a relationship with God that guarantees their eternal security. [Jude 24](#) declares, "To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy." God's power is able to keep the believer from falling. It is up to Him, not us, to present us before His glorious presence. Our eternal security is a result of God keeping us, not us maintaining our own salvation.
- The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" ([John 10:28-29b](#)). Both Jesus and the Father have us firmly grasped in their hand. Who could possibly separate us from the grip of both the Father and the Son?
- [Ephesians 4:30](#) tells us that believers are "sealed for the day of redemption." If believers did not have eternal security, the sealing could not truly be unto the day of redemption, but only to the day of sinning, apostasy, or disbelief. [John 3:15-16](#) tells us that whoever believes in Jesus Christ will "have eternal life." If a person were to be promised eternal life, but then have it taken away, it was never "eternal" to begin with. If eternal security is not true, the promises of eternal life in the Bible would be in error.
- The most powerful argument for eternal security is [Romans 8:38-39](#), "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Our eternal security is based on God's love for those whom He has redeemed. Our eternal security is purchased by Christ, promised by the Father, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.