

Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

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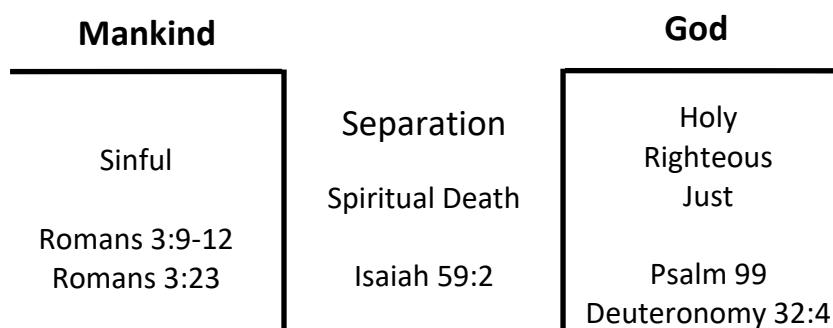
Lesson 2. The Need for Salvation: Inability to Save Ourselves

Review the Need for Salvation

Why does a person need to be saved?

When asked this question the answer most often given will be, "I need to be saved to go to heaven." This gives the result of salvation but does not really deal with the question of why we need to be saved.

The following diagram pictures why we need to be saved.



1. Describe God's character with respect to sin. (Psalm 99; Isaiah 6:1-6; Deuteronomy 32:4)
2. Describe mankind's character with respect to sin. (Romans 3:9-12, 23)
(Review: What is sin?)
3. What is the result of sin upon the human race?
 - ◆ D_____ Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Romans 5:12-21
 - a. Death = _____
There is a _____ between sinful mankind and a holy God.
 - b. Isaiah 59:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10; Revelation 20:11-15
 - ◆ Review: What is the difference between physical death, spiritual death, and the second death?
 - ◆ D_____
Because of sin, our human nature is corrupt and sinful throughout.
What do the following say about our sinful condition?
 - Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:18; Job 15:14-16
 - ◆ D_____
Are people able to do anything about their sinful condition apart from Jesus Christ?
 - Job 14:4; Romans 8:7-8; Isaiah 64:6; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9

The Inability to Save Ourselves

I. Distinction between depravity and inability:

- A. **Depravity** means that mankind's nature is corrupt, perverse, and sinful throughout.
- B. **Inability** means that one, by his own effort, is unable to do anything that will change his depraved condition or gain favor before God.

II. Our corrupt nature rejects God.

-  Romans 8:7 "*the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.*"
- A. The unbelieving mind does not want God (John 3:19-20; 5:39-40; 12:37; Revelation 16:9, 11, 21).
- B. The unbelieving mind is insensitive to God (Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 1:21-23; 3:11, 18).
- C. The unbelieving mind rejects truth concerning God.
 -  Romans 1:18 "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*"
 -  I Corinthians 2:14 "*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*"

III. The unbeliever is unable to change from his lost state.

-  Job 14:4 "*Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!*"
-  Jeremiah 13:23 "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good who are accustomed to evil.*"

IV. The unbeliever is unable to do anything spiritually good.

-  Romans 8:7-8 "*the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*"
-  Romans 3:10-12 "*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*"
 - ❖ "no one does good" – Greek word chrestos –
No one does according to his _____ .
-  Isaiah 64:6 "*all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;*"
-  Titus 3:5 "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy,*"

V. Divine assistance is necessary to enable one to turn to God.

- BOOK John 6:44 "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him."
- BOOK John 6:65 "No one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."
- BOOK John 15:16, 19 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you."
"You are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world,"

VI. Related concepts to the inability of man to respond to God.

- A. Unbelievers are slaves to sin (John 8:34; Titus 3:3).
- B. Unbelievers are dead in their sinful state (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13; Romans 5:12).
- C. Unbelievers are subject to Satanic blindness (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:25-26; John 8:42-44; 1 John 5:19).

BOOK 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,"*

➤ **Write a summary description of our inability to solve our sin problem and save ourselves.**