

God

1. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

- The salvation message must start with God – specifically, his LOVE and GRACE.
- Jesus is the only “son” who directly proceeds from God Himself (“only begotten”)
- The message is open to all who believe in Him – i.e. in his salvation for them personally
- We receive not “everlasting life” – i.e. life that begins with our birth and lasts forever, but we receive “eternal life” – the very life of God that never began nor ends

2. Eph. 2: 8, 9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

- God’s grace is giving us what we do not deserve, meaning salvation.
- God does not “grade on the curve” when it comes to salvation – as most believe.
- There are none good enough to make it into heaven, and none bad enough to make them go to hell
- Salvation is a free gift of God to the one who received that gift – plain and simple
- There is nothing we can “do” (“works”) to earn heaven

Sin

3. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- “Sin” = “missing the mark – in this case, the mark of God’s PERFECTION. The requirement for heaven is PERFECTION – impossible without God’s intervention.
- Most people acknowledge that they are sinners – but few understand that God requires perfection.

4. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Few understand that their sin must result in death – not just physical death but spiritual death.
- Thus, we have a need of salvation – help outside of ourselves. When we receive the free gift of God given in Jesus, God sees us as PERFECT through the lens of Jesus in our life.
- We can now reach God’s mark, because of Jesus. Though we deserve death, we receive eternal life.

Jesus

5. Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- There are 2 key things about Jesus that seekers must know to find Him.
- (1) Jesus' death is all encompassing – He died for all.

6. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

- (2) His death and salvation are EXCLUSIVE – that is, He is the ONLY way to God and heaven.
- Most have a hard time understanding and accepting this. This exclusiveness keeps many from the kingdom.
- But since Jesus IS God, it makes sense that He is the only WAY to God
- Now, we have 4 scriptures, giving 4 metaphors of how we must respond to this offer of salvation if we are to gain it: RECEIVE, CONFESS, HAVE, OPEN

Response

7. John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

We are not automatically God's children when we are born – we must "become" His child by adoption – RECEIVING His provision. This is a right and privilege God gives us when we believe in His (Jesus') name = Savior

8. Romans 10: 9 (That) if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

There is something we must SAY (confess = agree that Jesus is Lord, both of all and specifically of our life) and something we must BELIEVE – in the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave – our power for salvation

9. 1 John 5:11,12 And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Though we are physically alive, we only possess ("have") eternal life when we possess or "have" Jesus. This eternal life is for the taking, received when we "take" or "have" Jesus as our specified Lord and Savior, by faith.

10. Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- In Bible context, these are Jesus' words of warning and invitation to the lazy Laodecean church. Today, they are Jesus' words to all who have not received or welcomed Jesus into their lives.
- We must first HEAR his call and then OPEN the door (of our life or heart) to Him.
- His promise is that if we HEAR and OPEN in response to his "knock," He WILL come in and "dine" with us – meaning intimate relationship of fellowship and full salvation.