

The 'Discipleship Check List' Transcript

A GV247.TV Programme presented by Stewart Menelaws

DCL No2: Salvation and its requirements:

Note: New believers or seekers should read the Gospel of Luke written *by a gentile (non-Jew) for a gentile*. If you are Jewish, Matthew's Gospel is written from a Jewish perspective. The Gospel of John will give a deeper spiritual dimension and the book of Acts introduces the early church.

This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or who has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, overseers and believers reaching out to others.

Last week we spoke about the need to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and the requirement to build your faith upon a solid foundation.

What is Biblical Salvation?

The word salvation implies 'rescue'. Jesus Christ came to 'save' us (John 12:47). So we have 2 questions to ask:

1. Why do we need to be saved or rescued?
2. What are the conditions for this rescue?

We can understand this by using an illustration of a sinking ship whereby the highly trained crew inform you of a terrible tragedy. The ship is sinking!

1. You now hear that the ship is sinking and you will perish along with it.
2. To escape this terrible fate, you hear that you need to get into the lifeboat.

Now, the choice is yours... because hearing is one thing - and doing is another.

So, regarding Biblical Salvation, we need to have a sound understanding of *why* we need *rescued* in the first place. First, the bad news. The beautiful ship with a foolish captain has collided with an iceberg and is now sinking.

The Problem - in Brief: (The Bad News)

If we are here by chance/evolution – there is no such thing as Biblical Salvation!

This is a fundamental question that will have a tremendous bearing on how a person interprets and understands the Bible. If we treat the book of beginnings (*Genesis*) as myth, fable or prose, we have willingly chosen to challenge the Word of God from the very outset, echoing the words of the serpent, "*did God really say?*" (Gen 3:1). For further study - you can view a wide range of studio interviews on our various science channels at Global Vision TV at www.GV247.TV.

As created beings – what were the conditions of our creation?

The Bible states that mankind was created perfectly (*blue-printed / designed*) in the image and likeness of The Creator (Gen 1:26). The only requirement for the newly formed Adam and Eve was that they did not partake of the fruit of knowledge that would open their understanding to good and evil (Gen 2:17). In due course, the ensuing human race was created in the likeness of fallen Man (Gen 5:3).

The Bible explains mankind rebelled, initiating terrible consequences...

In Genesis chapter 3 we read that man wilfully succumbed to the deception that he could become like God Himself and that action of sin / rebellion separated them from their Father's love and protection and caused the spiritual death of all creation. They put into motion a chasm (*the trespass* Rom 5:12-19) between themselves and The Creator resulting in endless pain and grief for all life to come.

The chasm or trespass cannot be breached. Breaking the Law of God, (which is perfection), demands sentence, and the verdict for rebellion can only be separation and death. The newly corrupted humans were stopped from partaking of the Tree of (eternal) Life which is now something that cannot be allowed (Gen 3:22).

A corruptive element had now entered the physical DNA of life itself. Death and decay had entered the creation (Rom 5:12) and there is nothing we can do to fix it. As our technology advances, at best we put sticky plasters on life-threatening infections, but it is the heart which is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Now if this was not bad news enough, the Bible goes on to explain that mankind is destined to face not one, but two deaths which was the initial warning given by God in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:17.

What does the Bible mean by death?

The Bible explains that we are made up of 3 parts and 2 in particular are intertwined (1 Thess 5:23)

- **Body** – *The physical / biological vehicle for the soul/spirit. This will die and decay.*
- **Soul** – *Personality, conscience, mind, will, emotions. The soul can't die – Matt 16:26.*
- **Spirit** – *The spiritual part that connects us to the supernatural dimension and to God. Spirit can't die – Isaiah 14:9.*

After the death of the physical body, the first death, in due course the soul/spirit will be transported to eternal incarceration (John 5:28-29) which is the second death in the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:14-15).

The rescue – conditions apply – see The Bible. (The Good News) *Now the Good News. There is a Lifeboat...*

The second death was never intended for mankind, but for angelic creatures that rebelled from their rightful positions in the heavenly Kingdom (Jude verse 6). Now that we have an understanding of the insurmountable problem (Luke 18:26-27) we need to find the answer. Jesus says, "seek and you will find" in Matthew 7:7-8.

In our search we find 3 very important words.

- **Salvation** - To be saved, rescued. Biblical salvation is the saving of the soul/spirit – to be transformed into an eternal spiritual body in due course.
- **Grace** - Mercy, reprieve, clemency. Biblical grace is understood as unmerited favour. God has granted us clemency from this eternal judgement.
- **Faith** - Trust, confidence, reliance, belief, assurance. Biblical faith is to put your trust in God's promise. It's an act of obedience which shows love in action. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

Jesus Christ the Saviour:

Just as flesh and blood would be vaporised in a nuclear blast, so The Bible tells us that we cannot approach the unapproachable Light that is God (1 Tim 6:16). The chasm between God and man can only be bridged by God Himself and we read in John's gospel (John 3:16) that He sent His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, to rescue us from the judgement to come, and that enables us to boldly come to the throne of grace/mercy (Hebrews 4:16). When we are born again (John 3:3 / 1 Peter 1:23) the relationship changes from Almighty God to our Father in Heaven (John 1:12-13).

God desires all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4) and as disciples of Christ we're to go forth to proclaim this wonderful news (Matt 28:19). There will be many who will be rescued for eternal life and there will be many who ignore the message and will perish as surely as those who would not board the lifeboat on the sinking ship.

The first act is to repent (turn away from our self-will) and seek (His will) God's Kingdom and His Righteousness (Matt 6:33) and so begins the journey of discipleship and working out this great rescue with deep sincerity. (Phil 2:12)

The future hope:

All who have put their trust in God and His salvation (Jesus Christ) are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life (Philippians 4:3) and qualified to share in the inheritance of The Kingdom of light (Colossians 1:12-14)

Revelation chapters 21 & 22 speak of a new Heaven and a new Earth where every tear will be wiped away, no more death or mourning, no more crying or pain for the old order of things will have passed away (Rev 21:4).

What a rescue – what a promise! (Rom 1:16-17) Meditate on these scriptures and come to understand God's perfect love, God's perfect rescue through Jesus Christ.

Next week (DCL No3) we look at:

Seek first His Kingdom and Righteousness? (Matthew 6:33)

The 'Discipleship Check List' series has been produced with the sole aim of encouraging the hearer / reader to study the Holy Bible so that faith in Jesus Christ will be built on Him alone. Every human work is fallible and whilst every effort has been made to represent the truths of God Almighty's Holy Words, this series is but an aid to help encourage study so that the Christian disciple of Jesus Christ will go onto maturity in the most Holy faith.

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