

ARISE BIBLE STUDY DOCTRINES

Study: The Science of Salvation (SS).

We are SINNERS by nature, SAVED by GRACE, through FAITH, not by WORKS, but unto or for GOOD WORKS that are energized by God's love. There are seven components in this Bible study: SIN, SAVED, BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, NOT OF WORKS, HIS WORKMANSHIP, and UNTO GOOD WORKS.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to explain that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, not by work, but for good works, which are generated in by the creative power of God's love.

Center It: God is love. This whole study is centered in the fact that we cannot save ourselves or contribute to our salvation. God saves the sinner by attracting him to Himself . . . It is the work of Christ for us and in us! *If we serve God because of what He can give me, we have merely transformed our human egocentricity / selfishness into a religion . . .*

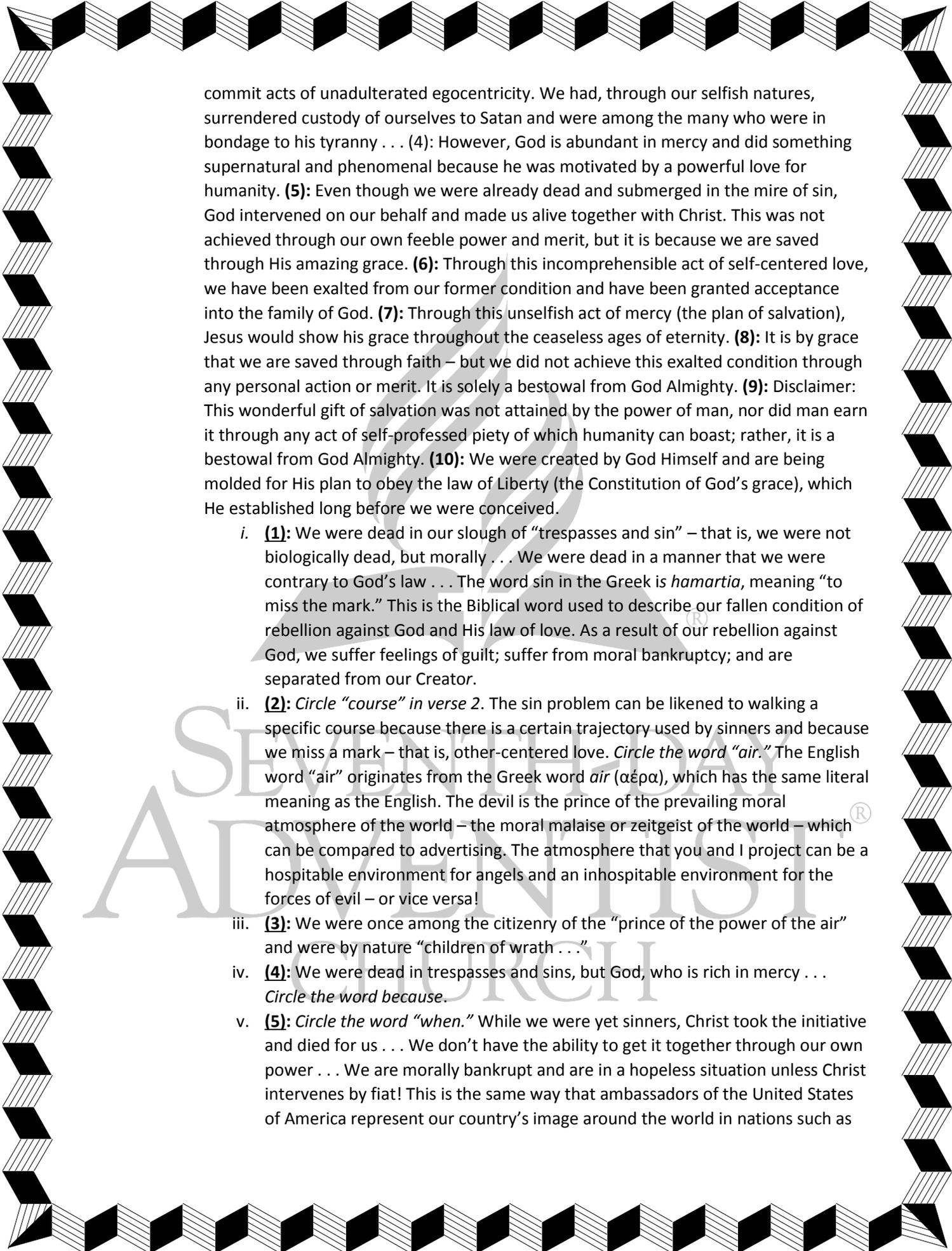
Know It / Mark it:

1. Ephesians 2:1-10
2. 1 John 3:4
3. Romans 13:10
4. Romans 3:23
5. Matthew 1:21
6. Ephesians 1:7

7. Titus 2:11, 12
8. Matthew 8:5-10
9. Galatians 5:5, 6
10. Galatians 2:16
11. 2 Corinthians 5:17
12. Titus 2:14

Share it:

1. **Ephesians 2:1-10:** *It is highly recommendable to use personal stories and / or anecdotes in order to relate to the person you are studying with . . . Try to open with a story about a person with whom you have a close relationship – a romantic relationship, platonic relationship, etc. Present this passage (primarily verses 8 through 10) in expository format, which is defined by the Online Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “of, relating to, or containing exposition.” The root word exposition is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “a setting forth of the meaning or purpose (as of a writing)” or “discourse or an example of it designed to convey information or explain what is difficult to understand.” The goal is to move through the passage, clearly define the sin problem, and conclude by presenting the solution to our fallen nature. Move through the passage clearly defining the words in the following sentence and turn to additional texts of Scripture that will expound upon each point, constantly returning to the man passage (Ephesians 2:1-10). We are SINNERS by nature, SAVED by GRACE, through FAITH, not by WORKS, but unto or for GOOD WORKS that are ENERGIZED BY God's LOVE.*
 - a. **Paraphrase: (1):** We were dead in our Augean stable of sin, but Jesus Christ made us alive . . . **(2):** We formerly committed sins and were thereby the accomplices in transgressing God's law – meaning that we were the minions of Satan, the Evil One. **(3):** In this depraved condition, our only concern was to satisfy our carnal desires and



commit acts of unadulterated egocentricity. We had, through our selfish natures, surrendered custody of ourselves to Satan and were among the many who were in bondage to his tyranny . . . (4): However, God is abundant in mercy and did something supernatural and phenomenal because he was motivated by a powerful love for humanity. (5): Even though we were already dead and submerged in the mire of sin, God intervened on our behalf and made us alive together with Christ. This was not achieved through our own feeble power and merit, but it is because we are saved through His amazing grace. (6): Through this incomprehensible act of self-centered love, we have been exalted from our former condition and have been granted acceptance into the family of God. (7): Through this unselfish act of mercy (the plan of salvation), Jesus would show his grace throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. (8): It is by grace that we are saved through faith – but we did not achieve this exalted condition through any personal action or merit. It is solely a bestowal from God Almighty. (9): Disclaimer: This wonderful gift of salvation was not attained by the power of man, nor did man earn it through any act of self-professed piety of which humanity can boast; rather, it is a bestowal from God Almighty. (10): We were created by God Himself and are being molded for His plan to obey the law of Liberty (the Constitution of God’s grace), which He established long before we were conceived.

- i. (1): We were dead in our slough of “trespasses and sin” – that is, we were not biologically dead, but morally . . . We were dead in a manner that we were contrary to God’s law . . . The word sin in the Greek is *hamartia*, meaning “to miss the mark.” This is the Biblical word used to describe our fallen condition of rebellion against God and His law of love. As a result of our rebellion against God, we suffer feelings of guilt; suffer from moral bankruptcy; and are separated from our Creator.
- ii. (2): Circle “course” in verse 2. The sin problem can be likened to walking a specific course because there is a certain trajectory used by sinners and because we miss a mark – that is, other-centered love. Circle the word “air.” The English word “air” originates from the Greek word *air* (αἴρα), which has the same literal meaning as the English. The devil is the prince of the prevailing moral atmosphere of the world – the moral malaise or zeitgeist of the world – which can be compared to advertising. The atmosphere that you and I project can be a hospitable environment for angels and an inhospitable environment for the forces of evil – or vice versa!
- iii. (3): We were once among the citizenry of the “prince of the power of the air” and were by nature “children of wrath . . .”
- iv. (4): We were dead in trespasses and sins, but God, who is rich in mercy . . . Circle the word because.
- v. (5): Circle the word “when.” While we were yet sinners, Christ took the initiative and died for us . . . We don’t have the ability to get it together through our own power . . . We are morally bankrupt and are in a hopeless situation unless Christ intervenes by fiat! This is the same way that ambassadors of the United States of America represent our country’s image around the world in nations such as

China . . . Salvation is a complete reality that is already achieved through Jesus Christ.

- vi. **(6):** Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have been redeemed from our depraved moral condition and have been raised to a position in which we can represent Him on earth (1 Corinthians 5:20). Thanks to Jesus Christ, we are already saved . . . One human being lived a life here on earth to parallel the life of Adam and succeeded where mortals failed . . . God is motivated by His great love for us – we are not saved through our own merit.
- vii. **(7):** When this world ends, redeemed human beings will forever remain the trophy – the go-to people – to spread the truth of the goodness of God’s grace and the inherent evil in rebellion against the government of God . . . For eternity in ages to come, God will point to human beings as the proof of His love towards everyone because He has proven Himself worthy of the title of a God of Love.
- viii. **(8):** This is one of the high points of Scripture . . . Paul achieves a high level of clarity in these verses . . . Paul brings together various aspects of the plan of salvation so that we can understand the science of salvation . . . Salvation in mainstream theology is centered around the human being and a concept that God takes a punitive stance toward humanity . . . The plan of salvation is accepted in order to avoid hell . . . The English word saved here is translated from the Greek *sozo*, which means “to be liberated, delivered from, or healed from a despot, tyrant, or disease.” Therefore, we have been saved through Jesus Christ from the guilt and power of sin. God seeks to bring us to heaven, but we need to accept heaven in our hearts . . . Just like the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-12; Luke 11:2-4). “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven . . .” Salvation is spiritual, moral, and relational health! We can never bankrupt ourselves of love when we give love others because the very act of loving others creates reciprocity! “Give, and will be given to you . . .” (Luke 6:38). This is how the kingdom of love! Salvation is restorative by nature! Jesus assesses the world as ignorant of the true character of God and states that we are in need of enlightenment from above. Salvation isn’t a simplistic confession to avoid trouble – it is a conscious request for the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and act through our lives (John 17:25, 26). Grace is the mechanism by which God saves us from sin . . . God saves – that is, he liberates – through grace! Grace is translated from the Greek word *charis* – from whence comes the word “charisma” – meaning “the unmerited favor, goodness, acceptance, and kindness of God.” We are saved by a powerful grace . . . an astounding, unbelieving grace! Faith is translated into the English vernacular from the word *pistis*, meaning “to believe, to trust, to rely upon” the truth of God’s grace! Faith is the means by which we gain God’s grace! Through faith we realize the veracity of God’s grace!
- ix. **(9):** We are not saved by good works – our salvation comes first!
- x. **(10):** The English word “workmanship” is translated from the Greek word *poiema*, meaning “poem; work of art; magnum opus.” We are the *poiema*

(workmanship) of Jesus Christ, created and recreated by Jesus Christ to do good works . . .

2. **1 John 3:4:** Sin is the transgression of God's law.
3. **Romans 13:10:** ". . . Love is the fulfillment of the law." Therefore, God's law is defined as love. It logically follows that sin is constituted in our failure to love ourselves, others, and God . . .
4. **Romans 3:23:** ". . . For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . ." Sin is also defined as falling short of God's glory – which means that failing to reflect God's character (love) is also sin.
5. **Matthew 1:21:** Sin is the very thing from which we need *sozo* (salvation) – and Jesus is our Savior!
6. **Ephesians 1:7:** Grace bestows forgiveness for sin . . .
7. **Titus 2:11, 12:** Through grace, God empowers us to live godly lives . . .
8. **Matthew 8:5-10:** Having faith means to believe in the power of Jesus to accomplish what He says, namely our healing from sin. However, faith requires a spirit of humility and a realization that salvation is gained without personal merit – unlike medals such as the Congressional Medal of Honor . . . We are all Roman Catholics by nature because Catholicism involves salvation through works . . .
9. **Galatians 5:5, 6:** Faith is energized, activated, and empowered by God's love . . . No human works avail anything for the acquisition of salvation . . . The English word energy comes from the Greek word *energeo* . . .
10. **Galatians 2:16:** Our works possess no saving virtue or power . . .
11. **2 Corinthians 5:17:** Our salvation is achieved by means of God's creative power . . .
12. **Titus 2:14:** When we are saved by grace, we become zealous for good works, not merely to earn salvation, but because we love the one who first gave Himself for us . . .

Appeal: Jesus gave His life for you for the simple, yet profound, reason that He loves you more than His own life. You are a sinner, as am I and every other person. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation. But the good news is, you don't need to because it is a free gift to be accepted by faith, by trusting yourself to Christ and believing that He freely forgives you for all your sins. I want to invite you to pray with me and accept the gift of salvation. I will pray and if you agree with my prayer and want to make it your own, just say "Amen." **Prayer:** *Dear Father God, I confess that I am a sinner. I have broken Your law of love and fallen short of Your character. Please forgive me, Lord, not because I have any good works to offer in exchange for Your salvation, but because of Your free grace. Also, by that same grace empower me to live my life in harmony with your law and Your character of love. I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. Thank you! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!*

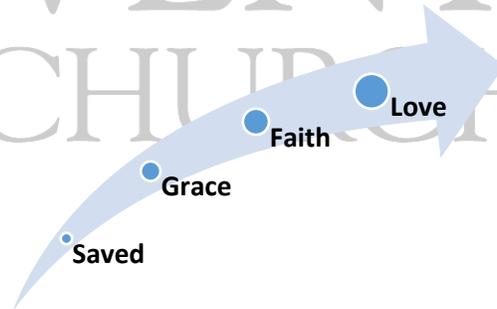


Figure 1: We are saved by grace through faith, that through this act of selflessness we might know God's love (other-centeredness) and emulate His love by radiating it to others.



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