

Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study 2/17/10  
Pastor Jesse Williams

*The Articles of Faith; What we believe...*

**Article IV. The Way of Salvation**

John 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Hebrews 9:11-15; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 10:1-10

What does it really mean when we say that we are “saved”? This is language that is often used in and about the Christian church but rarely is it fully understood by those who hear it. In its simplest sense, to be saved means that someone was in a predicament where death, destruction and danger were imminent if they had not already happened. There must be something that a person is saved *from*, and generally whatever it is, it was not for their good. So, when we are faced with situations of definite destruction, danger and death and we are rescued from the situation, we can then say that we have been *saved* from the impending consequences of what was about to destroy us. The person who saved us is called a *savior*, and the act that they accomplished for us is called *salvation*. It is also referred to as redemption or being redeemed.

In this doctrinal teaching we see how Jesus is our savior, and that we are saved from the death and destruction that resulted from the Fall of man. The whole activity of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and rising on the third day is God’s way of Salvation that is available to all who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and believe in Him by faith. It was never God’s intention for humanity to fall into sin like we did in the garden of Eden. But since it happened, God also made provision for us to be put back into a life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

**How God provides Salvation**

It is important for us to remember that the way of salvation is God’s plan and remedy to undo the damage that was done to humanity and creation because of the Fall. Since humanity failed and sinned in the first Adam, God sent a second Adam, who is Jesus Christ. In fact, God took upon Himself human form and flesh. He was human like we are and unlike the first Adam, Jesus lived without any sin. Since Jesus had no sin Himself, His death was for our sins, the sins of the whole world. So, in essence God was in Jesus Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Where humanity fell short, God took it upon Himself to do it for us. Through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ; God saved us from the condemnation of sin that came from the fall. God saved us from eternal separation from God, death and hell. God redeemed us and all of creation and helps us to regain the status with God that we had before the Fall.

## **How humanity gets Salvation**

We are saved by Grace through Faith. It is not because of our works or anything that we do to earn salvation. Grace literally means “gift”, so literally salvation comes to us as God’s free gift when we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that the salvation work of Jesus Christ is real. Confession, faith and belief is what we do in response to this awesome invitation that God extends to us in the plan of Salvation. We don’t earn salvation, we don’t even get ourselves ready for salvation. It is a free gift from God and no one controls who is or is not saved. It is a gift of God that is made available to the whole world. God depends on those of us who are in the church to be His witnesses in the world and tell others about this important invitation that God has made possible for us through Jesus Christ. There is nothing that we can do that controls, manipulates, earns, dictates or regulates salvation. It is strictly in the hands of God because Jesus paid the ultimate price and the whole price for our salvation. That’s why we are so thankful to God, because Jesus did it for us and we could never have done it for ourselves. No matter how hard we try, we could not live sinless like Jesus did. God would have been justified in just destroying all humanity and all creation, but He loved us so much that He made our salvation and redemption possible through Jesus Christ. It is His gift to us and we should receive it humbly, joyously and thankfully. Our proper response should be to gladly give our lives back to God totally committed to His will and His way because if it were not for Him our lives and our souls would be lost!

## **What humanity gets from Salvation**

The death of Jesus was an atoning death. That means that it pays the debt that humanity owed because of sin. If the wages of sin is death, then wherever there is sin, death is the result. Remember that death is separation from God. When Jesus died for us He fulfilled that debt! He died in our place, and then conquered death itself by rising on resurrection day! So because Jesus paid the debt for humanity and conquered death, He is our second Adam and He returns us to our relationship and status with God that humanity enjoyed before the Fall. We are declared righteous by God when we are covered by the salvation that God provided through the atoning death of Jesus Christ. Certainly, we have sinned in our lives; but when we confess our sins and God forgives us, God sees that we are covered by the blood of Jesus and we are declared righteous because the debt has been already paid. What a blessing from God! We are blessed in ways that we don’t deserve, with gifts that we don’t deserve; all because God loves us so much. Thank God for Jesus! Let us commit ourselves to Him completely.