

## Part 4: Jesus Our Redeemer

### Lesson 2: Soteriology – The Doctrine of Salvation

#### Lesson Summary

**Soteriology** is the study of salvation—God’s gracious and sovereign plan to rescue sinners through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9–10). At the cross, Christ bore our penalty as our substitute (Isa. 53:5–6; 2 Cor. 5:21), triumphed over sin and death (Col. 2:15), and demonstrated the depth of God’s love (Rom. 5:8).

**Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone**—not earned or maintained by works (Eph. 2:8–9; Rom. 11:6). Throughout church history, different theological traditions have wrestled with divine sovereignty and human will: Calvinism emphasizes election, Arminianism stresses human choice, while Free Grace theology affirms that salvation is received at the moment of faith and cannot be lost.

**The Reformation’s cry of *Sola Fide*—faith alone**—stands at the core of biblical salvation, with good works as the fruit, not the root, of saving faith (Rom. 3:28; James 2:17). Unlike Catholic sacramental theology, which treats sacraments as means of grace, most Protestants regard baptism and communion as ordinances that testify to faith already received.

**Salvation brings justification, redemption, adoption, and the Spirit’s sealing**, bringing full assurance grounded in God’s promises, not in human performance (John 3:16; Eph. 1:13–14).

#### Key Takeaways

- **Definition:** Soteriology = the study of salvation—how God rescues sinners (Rom. 1:16).
- **Atonement:** Christ bore our sin’s penalty, satisfied God’s justice, and triumphed over death (Isa. 53:5–6; Col. 2:15).
- **Grace vs. Works:** Salvation is God’s gift, not earned or preserved by human effort (Eph. 2:8–9; Rom. 11:6).
- **Sola Fide:** Justification is by faith alone; faith receives Christ’s righteousness and produces good works (Rom. 3:28; 2 Cor. 5:21; James 2:17).
- **Views on Salvation:** Calvinism (election), Arminianism (free choice), Free Grace (faith alone, eternal security).
- **Sacraments vs. Ordinances:** Catholic/Orthodox—means of grace; Protestant—symbols of faith already received.
- **Assurance:** Believers are justified, redeemed, adopted, and sealed by the Spirit until the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13–14; John 10:28).

#### Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What is Soteriology?  
**A:** The theological study of salvation—how God rescues humanity from sin through Christ.
2. **Q:** What did Christ accomplish on the cross?  
**A:** He bore our penalty, satisfied God’s justice, defeated sin and death, and displayed God’s love (Isa. 53:5–6; Col. 2:15; Rom. 5:8).

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3. **Q:** How is salvation received?  
**A:** By grace through faith in Christ alone, not by works (Eph. 2:8–9).
4. **Q:** What does *Sola Fide* mean?  
**A:** “Faith alone”—we are justified by faith apart from works (Rom. 3:28), though true faith produces good works (James 2:17).
5. **Q:** What are the major theological views on salvation?  
**A:** Calvinism (election), Arminianism (free choice), and Free Grace (faith alone with eternal security).
6. **Q:** Are sacraments necessary for salvation?  
**A:** Catholic/Orthodox views see them as means of grace; Protestants see them as ordinances, not requirements for salvation.
7. **Q:** What assurance does salvation give believers?  
**A:** That they are justified, redeemed, adopted, and sealed by the Spirit, eternally secure in Christ (Eph. 1:13–14; John 3:16).

**“Salvation is God’s free gift—received by faith, secured by Christ, and sustained by grace from beginning to end.”**