

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | MARCH 6, 2024

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

Question 14

Explain what it means to trust in Jesus Christ **alone** for salvation.

Question 14

I. The **Human** Side of Salvation (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Man's contribution made to salvation:

Nil. Nada. Ouden—nothing. Zippo. Nary a thang.

Psalm 10:4; 14:1-3; 36:1-4; 53:1-3

Romans 3:9-18

John 15:5

Question 14

I. The **Human Side of Salvation** (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Man's need: Depraved in God's sight. Sin leaves us:

- **Fully** corrupted (Rom. 1:18-32)
 - Notice first where God **locates** the problem: in the **heart** of man, which is filled with... (verses 29-32)
 - What was in their hearts served as both the **cause** and the **consequences** of their behavior/lifestyles—they did those things which are **not proper** in God's sight from their hearts filled with... (verses 29-32)

Question 14

I. The **Human Side of Salvation** (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Man's need: Depraved in God's sight. Sin leaves us:

- **Fully** corrupted (Rom. 1:18-32)
 - Then, notice where they directed their choices—their **will**, their **choice center** of their hearts, was directed at exchanging truth for lies (verses 23 and 25)
 - Their **desires** (verse 26) = degrading passions
 - Their **minds** (verse 28) = depraved minds
 - And the **result** (verse 32) = wicked influence/lifestyle

Question 14

I. The **Human Side of Salvation** (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Man's need: Depraved in God's sight. Sin leaves us:

- **Fully** corrupted (Rom. 1:18-32)
- **Blinded** (Rom. 8:5-8)
- **Deceived** (Eph. 4:22; 2:3)
 - Result (Eph. 4:17-19)
 - Warning to believers (Heb. 3:12-13)
- **Helpless** (Rom. 5:6, 8; 1 Cor. 2:10-14—to help ourselves)

Question 14

I. The **Human** Side of Salvation (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Do the Math:

- All this = Unbelievers are completely corrupted by sin, such that they **cannot** and **will not** understand the things of God, nor will they ever seek for God or choose God.
- Sinners are not **free** to “**choose**” Christ as their Savior. They are in spiritual **bondage** to sin and are **prisoners** of Satan. All unbelievers belong to Satan's spiritual kingdom. Remember, **sin does not seek for God**.

Question 14

I. The **Human** Side of Salvation (man's **problem** from God's **perspective**)

Conclusion:

- Nothing **in** or **of** mankind can provide salvation from sin's thoroughly corrupting, damning reality of the human soul
- Mankind's **thoroughly sinful condition** defines the dilemma that makes God's remedy to that dilemma—"in Christ **alone**"—necessary and true.

Question 14

II. The **Divine** Side of Salvation (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

God's contribution made to salvation:

Everything!

Question 14

II. The **Divine Side of Salvation** (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

God's contribution made to salvation:

- **Initiative**—God makes the first move. Compare John 15:5 with John 6:44.
- **Faith/trust** (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - The human ability to **believe and trust** in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of sins is called faith. **Saving** faith is the **gift** of God, not the product of human effort. No one can brag about believing on Jesus by their own power or will.
 - The element of human trust is the side of salvation where an individual person believes God's truth about the nature (person) and work of Jesus Christ. That is, the person believes what God says: Jesus is the only Savior of all who trust in Him for **God's forgiveness** of their sins (Col. 2:3)

Question 14

II. The **Divine Side of Salvation** (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

God's contribution made to salvation:

- **Initiative**—God makes the first move. Compare John 15:5 with John 6:44)
- **Faith/trust** (Eph. 2:8-9)
- **Forgiveness** (Col 1:13-14): Transfer of spiritual kingdoms/realms.
 - To trust in Jesus **alone** for salvation is to believe that God has offered us forgiveness for our sins through **only** one means: God's own Son, God's one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.
 - **1 Timothy 2:5**; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 2:23, 4:14-15

Question 14

II. The **Divine** Side of Salvation (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

God's contribution made to salvation:

- This is a human confession with a heavenly origin (Eph. 2:8-9)
- This dual reality stresses the nature of our salvation being initiated as a work of heaven in our **hearts**—*then* we are moved to confess.
- Our salvation is **all** a work of God bringing us from rebellion to the place **of being spiritually able to confess** with our mouths what God has worked in our hearts—the truth that **Jesus is our only hope** to be made right with God.
- **Acts 4:12**

Question 14

II. The **Divine** Side of Salvation (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

God's contribution made to salvation:

- The **object** of saving faith is Jesus Christ! We believe in a **Person**, Jesus the God/man; we do not believe in a concept, plan, prayer, or ideal.
- When we share the gospel of God's saving grace, we sharing the Person of Jesus Christ as **God's only acceptable sacrifice for our sins.**

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II. The **Divine** Side of Salvation (man's **salvation** by God's **Savior**)

We should be joyful for God's gift of **saving grace**. It means that no power in heaven or earth can rob us of this God-given gift; our salvation is **secure** in God's hands.

Why? Because our salvation is **completely** a work of God from beginning to sustaining, to guaranteeing, to completing. God **gifts** us the spiritual power to trust in **Christ** alone, through His gift of **faith** alone, by His **grace** alone (Rom. 8:32-39).

We did not save ourselves through decision, choice, or free will (Titus 3:5-7); God saved us by His undeserved favor (grace) on our lives; our salvation is **God's work** of claiming us and He will never deny us. (2 Tim. 2:13)

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