

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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Salvation

# ARTICLE 4

## IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

# ARTICLE 4

## IV. Salvation *(continued)*

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

# ARTICLE 4

## IV. Salvation *(continued)*

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

# ARTICLE 4

## IV. Salvation *(continued)*

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

# ARTICLE 4

## IV. Salvation *(continued)*

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

# OUR BELIEFS

## Salvation

We believe that salvation is a free gift of God's grace, received through repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. Following Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation. We believe that every person who has truly received salvation is eternally secure in the Lord Jesus Christ and will persevere in their salvation until the end of their life.

# OUR BELIEFS

## Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is God's goal for all believers. Sanctification is the experience of being led by the Holy Spirit toward moral and spiritual maturity in Jesus Christ.

# THE GOSPEL

- God created us to know him and live for him. We have separated ourselves from him and his purposes through our sin, bringing death and hell upon ourselves. In order to bring us back to himself and rescue us from death and hell, God the Father sends God the Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life in our place, die the death we deserve as a just penalty for our sin, and rise from the dead to bring us life. When we believe that Jesus did this for us, turn from all other ways of living, and follow him as our Savior and King, our relationship with God is restored and we are rescued from sin and death. We become citizens of God's kingdom, meant to live with him and for him in all things.

# THE GOSPEL

- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and his death to earn our salvation.
- The ultimate cause of the atonement was the love and justice of God.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- 1 John 4:9-10 - By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- 1 Timothy 2:4-6 - who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time
- Romans 3:25-26 - whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- It is important to remember that the atonement is first of all objective: it accomplished something for God regardless of its application to us.
- Jesus did obey the law perfectly before God and did die as a substitute for the sins of humanity.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- Our subjective appropriation of the atonement (our salvation by faith) is based upon and only possible because of Christ's objective atonement.
- Christ served as our substitute in living a perfect, sinless life before God on our behalf and in our place, so that we could be declared righteous on the basis of Christ's righteousness.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- Philippians 3:9 - and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

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- Christ's death is primarily a penal substitution. "Penal" refers to the fact that Jesus bore our penalty for sin on the cross, and his death was a substitution in that he took our place, or substituted for us, on the cross.
- Because we deserve to die as the penalty for our sin, Jesus died as a sacrifice for us. His sacrifice is the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices, which were pictures of Christ's final and full sacrifice.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us- for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”
- Ephesians 5:2 - and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (cf. Matthew 20:28)
- Christ’s atonement provided salvation for all people. His propitiation (1 John 2:2), redemption (1 Timothy 2:4-6; 2 Peter 2:1), sacrifice (John 1:29), and reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) were for all people.

# CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- It is important to note that Christ's atonement only provided salvation for, it did not save all. People are only saved when they are in Christ and have the accomplishments of the atonement applied to them.
- Christ's salvation not only made salvation possible for all, however, it also secured the salvation of those who would be saved.

# UNION WITH CHRIST

- Union with Christ is a phrase used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we are in Christ, Christ is in us, and we are with Christ.
- Union with Christ describes our entire salvation and encompasses every aspect of our salvation

# UNION WITH CHRIST

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- Ephesians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

# UNION WITH CHRIST

- Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

# REGENERATION

- Regeneration is that work of the Spirit at conversion that renews the heart and life (the inner self), thus restoring the person's intellectual, volitional, moral, emotional, and relational capacities to know, love, and serve God.
- Regeneration is sometimes called “being born again” (John 3:3-8).

# REGENERATION

- People must be regenerated because they are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1), blind to spiritual things (2 Corinthians 4:4), and completely unable to change their spiritual conditions (Romans 3:10-23).
- Regeneration is an instantaneous event and takes place only once (just as our first birth did). At one moment we are spiritually dead, and at the next we are spiritually alive. This does not mean that everyone will experience a dramatic conversion, but there is an instantaneous change that takes place when the Holy Spirit regenerates someone.

# CONVERSION

- Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we turn from our sins in repentance and turn to Jesus Christ in faith. It is the human response to God's offer of salvation and work in the person (regeneration).
- Conversion has two inseparable aspects – repentance and faith.

# CONVERSION

- Conversion only takes place once, and there is one major point in life when one converts from sin to Christ and is saved. The whole of one's Christian life, however, ought to be repeated conversion, as one continually repents of his sin and places his faith in Christ.
- Repentance is the abandonment or repudiation of sin. It is turning from one's sinful way of life toward God. It is not simply a resolution to do better or feeling sorry for one's sin, but a genuine change of the mind regarding one's sin and relationship with God.

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# CONVERSION

- Saving faith is believing in and laying hold of the promises and work of Jesus Christ as true and certain. Saving faith is personal trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.
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# CONVERSION

- Acts 2:38 – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 10:43 – “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

# JUSTIFICATION

- Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.
- The verb "justify" in Scripture (*diakairoo*) most commonly means "to declare righteous."

# JUSTIFICATION

- This is the sense of the term when the Bible speaks of God declaring us to be righteous (Romans 3:20, 26, 28; 4:5; 5:1; 8:30; 10:4, 10; Galatians 2:16; 3:24).

# JUSTIFICATION

- God's declaration of our righteousness means that he declares that we no longer have to pay the penalty for our sin (Romans 4:6-8; 8:1, 33-34) and that we have perfect righteousness before him (Romans 3:21-22; 4:3). Both of these things are only possible because of the atonement, and only happen as we are united to Christ.

# JUSTIFICATION

- Galatians 2:16 - nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

# SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.
- To sanctify means “to set apart” and in salvation refers to our being set apart to God in holiness.

# SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification is distinct from justification, regeneration, adoption, and conversion in that it is a continual act and something that takes place throughout the Christian's life.
- Romans 6:19 - I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

# SANCTIFICATION

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

# SANCTIFICATION

- We play both a passive role in sanctification as we depend upon God to sanctify us, and an active role as we strive to obey God and increase our sanctification.
- Phil 2:12-13 - So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

# GLORIFICATION

- Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.

# GLORIFICATION

- The present life of the Christian in salvation is but a foretaste of the glory to come. Those who are called, regenerated, converted, justified, indwelt, filled, baptized, united to Christ, sanctified, adopted, and preserved through perseverance will one day be glorified, as the unbreakable chain of Romans 8:28-30 indicates.

# GLORIFICATION

- This is the hope of all Christians (Romans 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Peter 5:4). The Holy Spirit guarantees the future glorification of all believers.