



SESSION 2

# BASIC DOCTRINES 2: THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION (SOTERIOLOGY)

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GLC  ESSENTIALS

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# GLC ESSENTIALS

## **BASIC DOCTRINES 2**

### **SESSION 2: THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**

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# I. The Atonement

## Definitions:

*The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.<sup>1</sup>*

*Atonement means ‘a sacrifice that brings about reconciliation between God and people.’<sup>2</sup>*

### A. The Cause of the Atonement<sup>3</sup>

**The Love and Justice of God** - Without the love of God, he would never have taken any steps to redeem us, yet without the justice of God, the specific requirement that Christ should earn our salvation by dying for our sins would not have been met. (John 3:16, Romans 3:25-26)

### B. The Necessity of the Atonement<sup>4</sup>

God, in his love, decided to save human beings and there was no other way for God to do this than through the death of his Son. Therefore, the atonement was a “consequence” of God’s decision to save human beings, the atonement was absolutely necessary. (Luke 24:25-27, Hebrews 2:17; 9:25-26, etc.)

# II. The Nature of the Atonement<sup>5</sup>

## A. Christ’s Obedience for Us (Rom. 5:19, Heb. 5:8, etc.)

## B. Christ’s Sufferings for Us

1. **Suffering for His Whole Life** (Hebrews 5:8, Isaiah 53:3, etc.)
2. **The Pain of the Cross** (Matthew 26:38)
  - a. **Physical Pain and Death** (Mark 15:24, etc.)

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<sup>1</sup>Wayne Grudem, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY An Introduction to Bible Doctrine. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.

<sup>2</sup>Don Thorsen, An Exploration of Theology

<sup>3</sup>Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

<sup>4</sup>Ibid

<sup>5</sup>Ibid

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- b. **The Pain of Bearing Sin** (Isaiah 53:6, 12, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 2:24)
  - c. **Bearing the Wrath of God** (Romans 3:25-26; Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 4:10, etc.)

C. **Christ's Death as "Penal Substitution" (Vicarious Atonement)**

Christ's death was "penal" in that he bore a penalty when he died. His death was also a "substitution" in that he was a substitute for us when he died. Christ's death was therefore "vicarious" because he stood in our place and represented us. As our representative, he took the penalty that we deserve.

### III. New Testament Terms Describing Different Aspects of the Atonement<sup>6</sup>

The NT uses different words to describe the different aspects of the atoning work of Christ. The four terms show how Christ's death met the four needs that we have as sinners:

- A. We deserve to *die* as the penalty for sin.

**Sacrifice** – to pay the penalty of death that we deserved because of our sins, Christ died as a sacrifice for us. (Hebrews 9:26).

- B. We deserve to bear God's *wrath* against sin.

**Propitiation** – to remove us from the wrath of God that we deserved, Christ died as a propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10 NASB)

- C. We are *separated* from God by our sins.

**Reconciliation** – to overcome our separation from God, we needed someone to provide reconciliation and thereby bring us back into fellowship with God. (2 Corinthians 5:18–19).

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<sup>6</sup>ibid.

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- D. We are in *bondage* to sin and to the kingdom of Satan.

**Redemption** – because we as sinners are in bondage to sin and to Satan, we need someone to provide redemption and thereby “redeem” us out of that bondage. A price was paid (the death of Christ) and the result was that we were “redeemed” from bondage.

## IV. The Order of Salvation

*In Romans 8:30, Paul talks about the way that God brings salvation into our lives. Paul points to a definite order in which the blessings of salvation come to us. It indicates a temporal order of the process of the salvation of the sinner according to the work of God.<sup>7</sup>*

- A. Effectual Calling** – God’s calling to the elect with the result that they respond in faith.<sup>8</sup>
- B. Conversion** – one’s turning or response to God’s call in Jesus Christ in faith and repentance. It is profound in its effects in that it radically transforms one’s heart, mind, and will.<sup>9</sup>
- C. Regeneration** – (Gr. palingenesia “new birth,” “new life”) The action of the Holy Spirit, who transforms the lives of those given the gift of faith so they experience a “new birth” and salvation through Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5).<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

<sup>8</sup>Doald K. McKim, Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms, Westminster John Knox Press

<sup>9</sup>Ibid

<sup>10</sup>Ibid

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## V. Objective Dimensions of Salvation<sup>11</sup>

- A. **Union with Christ** – Believers’ unity with Jesus Christ on the basis of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20).<sup>12</sup>
- B. **Justification** – (Gr. *dikaioo* “a reckoning or counting as righteous”) - God’s declaring a sinful person to be “just” on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24–26; 4:25; 5:16–21).<sup>13</sup>
- C. **Adoption** – Reception of a sinner into the familial relationship of a child to God as parent through Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:15, 23; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5).<sup>14</sup>

## VI. Perseverance of the Saints (Remaining a Christian)

**Perseverance of the Saints** – means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.<sup>15</sup> (John 6:38–40, 10:27–29, Romans 8:1, Ephesians 1:13-14, Philippians 1:6, 1 Peter 1:5, John 8:31, Matthew 10:22, Colossians 1:23, Hebrews 3:12-14, 1 John 2:19)

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<sup>11</sup>Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*

<sup>12</sup>Doald K. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*

<sup>13</sup>Ibid

<sup>14</sup>Ibid

<sup>15</sup>Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*



