

“Jesus saves... but how?” – Questions and Answers

To discuss:

Look over what we’ve covered (see below).

- Have you got any questions prompted by “Jesus saves... but how?”
- What have you found most encouraging?

What we’ve covered...

Why we need salvation?

Salvation accomplished: Jesus’ incarnation, humanity & obedience
Jesus’ death on the Cross
Jesus’ resurrection, ascension and heavenly rule

Salvation applied: the Christian’s union with Christ
predestination
effectual calling
regeneration
repentance and faith
justification
adoption
perseverance & preservation
glorification at a future date!

1. The atonement: what happened on the Cross?

- Was it Jesus paying, instead of us, the infinitely large cost that we owe God our maker? (The judge settling the debt himself, instead of the guilty being required to)
- Or was it God punishing Jesus instead of punishing us? (The judge punishing his own son instead of the guilty)

Romans 3:21-25

Our plight:

- disobedience to God’s law → punishment

What is happening on the Cross?

- “the righteousness of God”
- “propitiation”

Who is doing it?

- God the Son according to his human nature...
- Each person of the Trinity: e.g. Romans 3:25, Galatians 1:3-4, Hebrews 9:14

2. Adoption – “our Father”: responding to our adoption into the family of God

How should we think/feel/respond to being an adopted child of God... if our own (earthly) father was poor?

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” – 1 John 3:1

Reflections:

- Reality
- God’s response
- God’s Fatherhood – Ephesians 3:15 “... from whom every *father* in heaven and on earth is named...”
- Share your struggle
- Encouragement for men / fathers...

3. Perseverance: keeping going, not falling away

Would Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11 be an example of those who appeared to believe but didn’t persevere?

How should we think about particular people we seem to have “stopped” being a Christian?

Having the warnings in Hebrews (6:4-6, 10:29) about it being impossible to be restored once fallen away implies that this scenario is possible. Is that right? Should we be fearful? How can I know that I will stay trusting Jesus to the end of my life?

4. Joy in salvation?

How do we feel joy in our own salvation when people we love aren’t saved?

Romans 8:37 – 9:3

“Don’t accept more responsibility than that which God puts on you. If you do, it will break you.”
Edward Donnelly, *Heaven and Hell*