

# Living in the Kingdom

## Lesson 10: Salvation and Justification

*How are we saved?*



CCC 1949

1. *Called to beatitude but wounded by sin, man stands in need of salvation from God. Divine help comes to him in Christ through the law that guides him and the grace that sustains him.*

CCC 356

2. What is salvation? Are we saved *from* something (self, sins, suffering and death, hell), or *for* something (inner peace, transformation /sanctification, heaven, partaking in God's life)?

CCC 399

3. God called Adam and Eve to share in His *life*. They enjoyed an inner harmony between themselves and with creation. They knew the *truth* and purpose for their life, and the *way* they had to live.

CCC 404-405  
Rom 5:12

4. By sinning Adam and Eve lost God's supernatural *life*, the *truth* by which they were to live, and their *way*, becoming inclined to sin. Harmony with creation was destroyed. Suffering and death entered human history, and they were cast out of God's presence.

CCC 1855, 1861  
Mt 18:8-9, Rom 6:23

5. Adam and Eve wounded the human nature and transmitted it to humanity in a *fallen state*, deprived of divine grace and eternal life, subject to ignorance, suffering and death, and inclined to sin (concupiscence).

6. *Mortal sin* results in the loss of sanctifying grace by a grave violation of God's law. If not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, it causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell. *Venial sin* weakens and wounds charity and may lead to mortal sin.

Deut 6:4-5  
Gen 6:5, Ps 14:2-3, Ecc 7:20, Heb 11:6

7. How are we saved? By being a "good person"? By one's "good works"? Through religion? Observance of Torah? Through faith (alone) in Jesus?

Prov 14:12  
Jer 17:5, Ps 127:1

8. **Salvation by works?** When are we "good enough" for God? Have we fully loved him with all our heart? How do we receive forgiveness for our sins? Living a "good life" may move us towards God, but it is not enough for salvation. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Gen 15:6,  
Rom 4:9-12,  
Jas 2:21-22

9. **Salvation by religion?** How "religious" do we need to be?

Ex 19:6

10. **Salvation by Torah?** Can we be saved by keeping mitzvot?

a. Abraham's was justified by faith before he was circumcised, but his justification was also dependent upon his obedient response to God's calling.

b. God delivered Israel from slavery, adopted them as his people, and then gave them the Torah. First came deliverance; then adoption; then the law and the requirement to live by it.

c. Moses as a *prophet* gave Israel the Law (*truth*); *Aaronic priests* mediated between God and the people through the sacrificial liturgy (*life*); Moses and the elders *ruled* the 12 tribes (*way*).

Lev 17:11  
Ezek 18:21-24

d. Keeping commandments was never enough for the Israelites to be right before God. They also needed to be circumcised, to have faith and trust in Him; to participate in the tabernacle worship and offer

Jer 31:31-32  
Gal 2:16

CCC 613  
1 Pet 3:18

Jn 3:3  
Rom 10:9

Jas 2:24, Phil  
2:12, Mt 7:21  
1 Cor 9:27  
1 Tim 1:19

2 Pet 1:4, Rom  
8:24, Eph 2:5-8  
1 Cor 15:2,  
Rom 5:9-10,  
1 Cor 3:12-15,  
Rom 13:11

2 Pet 1:4

CCC 1987-88  
Jn 15:1-4

CCC 1989-95

sacrifices in atonement for their sins. Circumcision did not guarantee justification but depended upon continued faith and obedience.

e. In 70 C.E. the Romans destroyed the Temple and brought an end to sacrifices. Where is now the sacrifice that atones for the sins of Israel?

11. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He offered his life as a sacrifice to atone for our sins and reconcile us to God, conquering sin and death and opening the way for mankind to heaven and eternal life.
12. **Salvation by faith alone?** (The Protestant view of salvation). By "receiving Jesus as personal Lord and Savior" one is "saved" by faith alone in Christ. Salvation is not dependent upon good works; one cannot lose one's salvation by sinning: "Once saved, always saved."
13. But: "A man is justified by works, and not by faith alone." "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." "By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in the faith."
14. The Protestant view of salvation: the forgiveness of sins received at a *point in time* (justification). The Catholic / biblical view: restoration of man to God's image *over time* (justification *and* sanctification). Salvation is a past event, a present process, and a future event.
15. Salvation is much more than the forgiveness of sins: it includes *both* justification *and* sanctification - a complete transformation of our nature to the likeness of Christ and partaking of God's divine life. It does *not* include deliverance from earthly suffering & death.
16. The four **models of the atonement** explain our salvation:
  - a. The marketplace: Sin is a debt that we owe and can't pay. Christ sheds his blood to buy us back into God's family. He pays the debt to enable us to pay it too.
  - b. The battlefield: Sin is captivity, exile. Christ delivers us from the devil by offering himself and dying. We must win the battle by laying down our lives.
  - c. The courtroom: Sin is criminal behavior. Salvation is the exoneration of our sins before God our judge. Christ satisfies justice by means of life-giving love.
  - d. The temple: Sin is desecration, defilement. Christ offers his life as a perfect sacrifice to the Father for our sin. We are also called to offer our lives as a sacrifice.
17. Two common errors on original sin and salvation:
  - a. **Pelagianism / rabbinical Judaism:** Man could, by the natural power of free will and without the necessary help of God's grace, lead a morally good life. Adam's fault is only a bad example.
  - b. **Protestantism:** Original sin has radically perverted man and destroyed his freedom; it is identified with the tendency to evil (concupiscence) and is insurmountable. Man is a "snow-covered dunghill," covered by Jesus' "cloak of righteousness."
18. The Catholic view: Jesus wipes the sin away completely through baptism and confession. We partake of God's life through the grace of the Holy Spirit as we are grafted into Christ the vine.
19. Justification and Sanctification: The first work of the Holy Spirit is *conversion*, and receiving God's forgiveness and righteousness through

<p>CCC 1996-2005</p> <p>Jn 3:5, CCC 1215, CCC 1992</p> <p>CCC 1213-14 Rom 6:3-4 Tit 3:5-6, 1 Pet 3:20-21</p> <p>Col 2:11-12 Mt 19:14 Acts 2:38-39</p> <p>CCC 1996, Eph 2:8-9 CCC 2002 Mt 7:21, Jas 2:24, Gal 5:6, Phil 2:12, Rom 11:22, 1 Cor 9:27, Mt 24:13</p> <p>CCC 2030-47</p> <p>CCC 845-47 1 Pet 3:20-21</p> <p><a href="#">DI 22</a></p>	<p>faith in Christ as we freely cooperate with God's grace. Faith, hope and love are poured into our hearts.</p> <p>20. Our justification comes from the <b>grace</b> of God, his <i>free and undeserved help</i> which is a <i>participation in His very life</i>. Grace is <i>supernatural</i>, beyond human intellect and will, and so it <i>escapes our experience</i> and cannot be known except by faith. We cannot rely on our feelings or our works to conclude that we are justified and saved. We receive grace especially through the sacraments of the Church.</p> <p>21. You must be born again! Justification is received through the new birth of water and the Spirit - <i>baptism</i>, without which no one can enter the kingdom of God.</p> <p>22. Baptism truly saves us by freeing us from sin and making us children of God; we become members of Christ and are incorporated into the Church. Baptism symbolizes burial into Christ's death and resurrection with him. It is not an absolute guarantee of salvation but the <i>beginning</i> of the life-long <i>process</i> of salvation.</p> <p>23. Baptism is the new circumcision. Salvation is not only individual but also familial, and so infants are received into God's family through the faith of their parents. Salvation is similar to marriage covenant: the initial bond must be followed by a lifelong commitment.</p> <p>24. Faith and works: Man is saved by God's free and undeserved grace alone, but which demands man's free response. Man must endure in good works until the end. At the last judgment we will be judged according to our works (Mt 16:27, 25:31-46, Jn 5:29, Ro 2:6, 2 Cor 5:10, Rev 2:23, 20:12).</p> <p>25. It is from the Church, our Mother and Teacher, that we receive all the means of salvation: the Word of God, the grace of the sacraments, the example of holiness from the Virgin Mary and the saints, and her infallible moral teaching.</p> <p>26. The Church is the Ark of God's salvation and the world reconciled. God calls all of humanity into the Church, necessary for salvation since Christ asserted the necessity of faith and Baptism. Those who know that the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and refuse either to enter it or to remain in it cannot be saved.</p> <p>27. Though followers of other religions can receive divine grace and be saved, <i>objectively speaking</i> they are in a gravely deficient situation compared with those who, in the Church, have the fullness of the means of salvation.</p> <p>28. Mary has received the fullness of grace, salvation and holiness. She is our model and our mother who helps us on the way to salvation and sanctification.</p>
--	--

### What Must I Do to be Saved?

- 1) Believe in the Lord Jesus; (Acts 13:30)
- 2) Be baptized for the remission of sins; (Acts 2:38)
- 3) Participate in the sacramental life of the Church; (John 6:53f, Acts 8:17, Jas 5:14)
- 4) Work out your salvation in fear and trembling; (Phil 2:12)
- 5) If you sin, repent quickly and receive the sacrament of penance; (Jn 20:23, Jas 5:16)
- 6) Persevere in charity until the end (Mt 24:13).