

**Series: YAFI 2024**

**Title: How Salvation Works**

**Text:** (John 1:12-13)

*“What is Reformed Theology? Calvinism? Arminianism? are they from Biblical?”*

*“What about the debate between “Lordship Salvation” & “Free Grace””*

*“What is this Salvation by Election All About?”*

In every discipline, there are extremes.  
Gospel road has ditches on either side.

Calvinism- All of God, Man has no Choice

Arminianism-All of Man, God has no Choice

Lordship Salvation-You are not saved if Jesus isn't the Lord of your life & you Persist in a faithful walk or lose it/never actually had it.

Free Grace: Saved, but you now have a License to Sin

Last week, I preached on “Having God's Wisdom”  
Satan Counterfeits God's Wisdom with Earthly, Sensual,  
Devilish wisdom to capture us.

If we know the truth, we will be able to spot the error easily.

**I .What Salvation is NOT:**

NOT something we earn through Works: (Rom 4:5)

Like Water Baptism has no part of Salvation: (1 Pet 3:21)

*Figure = Picture*

NOT Religion: Nicodemus had all the religion he needed, but Jesus said he had to be born again. (Jn 3:1-3,10)

NOT Righteous Living: keeping the 10 commandments: The Rich Young Ruler thought he was keeping them all, but Jesus said he still lacked. (Mark 10:17-22) 21\*

NOT a Religious Experience: Simon Magnus the Sorcerer had an experience, but that wasn't enough Acts 8:9,13,18-22

NOT Reformation: “turning over a new leaf” getting rid of bad habits and replacing with good habits.

Imagine a little boy who has had a good time playing in a mud puddle.

When he arrives home and walks into the living room on his mother's new white carpet, she is horrified.

She loves the child but not the mud.

Immediately she springs into action.

First, a good bath for the boy to remove the mud, then a set of clean clothes.

Now he is acceptable in her living room.

Notice, the mother did not try to get him to make a promise that he would not play in the mud anymore, then ignore him continuing to squish around in his muddy shoes.

Reformation is not what was needed.

A thorough cleansing is the answer.

God loves you! He does not love sin but he loves the sinner.

Beginning with Adam & on through to us, every person in his natural state is contaminated with sin.

Because of his love, God has a plan to cleanse our sin and make sinners acceptable in his sight. (Is 1:18)

It required that Jesus Christ give his life, shed his blood, so that sins might be washed away and even the vilest sinner may be made pure in his sight.

**Jesus Said we absolutely had to be Born Again!** (Jn 3:3)

- **Sin is a serious problem.**

The boy playing in the puddle is oblivious of his muddy condition or how his mother will react when she sees him. He is busy having fun.

Lost people referred to as *dead in trespasses & sins*; Eph 2:1  
A dead person is oblivious to circumstances around him.

Lost people referred to as blinded by satan; 2 Cor 4:4  
A lost man is not aware of the eternal consequences of sin.

Why? Because a Lost Person can enjoy sin without feeling guilty, most people treat sin *like it's no big deal*.  
*"So what? We all do it. We can't help it. Anyway, as long as my sin doesn't hurt anybody else what's the problem?"* or,  
*"Sin is like pepper. A little of it spices up life."*

The problem with this thinking is that we are comparing ourselves to other people.

In our own minds we consider ourselves relatively better than most of our people.

*"But they, measuring themselves by themselves & comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* 2 Cor 10:12

- **God Hates Sin, like your mom hates mud.**

Instead of Comparing ourselves to others, lets try comparing ourselves to God.

God is absolutely holy. Ps 145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

Since God is absolutely **Righteous**, any disagreement with or deviation from God's will is **Un-righteousness, or Sin!**

Regarding the child tracking mud onto his mother's carpet, imagine how the absolutely righteous God is revolted by the sight of a person soiling themselves by rebellion and sin.

- **Sin is directly against God.**

We tend to think of sin as minor excusable infractions;  
Disobedient toward parents (*"They do not understand."*)  
Cheating on income tax (*"They are all crooks anyway."*)

The God of the universe gave us rules in His Word.  
When we commit what we consider small social sins we are in fact rebelling against God! James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

- **Sin separates us from God.**

Our Holy God cannot not tolerate sin. Isaiah 59:2.  
God is going to prepare a permanent Heaven which will be marked by his presence.

If unrighteousness will not be tolerated in his presence NOW, then, people who are contaminated with unrighteousness cannot dwell there either. 1 Cor 6:9-10.

Revelation 21 describes the holy city, the new Jerusalem, and ends with the statement that, "*There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth,...*". Revelation 21:27

- **Where will unrighteous people spend eternity?**

In the garbage dump of the universe, The lake of fire.  
Revelation 20:10-15.

Forever separated from God, never to be thought of again.

Our Sins will EITHER be  
Pardoned in Christ, or  
Punished in the Lake of Fire.

You didn't want anything to do with God here, why do you want to LIVE with Him for eternity.

## **II. So what being "Born Again" really is:**

Mark 1:15 "*Repent and believe the Gospel*"

*Repentance is NOT A WORK WE DO!*

Repent: is to sorrow or be pained for our sin,

Sorry we violated God's holy law,

Sorry we dishonored His character and government

Sorry that we disgraced the person who loved us most

*Not sorry for getting caught, or punished by circumstances.*

Its a complete change of heart toward Our Sin & God

Believe the Gospel: (Rom 1:16)

1 Cor 15:1-4 - The Death Burial and Resurrection of Jesus.

Believing the Gospel is about us having the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus as the Object of our Faith, Hope, and Trust.

When we realize that He endured this for Us,  
He Bore the Penalty for OUR SIN on the cross.  
We call upon Him to save us. (Rom 10:9-10, 13)

1 John 5:1 at the point of Believe we are *Born of God.*

### **How does this happen?**

It is a Work that God does to Us!

(Eph 2:1) "*And you hath He quickened*"

(Eph 2:10) "*We are His Workmanship, created in...*"

### **It's a Work God does to us through His Word:**

1 Cor 4:15 "*for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel*"

1 Pet 1:23 "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*"

John 1:12-13 *But as many as received him, (Our Part)*

*to them gave he power to become the sons of God, (God's*

*Part) even to them that believe on his name: (Our Part)*

*Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh,*

*nor of the will of man, but of God. (God's Part)*

**It is though the Word of God we understand what this Sacrifice God made for your sin and mine.**

**The OT priesthood Pictured Christ's sacrifice for us.**

- **A priest is one who acts as an intermediary between God and man.** Exodus 28:1 They Offered sacrifices.

Peace offering: Leviticus 3.

Sin offering: Leviticus 4.

Trespass offering: Leviticus 5.

Day of Atonement: Exodus 30:10, Lev 16, Heb 9:1-9

**All of this was a picture of what Christ would do for us!**

- **Christ, is our Supreme High Priest.**

*"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come," Hebrews 9:11-12*

*"...That he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:16-18*

*"...A great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God" Hebrews 4:14-15*

*"...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Hebrews 9:24-28*

**God uses specific words to explain Christ's Sacrifice:**

- **"In the Stead of" = Substitution.** (Gen 22:13)  
We deserve to die for our own sins.  
Instead, Christ died in our place.

**No-one Understood Substitution quite like Isaac did.**

Gen 22:8 *"God shall provide Himself a lamb"*

Gen 22:13 God provided a substitute for Isaac!

Gen 22:14 God would provide a substitute for us all!

*"In the mount of the Lord it SHALL BE SEEN."*

Vs 8 *God shall provide Himself, as the Lamb"*

***God was our substitute***

(Heb 9:12-15, 25-28, Heb 10:1-5) *When HE COMETH into..*  
*"The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Is 53:4-6)*

*" For he hath made him to be sin for us," (2 Cor 5:21)*

(Jn 1:29,36) *"Behold, The Lamb of God"*

(1 Pet 1:18-19) *"Redeemed w/ the precious blood of Christ"*

(1 Pet 2:24) *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body*

**He was my substitute Sin Bearer – So I wouldn't have to.**

**No-one understood substitution quite like Barabbas did.**

(Mk 15:4-15) Think @ Barabbas for a second.

The character of Barabbas life was that of a sinner!

(Mk 15:7) Committed Murder

The Crime he committed was worthy of Death. (Gen 9:6)

(Jn 18:39-40) A Robber

(Rom 3:23) We are all sinners.

The Court had already passed Sentence! Rom 6:23

The Pharisees were no friends of his.

He thought them liberal, weak, and corrupt.

He had no hope, no friend or advocate.

Imagine him standing, just a few feet from Christ as the spectacle unfolded before him.

He fully expected the sentence to be carried out!

Imagine his surprise as the crowd began to call his name.

Imagine he began to motion to them to shout louder.

His excitement began to grow,

*"It could happen, this could work."*

Not long though, out of the corner of his eye he notices the vision of Christ just standing there.

He was saying nothing.

Not moving.

He could hear Pilot's question 3 times, *"What shall I do with this Jesus"* Mk 15:12-14

He could here pilot say twice, "*What evil hath he done?*"

Was Barabbas finally being recognized as a national hero?  
Was he finally being recognized as having the right tactics?  
Was he finally being supported by his society as a visionary?

**NO!** He was just one of countless souls for which God had already intended to die for.

Just like you and I! It **Should Have Been ME!** (Rom 5:8)

1 Pet 3:18 The just for the unjust!  
*Illus: Switched at the NEW BIRTH!*

Eph 2:1-9 Dead in our sins and made alive unto God  
Rom 6:4-12

It should have been Me!

Do you understand what substitution Means?  
Have you accepted Christ's substitution for you!

- **Atonement** -satisfying the requirements of justice. When a prisoner has finished his sentence, It is common to say that the prisoner had paid his debt to society or (atoned to society) for the crime he had committed.  
*"by whom we have now received the atonement."* Rom 5:11  
*"the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul"*Lev 17:11  
*"By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* Heb 9:11-12

- **Redemption** - To buy back a person or object which has fallen under the ownership of another.

For instance, one might redeem a slave to set him/her free.  
*"...Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,"* 1 Peter 1:18.  
*"we have redemption through his blood"* Eph 1:7, Col 1:14.  
*"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity,"* Titus 2:14.  
*" Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."* Romans 6:16-18

- **Ransom** - Christ paid the ransom for us.  
*"the Son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:28.  
*"Who gave himself a ransom for all..."* 1 Timothy 2:6

- **Propitiation.** - A gift that secures mercy.  
*A husband who forgets his wife's birthday is prone to give her an especially nice gift the following day as an apology.*

Notice that in the case of God and sinful man, God, the offended, takes responsibility to provide the propitiation.

*"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation..."* Rom 3:25.  
*"And he is the propitiation for our sins..."* 1 John 2:2.  
*"And sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"*  
1Jn 4:10

- **Justification** - To be declared righteous. For example, a person whose leprosy had been healed was required to present himself to the priest to be pronounced clean. Leviticus 14:1-7, Matthew 8:3-4.

*"...That we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*  
2 Corinthians 5:21

*"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Romans 3:20-24.*

*"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Romans 8:32-33.*

- **Reconciliation** - No longer enemies of God.

*"...We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." Romans 5:10.*

*"...And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:18.*

*"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" Colossians 1:20-21.*

**How do we know that our Faith and Trust is in the right thing?** *Because you can be sincere, but sincerely wrong.*

**The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is PROOF OF GOD'S ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE:**

- **Christ actually died.**

*"...Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." Mathew 27:50.*

*"But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:" John 19:33.*

*"And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead." Mark 15:44-45.*

*"Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away," Matthew 27:62-66.*

- **Christ actually rose again BODILY.**

*" I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore," Revelation 1:18.*

*"He is not here: for he is risen," Matthew 28:5-6.*

*"Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." Luke 24:34.*

*Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, **as ye see me have.** Luke 24:39*

- **The resurrection is proof positive of the validity of the Gospel.**

*"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:" Romans 1:3-4.*

*"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:25.*

*"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.*

*"It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:31-39.*

**What is your Faith in?**

**Are you Saved?**

**When did you get Saved?**

**How did you get saved?**

**If it is a Work God does, can you lose it? NO!**

**If you weren't Good enough to earn it, how could you  
ever be good enough to keep it?**