



Hi guys!

Welcome to our first companion piece for this new series, 'Jesus, Atonement and Salvation'. Since this is the first episode and we don't cover a huge amount of information, this will be more a transcript than a full-on companion like I usually do.

So, here is the transcript!

Now, you've probably seen the title for the series and thought two things:

1. "Ed said we're doing apologetics next. He pumped us up for learning to defend the faith, why is he now talking about theology?"
2. "What the heck does that title 'Jesus, Atonement & Salvation' even *mean*?"

Let me explain.

The reason I've let this jump the queue over and above our exploration of apologetics is because there seems to be some confusion in the group about what exactly qualifies someone for eternal life.

In a recent Bible study, some of you may remember, there was a couple of people a bit confused about whether or not all dogs go to heaven, so to speak. Apparently, there has been some teaching in the past that suggested everyone earns eternal life when they die, so it seems important to review that idea and what the Bible says about it.

I don't intend to spend too much time on this, it's probably not going to be another 8-week long epic like the previous series, and then we will be onto the apologetics I promised.

So, let's review where we're going with this series!

When we talk about atonement and salvation, we need to consider a few things:

- How Jesus saved us
- What Jesus saved us *from*
- What Jesus saved us *for*
- Why Jesus saved us

So, that's the basic framework I'm taking for this series!

This week, let's take it easy and just look at some groundwork for the next few weeks. Let's clarify our terms, first and foremost.

What is atonement?

In general, the [dictionary definition of atonement](#) is *"the action of making amends for a wrong or injury"*, but in Christian theology the term atonement means *"the reconciliation of God and mankind through Jesus Christ"*.

So, when we talk about atonement, we're talking about the actions of God, through Jesus, on the cross. We're talking about what happened to Jesus on that cross, and what it means for us.

When we talk about salvation, again [the dictionary states](#) this is *"preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss"* but when Christians talk about it, we mean *"deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ"*.

So, just from looking at these dictionary definitions as you'll find online, we're already starting to see not only the general meaning of these things, but also specifically what we as Christians mean.

We're also already seeing the relevance to this idea presented a few weeks ago, that we inherit eternal life even in the absence of faith in Christ.

Let's just basically review one claim this week. One claim, and why we feel justified to make it.

'There is only one way to reconciliation with God and eternal life – Jesus'.

That's our claim, now let's review why we make it.

I'm going to be generous here, because the Bible is generous on this topic, and I'll give you 10 verses that give the foundation for this belief in salvation through Christ alone:

1. John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
2. Acts 4:12 – *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*
3. John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
4. Rom. 10:9 – *Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
5. 2 Cor. 4:4 – *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
6. John 3:36 – *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
7. Acts 10:43 – *To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*
8. 1 Tim. 2:5 – *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*
9. Rom. 3:22 – *The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*

10. John 17:3 – *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

We can pick up some key things to focus on here, if we look closely, that will help us understand the claim we've made.

Firstly, and I don't want to skip over this but won't take too long to unpack it, Jesus Himself states that there is no way to God except through Him. Now, we've looked before in great detail of why Jesus is both the divine son of God and the fulfilment of the prophecies required of the promised saviour. We know, because we studied it, that we should listen to Jesus! He's the son of God, the eternal 2nd member of the Trinity, so we should listen up. No one comes to the father, aka have their relationship with God restored and entering into His presence for eternity assured, except through Jesus. Says Jesus.

Secondly, every single statement here that deals with the idea of eternal life and reconciliation to God, states that there is no way other than Jesus. A belief in Jesus.

Following Jesus.

If we believe the Bible's claims, and we know we should because of our series on the Bible some months ago, and we should do because if we're not believing the Bible then why call ourselves Christians, then we can believe that this is true.

Jesus is the one way to reconciliation with God.

So, that's the broad method through which we are saved. There's more to it, and we'll look at that in the coming weeks, but that's the basic road to salvation – Jesus and Jesus alone.

If you would like someone who knows better than I do, please check out some of these resources!

This is an exciting, energetic and thorough sermon on exclusivity in Christ by Mark Driscoll:



This is a much shorter, concise explanation from William Lane Craig on the exclusivity of Jesus:



If we look back at our list of scripture there, however, we will see John 3:16 (*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*). In John 3:16, we also learn a little bit of why Jesus saved us.

Love.

That's almost too simple to be true, isn't it?

But that's what the Bible teaches us – that God loved the world so much He sent Jesus, His one and only son, to die so that we might be brought back into the family! Adopted as sons. One of the cool things about this phrase, adopted as sons, rather than being sexist like 'so women can't be saved and adopted?' is that what it actually means is something far more equal.

In that part of the world at that time, it was the sons that were the heirs of the family. That meant that it was the sons, not the daughters, that stood to inherit what the family had to give.

When the Bible calls us sons and talks about being adopted is that being adopted and treated like a son was one of the most amazing gifts someone would receive in that time. You would be brought into the family and be given a share of the inheritance, as if you truly deserved it. When God adopts us, whether we're male or female, young or old, healthy or sick, we are instantly recognised as an heir in God's legacy and promises, as if we were truly God's children.

That's incredible. If you don't know why that's incredible then re-listen to that and consider what life was like back then and what would happen if you were basically rescued by being adopted. That's what happens when God adopts us! We're given the inheritance of God, because of His love.

So there's the why.

For an even better explanation of this idea of adoption, Mark Driscoll did an incredible sermon on this some time ago when exploring Ephesians:

Who Do You Think You Are #12 - I AM FORGIVEN
Pastor Mark Driscoll



We're not going to spend ages now looking at the from or the to, we'll address those next week, but I'll give you a sneak peek.

Jesus saves us from Satan, Sin and Death, and He saves us to a justified, sanctified, holy, eternal life of joy with God.

Seems like a good trade! We'll discuss those further in the future, though.

That's enough from me, I think!

We won't do a scripture of the week, instead what I would like to you do is review the list of 10 parts of scripture above and select the one that resonates with you most. Which one ministers to your heart or connects with your spirit. Meditate on it, make a verse image on the Bible app, memorize it, whatever you need to do. Just make sure you're connecting with these verses.

Let's do our question of the week, then!

This week I'm asking you – what part of the doctrine of salvation troubles you the most? Which bit is most uncomfortable or confusing? Let me know, because that will give these sessions direction and I can answer your question. You never know, your question might be the same as someone else who's less brave who doesn't ask, but your question gets it answered for them.

As always guys, don't be afraid to get into the youth whatsapp chat and let us know how you are, what you're up to and what you're thinking. Get your prayer requests ready for Thursday and get involved in our Bible study! And you can grab us on Instagram @chawnyouth.

Speak to you next week!