

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#138)
Learning the basics about being saved:
Studying the Bible to find out (1).

1

LAST TIME, WE SAW:

- ⇒ **The world is doing everything it can to destroy people's ability to understand the Bible.**
 - ✓ This includes distorting the nature of language and communication—something that has been done with much success in recent years.
- ⇒ **Even so, words do have meaning, and the Bible can be understood.**
 - ✓ It may take additional effort to unlearn the lies that the world has taught us, but it can be done.
- ⇒ **Since this is true, we introduced a basic method for studying the Bible.**
 - ✓ We won't reach 100% understanding of the Bible (since learning is a lifelong growing process), but doing this will enable us to understand all that we need for life and godliness.

2

TODAY:

⇒ **Our goal is to illustrate this method, focusing on what the New Testament says about salvation/saving.**

A BASIC METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE.

We need to pay attention to:

- ① The words and their meanings.
- ② How those words connect.
- ③ The context of the passage.
- ④ What other passages say.

3

“ WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT SALVATION, IF WE SIMPLY PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS IN VERSES THAT MENTION THIS "SAVE" CONCEPT? ”

- We will look at the New Testament word group (nouns, verbs, etc.) that gives us the words: *salvation, save, savior, safe*.
- To get the *full* picture of what salvation is all about, we would need to look at other related concepts. But even when limiting ourselves to just this "save" concept, we learn a lot about salvation!
- NOTE: I have chosen to base this study on the words found in the original New Testament language (Greek). But you can use any legitimate Bible translation* in any language. (You might end up with a somewhat different sets of verses, depending on the translation; but it will NOT give you contradictory results.)

* (A couple of false religions [cults] and an atheistic government have made "translations" that promote their own views. But just about any other translation would suffice.)

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Highly recommended:

Get to know the Bible. Get a basic overview of it.

- **Read it!** – A few chapters a day, and you will be able to read it in about a year. An easy-to-read translation might be helpful (even if you use a more precise translation for study).
- **Listen to it!** – You can listen to an audio version of the Bible as you do other things. (Just don't let it *distract* you from your responsibilities, especially if you are driving or using dangerous equipment!)

✓ Doing this will help you to become familiar with the way the Bible uses words and concepts.

✓ Look for verses that *do not fit* with what the world has taught you! If you notice patterns and trends, it could indicate something you need to explore further (so that you can change your views).

5

Optional, but recommended:

Many Bible study helps are available— some at very low cost; some available online (sometimes free). They can be very helpful (and are recommended); but *even without them, you can learn a lot about the Bible*. Either way, God can use what you learn to grow you in your salvation.

- **CONCORDANCES**— These are lists of words, showing where the words are found in the Bible. The most extensive ones are based on the King James Version, but others are also available.
- **BIBLE DICTIONARIES** and **CROSS-REFERENCES**— A good Bible dictionary will explain key concepts and words, and identify people and places. Cross-references will link the verse you are reading to other relevant Scripture passages.

EXAMPLES of readily available low cost resources are on the next two pages. These are based on the KJV. They can be a good starting point, even if you use a different translation. (You may have to refer to the KJV, in order to know which words are used in the resource.)

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EXAMPLE: Strong's Concordance – Based on the KJV, it lists the words and every place they are found, followed by a number that identifies which Hebrew or Greek word was the source of that translation. Even if you rely on a more recent translation, you can start here in your learning process.

Quarrel
 Lev 26:25 ...you, that shall avenge the **quarrel** of my covenant: and when... 05359
 2 Ki 5:7 ...you, and see how he seeketh a **quarrel** against me. 0579
 Mk 6:19 Therefore Herodias had a **quarrel** against him, and would have... 1758
 Col 3:13 ...if any man have a **quarrel** against any: even as Christ... 3437

For Colossians 3:13, the original Greek word (if you are interested) is... **3437. μομφή momphe mom-fay'** from 3201; blame, i.e. (by implication), a fault:--**quarrel**.
 (Shows how it's translated in the KJV.)

If you look in a more modern translation, you will discover that most of them translate this word (in Colossians 3:13) as "complaint."

EXAMPLE: Easton's Bible Dictionary (1897) – A public domain Bible dictionary, available from many sources. (This is just one of many Bible dictionaries available.)

CHRISTIAN the name given by the Greeks or Romans, probably in reproach, to the followers of Jesus. It was first used at Antioch. The names by which the disciples were known among themselves were "brethren," "the faithful," "elect," "saints," "believers." But as distinguishing them from the multitude without, the name "Christian" came into use, and was universally accepted. This name occurs but three times in the New Testament (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).

EXAMPLE: Nave's Topical Bible – Selected Bible references, arranged by topic.

CHRISTIAN
 • Believers called. Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16
 » See: Righteous

EXAMPLE: Treasury of Scripture Knowledge – Over 500,000 Bible cross-references, which are arranged verse-by-verse.

Phil. 1:16
 not sincerely Phil. 1:10; 2 Cor. 2:17; 2 Cor. 4:1-2
 supposing Job 6:14; Job 16:4; Psalm 69:26

Other possible resources:

These can be quite helpful; but there is a greater tendency for an author to include personal opinion. These resources can be valuable, but we need to remember that they are "not inspired."

- **STUDY BIBLES** – These Bibles are filled with notes and cross-references; and can be a good source of much information – maps, historical background information, and much more. When dealing with difficult-to-understand issues, the best Study Bibles tend to explain the issues, rather than just telling you what to believe.
- **BIBLE COMMENTARIES** – These explain Scripture passages in greater detail. It can be helpful to know what the writer's general perspective is on the Bible, for that will influence how he deals with difficult-to-understand passages. (Sometimes knowing *why* a person says something is more instructive than knowing *what* he says.)

Paying attention to:

- ① The words and their meanings.
- ② How those words are used.
- ③ The context of the passage.
- ④ What other passages say.

Well, let's get started!

“ WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT SALVATION, IF WE SIMPLY PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS IN VERSES THAT MENTION THIS "SAVE" CONCEPT? ”

We will include verses that use the words: salvation, save, savior, safe.

Paying attention to:

- ① The words and their meanings.

- Any Bible resource (or even an English dictionary) will give us the same **BASIC DEFINITION** for this word.
 [So far, the world hasn't distorted the salvation concept as much as it has certain other Bible concepts (such as the word "believe") – even though it may sometimes refer to it in a mocking way.]
- The word translated as "save" has a **range of meanings**, as seen in the Strong's Concordance entry. [The related words – salvation, etc. – also have a range of meanings.]

4982. σώζω sozo sode'-zo
 from a primary sos (contraction for obsolete saos, "safe"); to save, i.e. deliver or protect (literally or figuratively):--**heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.**
 (Shows how it's translated in the KJV.)

- The **CORE CONCEPT** of this word group is probably best described as **"to deliver,"** which can be applied in a variety of situations.
- Though we tend to use this word "save" in reference to **eternity**, it was commonly used in **every-day matters** – and the "every-day" verses can often teach us something about the nature of eternal saving.
 [This range of uses is most obvious in the original Greek language, which uses the *same* word group in all the passages. Translations may use *different* words that best fit the context – such as "heal," when it involves being "saved" from sickness.]

EXAMPLES of how the Bible uses the "delivering/saving" concept in every-day matters:

People may be "saved" from: enemies (Luke 1:71); prison (Philippians 1:19); drowning (Matthew 8:25); sickness (Luke 8:50); demon possession (Luke 8:36); physical death (Hebrews 5:7, referring to resurrection); etc.

- The **WORD FORM** is very important. Two examples:
 - Verbs can be past, present, future, active, passive, commands, expressions of fact, etc.
 - Nouns and pronouns can be singular, plural, sometimes gender-specific, etc.

Salvation is past, present and future!

GOD ALREADY DID IT → [God] **saved** us ... according to his own mercy ...
Titus 3:5a (ESV)

IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW → ... to us who are **being saved** [the message of the cross] is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18b (NIV)

IT'S COMING IN THE FUTURE → [We] are shielded by God's power **until the coming of the salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
1 Peter 1:5 (NIV)

- The **WORD CHOICE** can also be very important.
 - Though there are synonyms that can be exchanged with minimal impact, there are other times when the difference between two words is extremely important to know.

Repentance... or remorse?

- Genuine **REPENTANCE** is one of the parts of the "process of salvation." It involves **changing** the way we think and act. In contrast, **REMORSE** involves having sorrow, but does not include the concept of **change**.

EXAMPLE: Judas had **remorse**, but he never had **repentance** into salvation. [The KJV uses the word "repent"; but it comes from the word that is normally translated as "remorse" or "sorrow."]

[Judas] was seized with **remorse** ... Then he went away and hanged himself.
Matthew 27:3b, 5b (NIV)

Paying attention to:

② How those words connect (or go together).

- ALL WORDS:** Without word connections, words have little meaning.
 - Associating the word "Jesus" with the word "save" is a lot more significant than just the word "save"!
 - We can say that "salvation" is past, present and future (shown on a previous slide)... *but what does that mean?* We need the other words so we can find out.
- SPECIAL CONNECTOR WORDS:** There are also two special types of "connector words" that show us the relationships between words. (More about these later.)

GRAMMAR and SYNTAX

Ever hear of these words?

They have something to do with words and how they fit together!

- Older generations may remember hearing something about these concepts in English class. Younger generations may have never been introduced to them.
- Either way, you probably don't remember much about them!

MY "GRAMMAR" SITS IN A ROCKING CHAIR!

"SYNTAX" – is that another way to spell "SIN TAX"?"
"The extra taxes you have to pay for alcohol and tobacco products."

MOST LIKELY

You will never learn (or remember) much about GRAMMAR and SYNTAX.

- But to whatever extent you can, realize that there is a reason for the way words connect together, and try to apply that fact to your study of Scripture!
- (If you're brave, try learning more about grammar and syntax!)

I STILL DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A **VERBAL** AND A **GERBIL**!

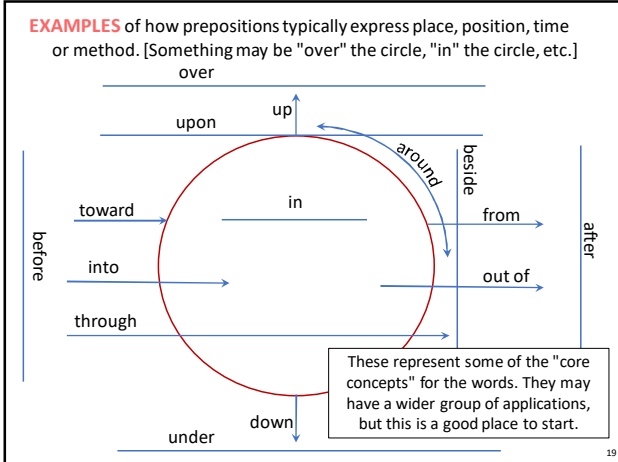
TWO TYPES OF CONNECTORS TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO:

NOTE: Some words may be used as *either* conjunction or preposition – like the word "for." Rather than memorizing this detail, just realize that the parts of the sentence fit together... *and try to figure out how!*

- CONJUNCTIONS** – These words **join** separate parts of a sentence and show the relationships between them. A few examples are:
 - AND** – joins two ideas as equals. "Pursue love **and** truth."
 - OR** – gives two alternatives. "Life **or** death."
 - BECAUSE** – the one part explains the reason for the other. "I read the Bible **because** it is so important for life!"

Sometimes two conjunctions will work together:

 - EITHER-OR** – "I want **either** spaghetti **or** pizza!"
- PREPOSITIONS** – These show the **relationships** between words or phrases, the one usually adding information to the other. These are typically expressed in terms of place, position, time or method.



- When it comes to **the salvation/save word group**, knowing *how* the words connect together is ***extremely*** important!
 - ✓ These connectors show us the relationships and nature of concepts! And when it involves salvation, it's a matter of *eternal* life and death!

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Connectors teach us life-and-death concepts!

YOU CAN'T PICK JUST ONE! → Watch your life **and** doctrine closely.
1 Timothy 4:16a (NIV)

WE HAVE TO SPEAK TRUTH... BUT HOW? → But speaking the truth **in** love ...
Eph 4:15a (CSB)

① WHAT WE MUST DO; AND ② WHAT IT WILL ACCOMPLISH. → Put on the full armor of God **so that** you can stand against the schemes of the devil.
Ephesians 6:11 (CSB)

Next time:

It will be our goal to look at some of these word connectors in verses that tell us about salvation. Even without focusing on other concepts (such as repentance or faith), there is so much we can learn!

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Your MISSION this week:

"TRY IT!"

- ✓ Begin reading the Bible, just to get an overview of what it says.
- ✓ Select some passages, and pay attention to the words that are used.
- ✓ Look for the way the words go together. Pay close attention to the words that connect or modify other words and phrases.

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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