



# The Person of Salvation

**Text:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Overview:** Every religion in the world has some plan of salvation. It may focus on a rigorous routine of self-improvement, or the performance of certain rites (or practices or rituals), or the development of particular disciplines, or the embracing of certain teaching techniques or a method for escaping from reality. Whatever the specifics, each plan is an attempt on the part of humanity to achieve some form of salvation (whatever it may be called). It is a plan initiated by us in the hope that God will respond favorably.

Sometimes, even Christians talk about the gospel as God's *plan* of salvation. But the gospel is not so much a plan of salvation as it is a *person* of salvation. It is not a system. It is God incarnate. Jesus is our salvation.

Which is why salvation is not a goal that we strive to attain. It is a person to be accepted.

Salvation is not initiated by us in the hope that God will respond favorably. It is initiated by God in the hope that we will say yes.

**Resources:** Check out <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/> for more information on the book of Ephesians.

**Welcome:** Please stop to WELCOME any new members to the group and have others introduce themselves to those coming for the first time. Give them a bit of history of the group. This is very important in helping people belong from the first meeting.

## DISCUSSION:

### A. Getting Warmed Up

- **SHARING YOUR STORY** - Since our study will be on salvation, this would be a great time to take 10-15 mins. per week to hear each other's stories of starting our relationship with Jesus. Each of us came to understand who Jesus was amid different circumstances. For most of us it was a process of understanding who is this person and why does he want to have a relationship with us. Start out your time together by talking about this and how beneficial it is to hear each other's stories. It is usually easier if the leader/leaders can be the first to share and model how to share their story. Remember to keep your story to 5 mins.



## B. Digging In

- Rod spoke about the fact that we often think that WE chose Jesus. But in reality, HE chose us. Was that a shift in your thinking about how you came into a relationship with Jesus?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10.
- What does it mean that we once walked according to the ways of the world? (v 2) How does Paul describe the contrast between who they are now in Christ with who they once were?
- If you have said YES to what Christ has offered you, what are the present realities of your relationship with God? (v 4-7)
- What does it mean to be made alive with Christ? (v 5) Note: In order to get at Paul's meaning it would be helpful for your group to see the contrast between being "alive" and "dead in sin."
- Paul says that salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned. (v 8) Why is it important that we understand this?

## C. Bringing It Home

- In light of Ephesians 2:1-3, what would the rest of your life look like if God hadn't offered you a relationship with him?
- How is our telling of our stories to each other encouraging?
- Talk about who would be willing to share a part of their story next week?

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for each other in the midst of the sacredness of the conversation that ensued during your time together. Thank God for reaching out to you with the gift of this relationship.

Baptism at Night of Worship is Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7p. Let your leader know if you are ready to take this next step in your faith. You can register at [www.fairfax.cc/baptism](http://www.fairfax.cc/baptism)