

Salvation

I. The Necessity of Theology (Introduction)

- Believing false ideas leads to disastrous living → False ideas must be replaced with revealed biblical truth.

II. The Nature of Salvation

- **Definition of Salvation:** Based on the Greek term *sōzō*, salvation means to be "made safe," "recovered," "delivered," or "preserved".
- **The Problem (Sin):** Human life is impacted by the "huge problem" of sin, which leads to spiritual blindness and eventually judgment.
- **The Urgency:** Death and judgment are certain, making the need for salvation a critical reality rather than a religious option.

III. The Divine Work: Regeneration (John 3:1–8)

- **The Dialogue with Nicodemus:** Jesus tells the religious leader that he must be "born again" to see the Kingdom of God.
- **Spiritual Rebirth:** This is a total transformation and a "mystery" that happens by the Spirit, not through human effort or merit.
- **God's Initiative:** Regeneration involves God replacing a "heart of stone" with a "heart of flesh" to enable obedience.

IV. The Human Response: Repentance and Faith

- **Repentance:**
 - It involves a "godly grief" that leads to a change of mind and direction.
 - It is a turning away from sin and a surrender to God's Lordship.
- **Faith:**
 - Defined as a sincere trust and belief in Jesus Christ.
 - It is the means by which a person is justified (declared righteous) before God.
- **Confession:** Salvation is realized when one confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God raised Him from the dead.

V. The Motivation: God's Love (John 3:16–18)

- **The Great Gift:** God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
- **Purpose of the Mission:** Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it.
- **The Result:** Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life; however, those who do not believe are "condemned already".

Key Scripture Texts

- **John 3:16:** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..."
- **Romans 10:9:** "...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".
- **2 Corinthians 7:10:** "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation..."