



THE
EMMAUS
INSTITUTE

Discipleship Classes

WINTER 2023

SALVATION
A Deeper Look at the Work of the Atonement

CLASS INFORMATION & DETAILS

Class Title: Salvation

Class Subtitle: A Deeper Look at the Work of the Atonement

Class Description: There's no greater gift that we receive than Salvation. And there's no greater or more scandalous miracle that God works than redeeming a rebellious sinner and adopting them into His family as His heirs. Not unlike a precious stone, salvation is seemingly simple at a casual glance – but as we look deeper we find it has numerous facets and a depth that is unfathomable and incomprehensible. In this class we'll take a look at the facets of salvation and the work of the atonement – what is referred to in theology as Soteriology. Join us!

Teacher Biography: Brian Abernathy and his wife Starla live in Buford and have 2 daughters Nora (8) and Lucy (6). They've been covenant members of Emmaus for 11 years, and Brian has served as an Elder for seven years. He grew up with an academic and pretty legalist understanding of Christianity, but in college the Lord opened his eyes to the beauty of salvation as he opened the Bible and for the first time read with a desire to see it's implications on his life. It was at that point he began to understand the calling to live as a Disciple– and in the process realized that what he thought he knew about salvation, wasn't even the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

Class Resources/Books: Each participant should bring their Bible as we dive into a study of the book of Ephesians, especially Chapters 1 & 2. Participants will receive an ESV scripture journal on Ephesians as a gift as well. Some additional commentaries I highly recommend if you're interested: [The Purpose of God - RC Sproul](#) and [Ephesians - James Montgomery Boice](#).

If you really want to jump into the rabbit hole, I recommend the following systematic theology textbooks: (In context of this subject, I particularly enjoyed Vos's explanation of soteriology)

1. [Reformed Dogmatics - Geerhardus Vos](#) (get the Single Volume Edition)
2. [Systematic Theology - Louis Berkhof](#)
3. [Systematic Theology - Wayne Grudem](#)

CLASS OUTLINE

As an intro, while it's certainly not necessary, I would encourage participants to plan to marinate in the book of Ephesians. Read the entire book a couple of times before the class, and plan to read and re-read through the first 2 chapters frequently – maybe even daily – during the month.

Week 1 - Sunday, January 8

Title: Introduction & Who's who?

Description: Approaching the work of the atonement and framing our understanding of salvation mandates that we begin with a right understanding of each of the participants. In week 1 we'll establish this critical lens to help bring clarity in our discussion by looking at who God is, who we are, and defining our true starting points in the work of salvation.

Week 2 - Sunday, January 15

Title: Before you knew it

Description: As we see God's work of salvation carried out and described throughout scripture, we see that his plan to save his people is eternal. Even in Genesis 3 at the fall we see there is an ultimate plan for redemption through Jesus, that eventually and specifically includes our individual salvation. This week we will look at salvation on a personal level, and the great deal that has been done for us and in us before our hearts are even quickened to recognize our need for the great gift of Salvation, muchless respond to it.

Week 3 - Sunday, January 22

Title: "...but now I see"

Description: The great hymn Amazing Grace speaks of a transition from being lost to found, being blind but seeing. What is it that we "see" when we are found? What aspects of our Salvation do we consciously experience?

Week 4 - Sunday, January 29

Title: "Already, but not yet"

Description: Our salvation is ultimately consummated when we are with Jesus – literally with Him in a new creation, in a new body that is unmarred by the scourge of sin. This is the hope set before us – but if we don't fully understand the reality of the promise to which we are sealed, we miss out on the power of that hope. Not to mention, there is a great race we're called to run with perseverance until that day.