

Am I Really Saved?

Introduction

- **How was your month of August?**
 - I missed being with you all!
- But I **didn't miss you that much** because this month I got **MARRIED!**
 - **PICTURE**
- To say I am **excited to be back** is an understatement!
- I believe that God has something very **special in store** for each and everyone of you this fall!
- **I love the youth ministry** because it's where students begin to take **ownership** of their faith and it truly becomes their own.
- I believe in a few months you are not going to even **recognize** the person you used to be if you decide your going to take your faith seriously
 - I promise you if you put **God first** and your relationship with him you will **never be the same!**
- Tonight we are starting a **new sermon series** that I am very excited for.
 - **Am I Really Saved?**
- Let's get into it!

Verses

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **10** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Action step / main point-

- Today I want to talk to you about this question of **Am I Really Saved? Part 1**

Title- Salvation Invitation

Introduction

- **Wherever you look in the Bible** from Genesis to Revelation there is one overarching common theme.
 - **God's Plan of Salvation**
 - Restoration to Salvation
- Old or New Testament
- **Two thousand years ago**, today, and even two thousand years from now!
 - God's plan is **still the same!**
- His **plan** is to bring **salvation to his creation**, which is you and me!
- **What is salvation though?**
 - It is the **act of being saved!**

Transition-

- This brings me to my **first point.**

Point 1- Saved From What?

Verse

Isaiah 59:2a (NASB)

But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God,

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- You are **Saved from separation!**
- **Sin causes separation** from God.
 - **Sin** is simply doing **things that go against God's will.**
- Because **God is Holy** (**set apart** from sin) he can not be **in the presence of sin.**

Let's break this down

- The **Sin in your life has caused a separation** from God and there is **only one person** that can **bridge that gap** from me and you to God.
- The **perfect life of Jesus** and **his sacrifice** on the cross was the **only adequate action** that would **bridge the gap** of separation that our **sin has caused.**
- There is **nothing you can do** to save yourself! It does not matter how **good** you are, how much **money** you give, how **hard you strive** to be perfect.

- It is **only by Jesus** giving up his sinless perfect life for me and for you on the cross that has **freed us and bridged the gap** of separation that our sin has caused.
- Let's look at the **verses we read earlier** again!

Verse

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

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- It is **by your belief in the saving work of Jesus Christ!** It is not because of the **"good things we have done."** It is only by the **great things He has done** for us.
- I also love what the author Apostle Paul writes in **Romans 3:23-24, regarding the saving work of Jesus Christ!**

Verse

Romans 3:23-24 (NLT)

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. **24** Yet God, in his grace, **freely** makes us right in his sight. He did this **through Christ Jesus** when he **freed us from the penalty for our sins.**

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- You **catch that at the end!**
- He **freely**, through Jesus Christ
- **Freed** us from the **penalty** of our sins
 - **What did we say before?** The **penalty** of our sins is **separation** from God but the **Bible also teaches** us that the wages of sin is death.
- **Here is the truth if you haven't gotten it yet.**
 - You have been given the **FREE GIFT of SALVATION**, through **JESUS CHRIST**, from the **penalty** of your sins which is **SEPARATION!**

Application

- What does this mean for you today?
 - You don't have to be **perfect**
 - You don't have to be **old**
 - You don't have to **know everything in the Bible**
- **Jesus wants everyone** to receive the free **gift** of salvation.

Transition

- Now that we know **what we are saved from**, this brings me to my second point of the topic of **Am I Really Saved?**

Point 2- Confess and Believe

Verse

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

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**.

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- Have you ever been **laying in your bed** looking up at your ceiling wondering, **Am I Really Saved?**
 - Like is there something after this life?
 - If so, where am I going?
- Or maybe **you feel like** you have to **raise your hand** to receive salvation at the **end of every service?**
 - Maybe it's because **you're not sure** if the **things you did** over the last week **affected your salvation**.
 - Or maybe you **doubt** yourself if **you truly meant it** the **last time you raised your hand** for salvation.
- I think **at times** we can **make things** a lot **more complicated** than they're meant to be.
- I personally feel like **salvation** is one of those things that we as believers have **made way more complicated** than it truly is!
- I love **Romans 10:9** because for **someone like me** that can **make things a lot more confusing** than they have to be. This verse gives me the **clear instructions** and what it **takes to be saved** or receive salvation.

- Let's **break this verse down!**

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

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**.

- **Confess: declare**, acknowledge, admit, state
 - **What do we have to confess and declare?**
- You need to **confess and declare** that **Jesus is the Lord of your life**.
 - This **means** you give Jesus **full control of your life**, he is now **ruler, boss, and master** of your life.
 - You **no longer live your life by your feelings** or what you feel like is **best for yourself** but you **submit and yield yourself** to the Lord and give him **full control of your life**.
- **What else does this verse tell us?**
- We must also **Believe**
 - **Believing** and **thinking** are **different**
 - **Thinking** is something we do with our **mind**
 - **Believing** is something we do with our **heart**
 - When you **believe in your heart** that **God raised Jesus** from the dead you will **learn to live in line with what His Word teaches**.
- I want to make this **very clear so to sum it up:**
 - If you **confess** and **declare** that **Jesus is Lord and Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead: You will be saved!** Just like Romans tells us.
- There might be **other people** that tell you or even friends that tell you it isn't that series.
- They might tell you that **everyone is saved** or that **all religions** are the same and we **all go to heaven**
- A lot of people will even say **there is no God** at all and all the **things you are doing** are **fake** and have **no point**.
- But the **Word of Truth, The Living Word of God, The Bible Teaches something very clear**.

Verse

John 14:6 (NLT)

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

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- Don't let the things other **people say mislead you. Jesus makes it clear what it takes to get into heaven** but there is truly only **one person** and **one way** to **get into heaven**.
- **God wants everyone** to come to know him.

Application

- What does this mean for you today?
 - You **can't save yourself**
 - You **can't work your way into receiving salvation**
 - No matter **what you have done, receiving salvation is still the same.**
 - There is **only one way to heaven**

Transition

- This brings me to my third point of the topic of **Am I Really Saved?**
- **If you are really saved...**

Point 3- Faith Follows

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- **As we follow our faith, faith should follow us!**
- **What do I mean by this?**
- If you **only live out your faith** or **act like you are saved** on Wednesday nights when you are at youth group but nowhere else **you may not be saved.**
 - We may not be a **believer** of Jesus
 - We may not be a **follower** of Jesus
- I am **not saying** you have to be **perfect**
- **Everyone is going to sin** no matter how **mature** you are in your faith or how much **you love Jesus.**

- The Bible teaches in Romans 3:23 that we read earlier that ALL have sinned.
- Even though none of us are perfect, faith can not just be something for Wednesday nights.
- If you truly confess and believe in Jesus, it affects your life more than just two hours on a Wednesday night.
- Your faith should follow you home even if your family isn't saved, your faith should follow you to school no matter where you go to school, your faith should follow you to your sports teams no matter how many other athletes are Christians.
- See true faith is not just in one place, it is within all of you.
- Faith does not just lead to behavior modification, even more so it leads to character transformation.
- If you are serious about your faith and your faith truly follows you, that is a clear sign that you are saved, growing in your faith, and walking in the will of God for your life.
- There are many stories in the Bible that I love about men and women that truly loved Jesus and it resulted in their faith following them.
 - One of these stories is about a group of guys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Closing statement

- The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego comes out of Daniel 3.
- I don't just love this story about these dudes because their names are out of pocket and fun to say, I love it because I think it is so applicable to our generation today.
- King Nebuchadnezzar was a messed up dude.
 - He made a 90 ft tall gold idol for all of the leaders under his control to come and worship.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were leaders in Babylon so they were there but they refused to bow to the idol because they had courageous faith, real faith, true faith, and this faith followed them even into hard situations.

Daniel 3:14-15 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? **15** I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”

- I can **tell they were legit because** they **refused to wavier** and **bowl down to any other idols.**
- It **may be different for us** but how many of us **are tempted to worship the idols** that are all around us.
 - It may not be a **90ft tall idol**
 - But there are so many things that are **fighting to take the place** of God.
- **Tempted to bow** to the same **things are friends** do

21 So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.

- This furnace was so hot that even the guard that threw them in died.
- But the Lord is faithful to meet you where you are at when you stand firm in your faith.
- Are there some people that say you know what...
 - My friends might bow down to this
 - My friends might live for this
 - But I am choosing to stand firm in my faith and my faith is going to follow me wherever I go.

25 “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

- **I don't wonder if there is a generation** of young people that **will follow their faith** so that their faith can follow them, **I know there is a generation** of young men and women in this room tonight that **have or will tonight**

take a step of faith and say, this faith thing, this salvation invitation from God, I am going to take it seriously.

Prayer

- Can I pray for you?
- Leaders come up and pray for students.