



I. INTRO

A. Why am I here?

Isaiah 43:1-2 (NLT) But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. ²When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

Isaiah 43:5-7 (NLT) ⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. ⁶I will say to the north and south, ‘Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. ⁷Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’”

- You were made for His glory

B. An illustration we can understand

John 15:5-8 (NLT) ⁵“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

- Fruit is produced not from the effort of the vine, but the life from the branch

C. If it's God that does the “doing,” then it's God who gets the glory

D. You should fully expect to produce fruit that gives God glory

II. SAVIOR

A. We all fall short

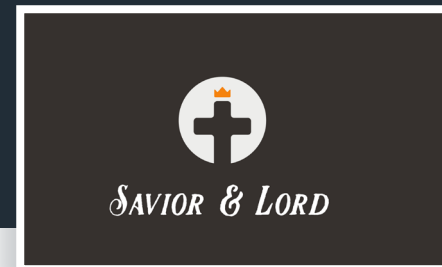
Romans 3:23 (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

B. We are made right with God by...

Romans 3:22a (NLT) We are made right with God by _____.

- How do you fill in this blank?

Romans 3:22-25a (NLT) ²²We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet 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. ^{25a}For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.



C. Salvation requires a personal decision to believe this

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

D. Out with the old and in with the new

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- Question: How long does it take to believe and become a new creation in Christ?

E. It happens in a moment

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

III. SAVIOR vs LORD

A. An event vs a process

- Declaring Jesus as our Lord is an event that is to be followed by a “process” of transformation

B. Being born again gives you potential but makes you accountable

John 1:42-43 (NIV) ⁴² Andrew took Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw Simon, He said, “You are Simon, the son of John. Your name will be Cephas.” The name Cephas means Peter, or a rock. ⁴³ The next day Jesus wanted to go to the country of Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

- The goal of the Christian life isn’t to simply follow Jesus—the goal is to become like Jesus
- The challenge

John 3:30 (NLT) He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NIRV) ² We always thank God for all of you. We keep on praying for you. ³ We remember you when we pray to our God and Father. Your work is produced by your faith. Your service is the result of your love. Your strength to continue comes from your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (NIRV) ⁶ We and the Lord were your examples. You followed us. You welcomed our message even when you were suffering terribly. You welcomed it with the joy the Holy Spirit gives. ⁷ So you became a model to all the believers in the lands of Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ The Lord’s message rang out from you. That was true not only in Macedonia and Achaia. Your faith in God has also become known everywhere. So we don’t have to say anything about it.