

1. Introduction

The topic of this talk is, specifically, *how to save your life*. That's a question that concerns everyone.

You might think, "I think I'd like to save my soul."

How about the rest of you?

Would you like to save your body?

Would you like to save your mind?

You – the _____ person – is what salvation is concerned about, but, when we talk about salvation, we often have a very shrunken idea of being saved.

BEING SAVED: WHAT IS IT LIKE?

SAVED BY HIS LIFE:
SALVATION *BEYOND* FORGIVENESS

When we ask the question, or when we are asked the question, "Are you saved?" it almost always refers to what's going to happen to you after you die. Are you going to heaven or to that other place?

But there's another question that we need to ask ourselves: *If you got into heaven, do you think you'd like it? What's it going to be like?*

If your life is not caught up in God _____, heaven may turn out to be unbearable.

Spiritual formation is the process of shaping the individual so that they love God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, and with all their strength, and they love their neighbor as themselves.



How do you love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength?

Romans 5: 8-11: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from wrath through Him**. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life**. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation (Romans 5: 8-11)

Jesus' life lived in us
saves us from wrath –
our wrath and the
wrath of others.

Christ is alive!
We are saved by his life.

Where is he living his life?

Right here.

What is Jesus' relationship with his life to your life?

He lives in you.

SALVATION

- Is being caught up in the life that Jesus is now living on earth.

2. Salvation is deliverance

"SALVATION" = DELIVERANCE

- THIS IS THE MEANING OF "SALVATION" THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE.
- BEING SAVED BY THE LIFE OF JESUS, NOT JUST HIS DEATH. ROMANS 5:10
- THE LIFE OF JESUS IN US DELIVERS OUR LIFE FROM BEING "LOST."

The basic idea of salvation in the Bible is _____.

It isn't just deliverance from _____, but deliverance from all kinds of things. It is deliverance by the life of Christ in us. That life enables us to be delivered from things that could even destroy us.

Ephesians 5:8-9 "...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)...."

How much does that leave out? _____

The fruit of the light consists in _____ goodness, righteousness, and truth. It doesn't leave out anything. That's the focus of salvation and that's how your life is _____. But you have to be careful about it: "Be careful how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15-16)

3. Redeeming the Time

"REDEEMING THE TIME"

- YOUR "TIME" IS ALREADY ***POISED*** TO BE WASTED. IT IS IN THE PAWN SHOP OF SOULS. IT HAS TO BE "BOUGHT BACK" BY "PROACTIVE" PROVISION.
- "BE CAREFUL HOW YOU WALK, NOT AS UNWISE, BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE TIME BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL." EPHESIANS 5:15-16

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Redeeming is a special kind of relation. It isn't just making the most of your time. You redeem something that has already been _____. Paul is saying that your _____ is already out of your hands and gone if you don't become proactive and pull it back (see also Colossians 4:5, KJV). Time needs to be brought back into the life of God and redeemed or it will be lost.

Reflection: How much of your time really enters into the renewal and development of your life?

How much of your time is spent doing things that you think you just have to do? That's failing to redeem the time.

The great threat is that we will think we don't do that unless we're doing something religious. Religion can be a very good thing, but it's never _____. Redemption has to do with life. It has to do with our moments, our days, our relationships to other people, and the way we bring that before God and expect his blessing on it.

HOW DO YOU REDEEM YOUR TIME?

- BY MAKING SURE THAT YOUR GENTLE BUT PERSISTENT FOCUS IS ON "ALL GOODNESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH" (Ephesians 5:9)
- DEPENDING CONSTANTLY UPON GOD TO UPHOLD YOU AND "SAVE" OR DELIVER YOU AS YOU MAINTAIN THAT FOCUS. **SALVATION!!!!**

Concrete ways to redeem the things you're living through:

- Be thankful. Be thankful for the next thing that's in front of you. This will take _____. God will help you. If you want to redeem your time and save your life, you start with being _____ for the next thing that's in front of you.
- To be thankful is to acknowledge that God is there.
- Look for God's hand to bring to light the righteousness, goodness, and truth. If you don't look for it, you won't find it.

- Advice from Paul (Philippians 4:4-7): "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all people. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

ADVICE FROM PAUL:

"**WHATEVER IS TRUE...NOBLE...RIGHT...PURE ... LOVELY...WELL REGARDED... IF THERE IS ANY VIRTUE OR ANY PRAISE, KEEP YOUR MIND ON THOSE THINGS.**" (PHILIPPIANS 4:8)

THIS IS PRECIOUS ADVICE ON HOW TO REDEEM YOUR TIME.

What about God? Aren't we supposed to keep our mind on God? *[This is where God is!](#)*

- Would you like to be a person whose life is framed by love?
 - Find something around you and start loving it.
 - Fill your life with God. You fill your life with God by constantly _____ where you are to love, to joy, to peace, etc. That's how you focus on all the things that are righteous and true and good. That's how you buy back your time because, if you don't do it, the time will go by and it will be lost. It will not profit you and will not profit anyone else because you have not taken God into that moment.

FILL YOUR LIFE WITH GOD

- YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO DO THIS BY THE CONSTANT ACTION OF GOD WITH YOU.
- THE WORLD AROUND YOU IS SET TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM THIS PATH.
- BUT THE OUTCOME WILL BE "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"—A LIFE FILLED WITH GOODNESS. A SAVED LIFE.

- The world around you is set to waste your time. The main way that it does that is to convince you that what you're doing and what you're engaged in is not of _____
_____. You wind up being distracted, and distraction is one of the main enemies of the human soul. You wind up investing what time you have on stuff that doesn't matter.
- You have to redeem your time by coming to look at everything you're involved in as under the hand of God. When you do that, you can be _____.

Reflection: Are you willing to experiment with looking at everything you're involved in as under the hand of God? Try it. You live your life of spiritual formation and growth by experimenting with God on the things that you have to live through anyway. The outcome is the fruit of the Spirit.

4. The Fruit of the Spirit

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"...IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS,
GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-
CONTROL...." (Gal.5:22-23)

BUT THIS IS WHOLE LIFE, NOT ESPECIALLY "RELIGIOUS."

Practice: Memorize Galatians 5:22-23. You need to memorize passages like this so they'll be right in front of your mind, present in your heart, and working in your body. If you want the Word of God to work in your body, memorize it because it is actually a substance and a power. It works on its own, if you just take it in.

When we talk about the fruit of the Spirit, we are not talking about an abstraction. The fruit of the Spirit is concrete reality. Love is not a wonderful feeling of love. Paul is talking about loving things. Joy is not just a kind of effervescent stuff. It is a condition of life. It has feeling with it, but it can be there when you don't even have the feeling. I don't just have peace; I'm at peace with you. I'm at peace with those around me – even if they aren't at peace with me. God gives me peace, and I have peace within.

You learn concretely to live in the fruit of the Spirit by the presence of God in your life, by taking the events of daily life and turning them over to God, and living in them.

5. The Saved Life

THE "SAVED" LIFE

- IS A LIFE DEVOTED TO BEAUTY, TRUTH, AND GOODNESS
- IN THE POWER OF THE RISEN AND LIVING CHRIST, WHO IS WITH YOU IN ALL YOU DO.
- IN YOUR LIFE HERE FOCUS UPON BEAUTY, TRUTH, GOODNESS IN ALL YOUR STUDIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

Beauty, truth, and goodness are where God concretely dwells with us in our life.

Beauty is goodness made present to the senses.

Truth is a reflection of reality, including beauty and goodness.

Goodness is all that nourishes and strengthens human life in a proper order.

These three all go together.

If your salvation does not include living with God in beauty, truth, and goodness, it's going to be a very dry haul.

A "CHRIST" WITHOUT BEAUTY, TRUTH AND GOODNESS IS A TESTIMONY AGAINST THE GOODNESS AND GRANDEUR OF GOD.

"BEAUTY, TRUTH AND GOODNESS" WITHOUT CHRIST IS A WRETCHED, FAILING HUMAN SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LIFE WE ARE MEANT TO HAVE.

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Jesus is the sponsor of beauty, truth, and goodness. He actually created them. Your salvation includes them.

You have to go to the cross. The cross is necessary, but you do not live there. You live in the _____ life with Jesus.

The cross is there to cut off all of the things in our life that would keep us from the life of _____, truth, and goodness.

Beauty, truth, and _____ – the substance of life in God – require the presence of the Trinitarian God to hold it together and make it prosper.