



Romans 8:29-30 • October - November 2023

Overview

Stories of grace are powerful. Jean Valjean is given a second chance in Les Mis; Batman doesn't kill The Joker in The Dark Knight, and Clint Eastwood gives his prized car to a young immigrant in Gran Torino—moments of undeserved favour leave us deeply moved, and they should, as the ultimate story of grace originates in the heart of God. Salvation is the greatest narrative of all time. It is the story of stories. It is the story of the fullest expression of all that God is. It is the story of his grace from beginning to end.

Outline

1. Predestined - Romans 8:29-30
2. Justified - Romans 3:23-26 & 5:1-2
3. Sanctified - Romans 6:1-14
4. Glorified - Romans 8:18-30



SALVATION

Week 1 • 8 Oct 2023 • Predestined

This week's key theme: Salvation starts with God.

1. Have a few people share briefly how they came to faith. Focus on what you were like before Christ, how you came to know him, and what has changed since.

2. Read Romans 8:28-30 together.
 - a. What is the thing you most celebrate out of this passage?

 - b. Why do you think Paul writes these words in past tense?

3. Simon talked about the contrast between Christianity and other worldviews when it comes to salvation. In other worldviews, salvation starts with what WE do.
 - a. How have you seen this play out in other worldviews?

 - b. How do you think this impacts their lives?

4. What is something you took away from the message and who is one person you want to share it with? Pray about this together.

5. How does the confidence that God is actually making you more like Jesus affect the way you live today?
 - a. What is one step you need God's help to take?

6. Predestination is one of topics that can trip people up as it leads to a conversation about the relationship between God's sovereignty and human choice.
 - a. What is one thing that is now clearer to you than before?

 - b. What questions do you still have? How will you go about exploring answers to those questions?



SALVATION

Week 2 • 15 Oct 2023 • Justified

This week's key theme: We have been declared righteous

1. What's your favourite courtroom scene from a movie or television series? What made it so memorable for you?
2. Justification means to be declared righteous, this is more than simply "not guilty". Read Romans 3:23-26 and 5:1-2 in the NIV. Now read it again and substitute "justified" for "declared righteous"
 - a. How is this now magnified in light of Romans 3:23?
 - b. How was the legal declaration of our righteousness made possible?
3. When you consider how a "guilty" or "not guilty" verdict for someone on death row makes all the difference in the world, what difference does being justified, or declared righteous, make in our lives?
 - a. How can a deeper appreciation of justification lead us to greater worship of God - the author of our salvation?

4. One of our deep needs as human beings is to feel innocent, to have a sense that we are morally clean (or at least no worse than anyone else).
 - a. What do you see people doing to gain a sense of innocence in their lives?
 - b. How do you see people reacting when they make a mistake, whether small or large? (e.g. denying, blaming, cover-up etc)
 - c. Why will none of this ever be enough to be declared righteous?

5. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God has declared you permanently righteous. There is no charge that can stand against you, ever, because this righteousness was bought with the blood of Christ.
 - a. How does this make you want to live?
 - b. Are you carrying guilt and shame from past mistakes that you can put down and leave at the cross? If you feel comfortable, share with your group and ask for prayer.

6. Spend some time as a group marveling at this incredible aspect of God's saving grace for each of you - you have been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ! You don't stand condemned! Turn your gratitude and wonder back to God in praise and prayer.



SALVATION

Week 3 • 22 Oct 2023 • Sanctified

This week's key theme: We are being made more like Jesus every day.

1. Name someone older than you who you admire and want to be like? What is it about them that you find so compelling?
2. Last week we learned that we have been justified, declared righteous, by God. Read Romans 6:1-14.
 - a. How does this passage make sanctification different from justification?
 - b. If we have already been declared righteous, why can't we just live however we want now, since justification is permanent?
 - c. What part does baptism have to play in all this?
3. Sanctification is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus.
 - a. What sort of self-improvement methods do you see people relying on out in the world?
 - b. What messages are associated with those methods?

4. Sanctification is an ongoing process throughout our lives - a process that God promises to complete in partnership with us (Philippians 1:6 and 2:12-13).
 - a. Looking back since becoming a follower of Jesus, where can you see personal growth in Christ-likeness? Thank God for this!
 - b. Where are some areas that you would like to see more growth? Ask God to help you in this.

5. The Church is the body of Christ, we are supposed to share our lives with each other, which means encouraging each other and confessing to one another - and especially praying for and with each other.
 - a. What often holds us back from confessing our sins or areas of struggle to one another?
 - b. How can our group deepen our love and trust with each other so we can feel comfortable confessing our sins, or calling out sin in each other's lives?



SALVATION

Week 4 • 5 Nov 2023 • Glorified

This week's key theme: We and the world await a future resurrection.

1. Assuming Jesus doesn't return in the next 26 years, what do you hope your life will look like in 2050?
2. Read Romans 8:18-30
 - a. Why does Paul use "glorified" in the past tense in v30?
 - b. What does the text say creation is waiting for?
 - c. What does it say that we are waiting for?
 - d. What words does Paul use to describe this waiting?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42
 - a. As you consider the redemption of your physical body, how does this make you look forward to being "glorified"?
4. Humanity seems to have an allergy to aging and death.
 - a. What are the common beliefs about what happens to us after we die?
 - b. How do you see people trying to preserve and prolong their lives as much as possible?

- c. What correlation do you see between their beliefs and actions?
5. If my life after death is 100 percent guaranteed by God's grace, if my body is guaranteed to be resurrected and redeemed, how does that impact how you live through suffering and hardship now?
 - a. Have you thought much about death? How does the doctrine of "glorification" affect your view of death and dying?
6. Spend some time as a group marveling at what you have discussed and learned throughout this Pillars series: We're destined for glory, we didn't deserve to be chosen, we didn't deserve to be made righteous, we didn't deserve to be sanctified and we don't deserve heaven - but he lavishly gave it, grace upon grace! Turn your gratitude and wonder back to God in praise and prayer and worship.