

We are here looking out for every person because we are family we are not entertainment were not a show we are the church and we are family. And we love each other and we care for each other.

We care about people, why do we care about people, because Jesus cares about people.

In the past 10years there has been around 10 baptism and people saved. Moving forward as a church we are going to change that by being more active in inviting people, by our lives being a visible witness of the reality of Jesus. Our mission is to “To empower people and impact our community with the reality of Jesus.

WHY? Because we care about people, why do we care about people, because Jesus cares about people.

This morning I want to attempt to answer some questions about salvation. As a minister I get questions all the time from people from all different walks of life and background about what it means to be a Christian.

Different churches teach different things different denominators believe different things. There are people with no church background at all.

But a lot of us want to go to heaven when we die, we just want to make sure that we get there.

But I’m going to let the Bible answer some of the most common questions that we receive as a church. And some of those kinds of questions that you have asked or been asked when it comes to Salvation.

I’m wanting to ask these questions because they're important to you. It’s important to others. These are questions people should be asking about our/your church.

We'll let the Bible do it

I'll start off with a passage of scripture to show you why we are confused and where confusion comes from vs the truth.

This is very important from the beginning. I want you to know that Jesus is the author of Truth and Satan is the author deception of all lies.

Don't get that confused as many do. What Jesus says in John chapter 8 vs 31 to 32 he is talking to a big group of Jewish people some of them had believed in Him and He says to them, to the Jews that believed in him

John 31-32 *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

Some of us have lived in confusion and doubt about Salvation for so long you don't even know what it feels like to walk in the freedom of knowing that you are Unconditionally loved by God, and you have nothing to prove to anyone to impress.

And you can't lose what you didn't earn. So Jesus wants to give you Freedom by telling you the truth but look what happens when you listen to the liar who deceives you and confuses you.

“Why do you not understand what I say. Is it because you cannot bear to hear my word? You are of your father the devil, and you and your will is to do your father’s desire’s. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:43-44

Jesus does not want us to be confused about Salvation, Satan does, he's a liar and he wants us to live in confusion. Jesus wants us to live in truth.

What is Salvation?

What is salvation? here is a really easy answer from the scripture-

It is God's plan, and our hope, for His glory and our good.

What is salvation – It is God's plan, and our hope for His glory and our good.

I want to open this a little for you and show you a little bit exactly what the Bible says.

You know that there is no graduation from Salvation.

And it's the deepest best most amazing thing you'll ever experience, and if it's real it will last forever and never go away.

There is no graduation from Salvation.

1 John chapter 5 vs 12 to 13 here is another way to define Salvation, it is life and it is Jesus. Here's what the word says - *12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Salvation is Gods' plan, salvation is our hope, salvation is life and that life comes from Jesus.

Salvation is life, salvation is Jesus, but if you don't have the son of God you don't have life. There's no other way to be saved other than Jesus.

And this is important verse *13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."*

He wants you to know that you have eternal life, and how can you know? If you believe.

You see - *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God."*

What is salvation - it's God's plan, it's our hope, it's for His glory.

It's for our good. Salvation is life and salvation is Jesus.

There is no Salvation apart from Jesus Christ.

Let me ask you another question because this is what I get all the time. **WHO IS IT FOR?**

Who can be saved? who can receive this great gift? Because a lot of people let's be honest, feel like they're not worthy of Salvation.

Well Jesus knows all my mistakes he knows all my sins –

how I was addicted to Pills,

knows how I was promiscuous before I got married,

he knows I cheated on my wife,

He knows I cheated on my husband,

He knows I got caught for fraud,

I spent time in prison,

it can't be for me I struggle with homosexuality,

I struggle with gender issues,

I struggle with depression,

I struggle with all sorts of things,

I'm addicted to pornography,

it can't be for me I'm on a registry of sex offenders.

Who is it for? I was raised a Muslim, I was born a Hindu, I'm an atheist and I've never been to church in my entire life. **WHO IS IT FOR?**

I hear this all the time and most probably you have too –
Can anybody be saved?

Can anyone answer that question?

Well let me answer this question for you, who is it for? all of us.

It's for all of us.

The liar, the cheater, the murderer, the bully,

the white guy, the Maori lady,

the new immigrants,

it's for the lawyer,

the doctor,

it's for the plumber,

it's for the person on unemployment,

it's for every one of us.

If salvation is not for all of us it's not good news.

This is what the Bible says this verse has got lots of coverage over the years with Christian crusades, and there is a reason why this verse is so powerful.

I'll read it to you **John 3:16** *“for God so loved the world that he gave His only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

In this verse I want you to focus on two words, the word **WORLD** and the word **WHOEVER**.

This word **WORLD** means the entire cosmos.

God loved everybody so this is important for you to hear, everyone to hear.

God loves you, God loves you.

And this is a question that so many people have. Even if you don't ask it, there are people that think could God really love me? with all I've done with all I've experienced? With all I've seen?

Just think of what you have done, experienced and seen, does God still love you? Yes.

As you open the bible just look at people's lives like David, with all he did, with all he experienced with, all he saw. Did God love him. Yes. David was a man after God's own heart.

Is any of our sins greater than God's grace. No it is not.

Who is salvation for? The **WORLD** and **WHOEVER**.

WHOEVER drug dealer, gang member, thief, adulterer, abuser. It's free, it's for anybody.

Male, female, young and old it's for all of us.

Here is another verse **2 Peter 3:9** – *“the lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

God does not intend for a single person to die without Salvation.

He wants everyone to repent and be saved.

Everyone will not be saved, because we have free will.

Everyone will not go to heaven everyone,

will not experience abundant life, because God wants you to be saved, but you have to choose whether or not you believe it.

We are not to ever believe the lie that you were born with no hope. There is hope for you and he does not want you to Perish. He wants you to reach repentance.

Here's a question that Christians get a lot. **WHY DOES IT MATTER?** It matters for a couple reasons, because eternal life and abundant life are at stake.

It matters in eternity and it matters right now in the day that we're living in.

If people say to you **why does it matter?**

It matter's because you matter.
It matters because you are made in Gods image.

For a lot of people they kind of get this in their head.
I don't know if I'm going to go to heaven or hell when I die.?

ok that's an important question, that's a really important question.

The Bible is our authority, and if you read the Bible, I didn't write it, I just preach it. If you read the Bible, the Bible tells us that after we die there are only two place where we are going to live forever.
By the way everyone lives forever. Everyone does.
Either in heaven or hell.

God does not send anyone to hell arbitrually.
God does not send anyone to hell unilaterially.
People will spend eternity separated from God if they reject the good news of the gospel.

But a lot of people are so focused on eternal life that they miss the second part, abundant life.

Salvation matters not just because Jesus wants to have a relationship with you forever in the new heaven and New Earth, but because Jesus wants to have a relationship with you right here right now.

I want eternal life, but eternal life it is the natural follow-up to abundant life.
I want eternal life in the new heaven and the new earth, but I get the chance to live abundant life right now.
I want to be the best that I can be.
I want to be the best husband I can be.
I want to be the best Preacher and best minister I can be.
I want to be a great citizen here in Hamilton.
I want to be generous with my money.
I want to be quick to forgive and I also want to be quick to repent and say I'm sorry.
The only way I can do any of those things is that the abundant life of Jesus is flowing through me right now.

Is that life flowing through you right now?

I don't want to live 80 to 95yrs right down here doing my own thing.
Then get to go to heaven because I prayed a prayer.

Sinners prayer not in bible

There's more to it than that. If abundant life starts here then eternal life is the continuation of what Jesus starts in us right here, right now.

We are the Kingdom of God in the here and now.
We are God's ambassadors to the world right here right now.

Here's a question:

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN? WHEN IS A PERSON SAVED?

Before creation and when you believe.

Some people believe you are born into it.
Some people believe your mum and dad choose it for you.
Some people believe you are saved when you repeat a prayer after a Christian.

I'll explain

Before creation and when you believe.

Salvation happens in God's mind, way before any of us were born.
Before creation, before God made you He knew you.
The book of Psalm says – "that before you were formed in your mother's womb, God knew you."

In the book of Genesis, it says we are created in God's image. Now God is not confined by time or space. God already knows what's going to happen tomorrow because He has already been there. So God knows who you are, has been pursuing you, after you, whispering to you, calling your name, speaking to you, you've heard His voice.

So before creation God knew you and loved you, but you weren't really saved until you believed the truth of the gospel. That's when you're saved.

Hear what scripture speaks to you from

Ephesians chapter 1 vs 11 to 14 "In him" Paul writes to the church in Ephesus "*we have obtained an inheritance having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*"

Here's the thing that we know about God's sovereignty "that all things work together for the good of those who belong to him." Romans chapter 8.

it also says in the next part of this passage *12* "so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory."

So long before we were ever born God had a destiny for us.

we already told in 2nd Peter 3:9 - That none of us should perish.

But there's also a choice that we have to make which we see in v 13.

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit."

So God wants you to be saved, God wants everyone to be saved, God has destined that you know him and be in a relationship with him, but the choice is yours, the choice is theirs.
Gods already made the choice.

God chose to allow his Son to die on the cross,

in my place to take away my sins, so that I could be saved.
God chose to sacrifice so that I might be saved.
Now I have to choose what I'll do.

Ephesians 1 "In him" verse 13 *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,"* and that promised Holy Spirit *"who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*

So we are saved at the moment we believe, when we believe, the Holy Spirit is given to us, and he is now a seal, a deposit that guarantees our inheritance.

We are saved in this world so that we might inherit all of God's riches in the next.

So another question – **HOW ARE WE SAVED?**

WHO HAS BEEN ASKED THIS BEFORE?

Is it by keeping the rules, is it buy never smoking cigarettes,
is it by never touching alcohol or can I have a glass of wine with a special occasion like Christmas,
birthdays, a wedding?

Does that mean that if I had sex before I got married does that mean I'm out?

Every one of these questions and all the others from people matter.

How are we saved is it baptism?

Is it membership?

Is it church attendance?

What if I don't tithe?

God sees everything, knows when I'm cheating Him.

No, here's how we're saved.

God's grace and our faith when we repent and believe.

God's grace saves us, not your works.

God's grace saves me, not my good deeds.

God's grace proven in Jesus Christ saves you, but your faith must be activated. Ok.

It's both and not either or. Does God save us? Or do we save ourselves?

God does all the saving.

We don't do anything except believe, and that's where faith comes in.

God's grace and our faith when we repent and believe.

Ephesians 2: 8-9 Paul writes this –

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

So it's not being a good person,

it's not perfect church attendance, it's not tithing a minimum of 10%.

I'm a member of a church though I haven't been for a long time, I'm good.

That's not what makes you Christian.

It's not even praying a prayer after the minister, or friend.

You see the prayer is not what saves you, Jesus is who saves you.

The prayer is how we connect to Him.

How we talk to Him.

Unless you and I have repented and believed we are not saved.

Nothing I can do will save me, it's only by repenting and believe will save me.

HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE SAVED?

I hope, though don't take for granted that everyone here is saved. Whether you have been attending 4yrs or 40yrs.

HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE SAVED?

By hearing His voice.

This how you know, by hearing His voice.

I'm going to let the bible teach you.

In John 10: 3-5 Jesus talks about being the shepherd and how we are His sheep.

"To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

So if you want to know you're really saved.

I ask you this question, - do you hear His voice, still today.

Do you hear His voice? You got saved 40 years ago, 5 years ago.

Great, do you hear His voice, today?

You got saved in January great, do you hear His voice today.

Do you hear him convict you when you're wrong?

Do you hear him encourage you when you're down?

Do you hear Him say repent again, not to be saved again but to keep the relationship close?

Do you love him?

Because the weight of knowing that you belong to Jesus, is that He your Shepherd continues to call your name and you hear that voice.

Look at John 10 verse 5 "As stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

If you belong to Jesus, you hear His voice. Move forward to *verse 14* Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."*

Do you hear His voice today?

Some of you will hear his voice saying, "You're mine." I know you, you know me.

He's giving you comfort; he's giving you assurance.

But either way, when you hear His voice, you need to respond to it.

but I got one more question –

CAN YOU - LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

I think we all have our own opinion on this.

I think the Bible is pretty clear on this.

Can you lose your salvation?

Not if you're truly saved.

We can say this question in a different way – **WERE YOU REALLY SAVED IN THE FIRST PLACE?**

If your salvation is not authentic, if you haven't really repented and believed.

If you haven't really put faith in God through his grace, then whatever you have is not really Salvation.

It's like building your house on sand and when a flood comes it's going to fall soon as life gets tuff.

But if you're truly saved, no you cannot lose your Salvation. I'm going let the Word of God speak to you.

Same chapter John 10: 27-30

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they Follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

It means forever, and they will never perish.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, no one can snatch them out of my hand. No one can snatch them, no one.

There's another layer of protection in this, it is, my father who is giving them to me verse 29 *“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”*

Do you know who is invested in your Salvation when you truly repent and believe that Jesus Christ died in your place and is raised from the dead.

The Triune God protects you. Every member of the Trinity protects you.

Ephesians 1 says – *“as having believed you are sealed in the Holy Spirit of God which is a deposit, who guarantee's your inheritance. Jesus then says in John chapter 10, if you belong to me I'll give you eternal life, you will never perish. And as you are in my hand, you are also in my Father's hand.*

DO YOU HEAR His voice?

DO YOU HEAR His voice?

If you really want to know that you are saved don't just ask what happened at my confirmation, what happened at my baptism, what happened at youth camp?

They are all good questions.

If you really want to know what the evidence is of your salvation.

Ask what is happening now.

Christ is alive in you.

Stop asking what just happened and ask what is happening?

DO YOU HEAR His voice?

And when you believe our goal is to live faithfully.