



TRUTH YOU MUST BELIEVE

God has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible. This is absolutely infallible and contains all we need to know about how we must glorify God and how we may be saved. This leaflet briefly summarises some of these essential truths. True saving faith has three elements: knowledge, belief and trust (Romans 10:14). We must know what the Scriptures teach about God and man, sin and salvation.

Faith comes “by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). It is not blind trust or a leap in the dark. Sometimes people say that we trust in a Person (i.e. Christ), not truths or doctrines about the Person. True saving faith certainly involves trust but we also need to know about the One in whom we have believed (2 Timothy 1:12). The more accurate our knowledge is about Him, the deeper and fuller will be our trust in Him. Accurate knowledge about the biblical truths of salvation is not enough to save us in itself. Saving faith is inward trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work of redemption alone.

1

MAN'S RUIN BY SIN

God

All-powerful and everlasting. God is three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet only one God. Before the universe was created He planned everything that would happen in time.

Creation

God created everything from nothing in six days. It was all very good. The first man and woman were Adam and Eve. They were created morally perfect and able to keep God's law written in their heart.

Fall into Sin

Adam and Eve did not continue in this condition. They fell from it by sinning against God. They broke God's commandment in eating the forbidden fruit. All mankind were in Adam and Eve as branches are in the root before the tree grows. As a result all mankind also fell with them, deserve eternal punishment and have lost all ability to please God. By nature, we are enemies of God and spiritual good. This is 'Original Sin'. It is the source of all the sins we commit continually whether in thought, word or deed. Sin is breaking any aspect of God's commandments or failing to do what they require.

2

GOD'S REMEDY BY REDEMPTION

Redemption Planned

God planned that He would save a chosen people, showing them favour that they could never deserve. They could not save themselves. The eternal Son of God would come to take their nature. The Lord Jesus Christ would meet the just demands of God's law by taking the penalty for their disobedience on the cross. He would redeem them all from sin and death. He would also purchase for them righteousness and eternal life together with everything needed for salvation.

Redemption Accomplished

Christ took our nature, perfectly kept God's law and died upon the cross, completely paying the ransom for His people.

Redemption Applied

Christ applies this redemption to His people as:

(a) their Prophet. He gives them all the knowledge they need to be saved. He persuades them to believe and obey it.

(b) their Priest. He offered up Himself as a sacrifice once and forever for all His people. He also prays and acts for them continually so that the Father is pleased with them and they can serve God.

(c) their King. To overcome their opposition to Him. He feeds them and rules them and defends them from their enemies.

3

HOW GOD'S REMEDY IS APPLIED

God has provided various ways by which His remedy is applied.

(a) God's Word. God sends out preachers on His behalf to declare His Word. He makes a free offer of grace to all sinners on the condition that they trust in Jesus Christ. All who confess their sin, accept Christ freely offered to them and submit to His commands are recognised as His people.

(b) Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The water poured out in baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are like pictures for us. They are symbols of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done. Once crucified, He was victorious over death and the grave and is now gloriously ruling heaven and earth for the good of His own people. They also confirm the saving benefits of this work to those who trust in Him.

(c) Church Government. The officers that Christ has established in His Church help to protect believers and keep them in the right way of obedience.

(d) Prayer. God bestows His glorious grace in response to His people's daily prayers.

4

HOW GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CHANGED

Change of Heart and Life

God changes His people in both their hearts and lives.

- He gives them spiritual life and opens their minds to understand spiritual things. He renews their wills and desires so that they are able to obey His commands.
- He gives them saving faith by which they believe that they deserve condemnation. They then truly embrace Jesus Christ.
- He gives them repentance by making them turn from all sin with hatred and godly sorrow and also love righteousness in serving God.
- He makes them grow in holiness. He also gives them the ability to persevere in their faith and continue in spiritual obedience to the law of God. They show this by being fruitful in all duties and good works as God gives opportunity to them.

Change of Status

God changes their status as well as this inward change of their hearts and lives.

- He justifies them by imputing to them Christ's perfect obedience to the law and the penalty that Christ paid in their name upon the cross to satisfy God's justice.
- He reconciles them and makes them friends to God who were enemies to God before.
- He adopts them so that they are no longer children of Satan but rather children of God enriched with all the spiritual privileges of His sons.
- After their warfare in this life is ended, He makes their souls at their death perfect in holiness and blessedness raised in glory. At the day of Christ's glorious coming to judgment all the wicked will be sent away to hell with Satan whom they have served.

This leaflet summarises a booklet also called *Truth You Must Believe*. This is available from our online store or your local Christian bookshop. They are based on an older guide to Christian belief called *The Sum of Saving Knowledge*.