

The Apostles' Creed

Study Guide

LESSON
SIX

SALVATION



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STUDY GUIDE

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How to use this lesson and study guide

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Preparation** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule breaks** — Review the outline and the time codes to determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions in the outline.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Notes** — Use the Notes section to follow the lesson and to take additional notes. Many of the main ideas are already summarized in the notes, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Review Questions** — Questions on the basic content of the lesson. Answer review questions in the space provided. Review questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Application Questions** — Questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Outline

- I. Introduction (1:00)
- II. Forgiveness (3:04)
 - A. Problem of Sin (3:28)
 - 1. Definition of Sin (4:26)
 - 2. Origin of Sin (9:40)
 - 3. Consequences of Sin (12:42)
 - B. Divine Grace (16:52)
 - 1. Father (18:05)
 - 2. Son (21:21)
 - 3. Holy Spirit (22:49)
 - C. Individual Responsibility (25:16)
 - 1. Conditions (26:02)
 - 2. Means (34:14)
- III. Resurrection (46:58)
 - A. Curse (47:38)
 - B. Gospel (52:19)
 - 1. Old Testament (53:07)
 - 2. New Testament (1:00:43)
 - 3. Resurrection of Jesus (1:05:58)
 - C. Redemption (1:08:55)
 - 1. Present Life (1:09:12)
 - 2. Intermediate State (1:10:46)
 - 3. New Life (1:16:01)
- IV. Everlasting Life (1:18:45)
 - A. Timing (1:19:31)
 - B. Quality (1:25:01)
 - C. Location (1:32:10)
- V. Conclusion (1:37:12)

Notes

I. Introduction

Salvation: The reception of the blessings that Christ purchased by his atoning death.

II. Forgiveness

A. Problem of Sin

Sin separates us from God's blessings and places us under his curse.

1. Definition of Sin

Lawlessness: a violation of God's law

- Want of conformity (sin of omission)
- Transgression (sin of commission)

The law is a reflection of God's perfect character.

Love for God is manifested in obedience to his law.

2. Origin of Sin

The Fall: when Adam and Eve rebelled against God

When God created humanity, we were very good.

Adam and Eve violated God's law and willfully chose to sin.

3. Consequences of Sin

After Adam and Eve sinned, God judged and cursed the entire human race, resulting in:

- Spiritual death
- Corruption

- Physical death
- Eternal suffering

B. Divine Grace

God was not willing to let the entire human race remain under the curse of sin.

God sent a redeemer to solve the problem of sin—Jesus Christ.

Salvation is Trinitarian at heart.

1. Father

The Father sent the Son into the world and appointed him as the redeemer.

The Father is the great architect of redemption.

2. Son

The Son was sent into the world as Jesus, the long awaited Messiah.

3. Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit applies forgiveness to our lives.

Implications of saving grace:

- Petitions
- Thanks
- Confidence

C. Individual Responsibility

The process of forgiveness involves an element of individual responsibility.

1. Conditions

- Faith in God: Acknowledgement of God's divine sovereignty, loyal submission to him, and trust that he will show us mercy for the sake of our redeemer Jesus Christ.

Those who fear the Lord receive his forgiveness.

- Brokenness: Genuine sorrow over sin, true regret over violating God's law.

2. Means

Sometimes Christians fail to distinguish between a means of grace and a basis of grace.

- Basis: ground or merit

The *basis* of grace is the merit of Christ.

- Means: tool or mechanism

The *means* of grace is faith.

- Prayer

Prayer is an ordinary means for appealing to God for grace and forgiveness.

We can receive forgiveness simply by asking for it.

Prayers of intercession sometimes function as extraordinary means of forgiveness.

Intercession: mediation; petition or prayer on behalf of another

- Sacraments

The word “sacrament” has historically been used to refer to the Lord’s Supper and baptism.

Forgiveness is a great blessing that we experience throughout our Christian lives.

III. Resurrection

When the Creed speaks of “the resurrection of the body” it has in mind the general resurrection.

A. Curse

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, sin corrupted not only their souls, but also their bodies, ultimately resulting in physical death.

B. Gospel

Scripture teaches that our bodies will be glorified when Christ returns.

1. Old Testament

The word “gospel,” which means “good news,” comes from the Old Testament.

The salvation God provided in the Old Testament was based on Christ’s future victory.

God’s people were taught that God would raise all the dead of humanity, and judge them for their deeds.

The last judgment involves bodily resurrection.

2. New Testament

The biggest difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that in the New Testament the redeemer had finally come.

Jesus taught that the general resurrection will take place at the last judgment.

3. Resurrection of Jesus

Connections between the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of believers:

- Union with Jesus
- Guarantee of resurrection

C. Redemption

1. Present Life

The salvation of our bodies begins with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. Intermediate State

During the intermediate state, our souls dwell with Christ in heaven while our bodies remain on earth.

3. New Life

Our bodies will receive new, perfect life when they are restored to life in the general resurrection.

IV. Everlasting Life

All God's faithful people will ultimately be rewarded with perfect, blessed, incorruptible, never-ending life.

A. Timing

The life that will never end is beginning now.

We will be given everlasting life at the last judgment.

B. Quality

The key quality of eternal life is that we will live forever in the blessings of God.

C. Location

Scripture speaks of our eternal location as the new heaven and new earth.

V. Conclusion

Review Questions

1. What is the problem of sin? Where did it originate and what are the consequences associated with sin?
2. Discuss how divine grace involves all three persons of the Trinity.

3. What role does individual responsibility play in the forgiveness of sins?
4. How did man's fall into sin corrupt not only our souls but also our physical bodies?

5. Discuss how the gospel, or “good news,” ensures our resurrection.
6. Describe the three stages of bodily redemption and how, according to the Scriptures, we will experience each.

7. Discuss when everlasting life begins.
8. Explain how everlasting life for believers is not simply a matter of having our existence and consciousness continue forever.

9. What is the new heaven and new earth and where will believers spend eternity?

Application Questions

1. In what ways does the law reflect the character of God?
2. Think of three ways people commonly sin by omission and three by commission.
3. All three members of the Trinity work together to bring about our salvation. What does this mean for the way that God loved us in our sin and continues to love us after we are saved?
4. How do Christians continually need to have brokenness and faith in their Christian lives?
5. How does the merit of Christ become the ground of our salvation, and how can faith in him give us confidence in his forgiveness?
6. In what ways has prayer been a means of grace in your life?
7. How can the future hope in our resurrection cause us to live holy lives in anticipation Christ's return?
8. How do we continue to need the gospel as believers?
9. How can everlasting life be experienced now?
10. How can our present sufferings increase our hope for everlasting life?
11. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?