

The Apostles' Creed

Study Guide

LESSON
SIX

SALVATION



THIRD MILLENNIUM

MINISTRIES

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON AND STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video lesson. If you do not have access to the video, the study guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the lesson and study guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — In the Notes section of the study guide, the lesson has been divided into sections that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the study guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each section and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, 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.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **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**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are 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.

Notes

I. Introduction (1:01)

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

II. Forgiveness (3:04)

A. Problem of Sin (3:28)

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

1. Definition of Sin (4:26)

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 (9:40)

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 (12:42)

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 (16:52)

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 (18:05)

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

The Father is the great architect of redemption.

2. Son (21:21)

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

3. Holy Spirit (22:49)

The Holy Spirit applies forgiveness to our lives.

Implications of saving grace:

- Petitions
- Thanks
- Confidence

C. Individual Responsibility (25:16)

The process of forgiveness involves an element of individual responsibility.

1. Conditions (26:02)

- 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 (34:14)

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 (46:58)

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

A. Curse (47:38)

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

B. Gospel (52:19)

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

1. Old Testament (53:07)

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 (1:00:43)**

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 (1:05:58)**

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

- Union with Jesus

- Guarantee of resurrection

C. Redemption (1:08:55)**1. Present Life (1:09:12)**

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

2. Intermediate State (1:10:46)

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

3. New Life (1:16:01)

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

IV. Everlasting Life (1:18:45)

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

A. Timing (1:19:31)

The life that will never end is beginning now.

We will be given everlasting life at the last judgment.

B. Quality (1:25:10)

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

C. Location (1:32:10)

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

V. Conclusion (1:37:12)

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?

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?

Glossary

Augustine – (A.D. 354 - 430) Bishop of Hippo who believed in the Scriptures as our final authority in doctrine and considered the creeds of the church to be helpful summaries of scriptural teaching; wrote *Confessions* and *The City of God*

Berkhof, Louis – (1873-1957) Influential Reformed theologian who wrote *Systematic Theology* in 1932

brokenness – Genuine sorrow over sin; true regret over violating God’s law

eternal life – To know God and live forever in the full blessing of God

faith – In reference to 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

general resurrection – The resurrection of all people in order to face God’s final judgment when Christ returns in glory

glorification – The final stage of our salvation, when we receive a perfect eternal body and fully become what we were meant to be, having complete victory over sin and death

gospel – Literally, "good news"; announcement that God's kingdom came to earth through the person and work of Jesus and that it expands toward its great consummation as God grants salvation to those who receive and trust in Jesus as the Messiah

grace – God's unmerited favor

intercession – Mediation or petition through prayer on behalf of another

intermediate state – The state between our lives on earth now and the lives we will have in the resurrection

ordinances – Practices established by God that are a means of expressing our faith and receiving God’s blessing; namely baptism and the Lord’s Supper

Sadducees – Jewish sect at the time of Christ that only adhered to the five books written by Moses (Genesis–Deuteronomy) and did not believe in angels, spirits, or the resurrection of the dead

salvation – Deliverance from the tyranny of evil and from God's judgment against sin through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

sheol – Hebrew term (transliteration) used in the Old Testament to refer to the place of departed spirits, both the righteous and the wicked

sin – Lawlessness; any lack of conformity to or violation of God’s law

Spurgeon, Charles – (1834-1892) 19th century British pastor and writer; often called the “Prince of Preachers”

Wesley, John – (1703-1791) Anglican minister and theologian; one of the founders of the Methodist Church

Westminster Shorter Catechism – A traditional Protestant summary of Christian teaching, originally published in 1647