

Foundations 8
Seven Definitions of Salvation
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Intro: Dr. Seuss Paragraph

1. **SUBSTITUTION** :

Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3 NIV

The Chinese language has a great symbol for the truth of that verse. The word for righteousness is a combination of two pictures. On the top is a lamb. Beneath the lamb is a person. The lamb covers the person. Isn't that the essence of righteousness? The Lamb of Christ over the child of God? Whenever the Father looks down on you, what does he see? He sees his Son, the perfect Lamb of God, hiding you. Christians are like their ancestor Abel. We come to God by virtue of the flock. Cain came with the work of his own hands. God turned him away. Abel came, and we come, dependent upon the sacrifice of the Lamb, and we are accepted. Like the Chinese symbol, we are covered by the lamb, hidden in Christ. When God looks at you, he doesn't see you; he sees Jesus. And how does he respond when he sees Jesus? He rends the heavens and vibrates the earth with the shout, "You are my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with you" (Mark 1:11).

Jesus died in my place. Here's the Picture-you and I deserve to die

for our sins. It should have been us dying on that cross, but Jesus took our place. Jesus, innocent and pure who did not deserve it died in our place.

*"Christ himself suffered for sinbs once. He was not guilty, but he suffered **for those who are guilty** to bring you to God. His body was killed, but he was made alive in the Spirit."* 1 Pet. 3:18 (NCV)

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He was made sin for me. (2 Cor. 5:21)

b

He bore in His body my sin on the cross.

(1 Pet. 2:24)

He suffered once to bear the sins of others .

b (Heb. 9:28)

He was tortured for **others'** sin. (Isa. 53:4-6)

He was made a curse for me. (Gal. 3:13)

Look at each of thee phrases personally. The truth that he was made sin

means my sin. He bore my sin on the cross. He suffered for me. What

happened on the cross was personal! Can you comprehend the magnitude of this truth? Jesus the perfect, sinless son of God had you sin put on

him. All the garbage, all the ugliness that is in you and me-Jesus

placed it all on his shoulders Jesus took your place-Jesus

took my place. So God's perfect Righteousness may be transferred to us!

2. **JUSTIFICATION** : Jesus made me right with God. When we sin, we sin against God who made us. It's a spiritual slap in his face-We break trust and break relationship with our creator. How is that relationship made right again? Jesus justifies us. He makes us right with God. Look at the following verses

"Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses." Acts 13:39 (NIV)

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Rom. 4:25 (NIV)

Justification is a picture from the courtroom: A Legal term meaning acquittal. Jesus by giving himself for our sins, makes it possible for god to bring the gavel down and declare us eternally not guilty! When God declares us not guilty, he not only chooses not to hold us accountable for our sins, he wipes out any record of our . And (DON'T MISS THIS) God takes Jesus

perfect record and applies his righteousness to our accounts! God

now looks at you and me as Justified-Just-as if I'd never sinned.

Having our sins wiped out should we live life with Joy or

sourness?

Having our sins wiped out should we be grateful or ungrateful?

Having our sins wiped out should we make the same mistakes or

practice following Christ?

RECONCILIATION : Jesus made peace with God possible.

Reconciliation means bringing together two people who have suffered a

breakdown in their relationship. Jesus, by his death on the cross, gave us

the opportunity to have our relationship with God healed and renewed.

"God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And He gave us this message of peace." 2 Cor. 5:19 (NCV)

"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" Rom. 5:10 (NIV)

Jesus is the bridge between God and man. We stand on one side of a gulf between us and God—a Grand Canyon-sized separation from God Created by our sin. The bridge that spans this gap between us and God is the Cross of Christ! We Can't cross this relational great divide through our own efforts. We need Jesus to reconcile us with God. For our perspective we see that some people live a more moral life than others. But only a perfect person can bridge the gap. That is why you c and I need Jesus!

4. ADOPTION : Jesus made me a part of God's family.

Adoption—the picture of a nursery and an orphan baby. Spiritually we all were orphans. We were outside of God's family, but because of Jesus death on the cross, believers are adopted and given the status of being children of God.

Adoption stresses the family relationship in salvation.

Justification gives us the right legal standing before God, but adoption makes us a special part of Go's heart-his family! We have all misspoken and stated, we are all God's children. But scripturally

this is not true. We are all God's creation, but the only way to be a child of God is to be adopted into his family thorough Jesus Christ. Listen to the following verses. . .

"He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--" Eph. 1:5 (N

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" Rom. 8:15 (NIV)

God has brought you into his family. On the cross he sealed the legal transaction an made the loving choice to make you his child. You are God's child by God's choice. Say that with me, would you? I am God's child by Gods Choice!

5. **REDEMPTION** : Jesus purchased my salvation with His blood.

The Greek word for Redemption refers to slaves being purchased in the Marketplace. In the Spiritual sense, all of us are slaves to sin, until Jesus purchased us out of the

slave market and set us free from sins bondage. Because he bought and paid for us with his blood, we now belong to him alone-not through force but our grateful love !

"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:13-14 (NIV)

"God paid a ransom to save you from the impossible road to heaven which your fathers tried to take, and the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver as you very well know. But He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. " 1 Pet. 1:18,19 (TLB)

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Cor. 6:18b-19 (NIV)

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6. Propitiation - Jesus fully satisfied God's justice. I dare you to say this word three times as fast as you can-Propitiation. This is the

strangest word in the New Testament salvific language. When we say Jesus is our propitiation, it means he satisfied all of God's demands. Jesus' sacrifice was enough—it was sufficient for God. All of my or your best efforts cannot will never be enough to satisfy God's perfect justice.

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2 (NIV)

The word propitiation comes from the Old Testament term mercy seat—the cover of the ark of the covenant in the first tabernacle and later the temple. This is the place blood was sprinkled as an offering for sins of the people.

since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:21-23

The promised faithful one is Jesus-His blood is the mercy seat of God!

7. **FORGIVENESS** : Jesus sent my sins away from me .

We are guilty and he is innocent.

We are filthy and he is pure.

We are wrong and he is right.

He is not on that cross for his sin. He is there for ours.

And once the crook understands this, his request seems only natural.

As he looks into the eyes of his last hope, he makes the same request any Christian has made: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42 TLB).

No stained-glass homilies. No excuses. Just a desperate plea for help.

At this point Jesus performs the greatest miracle of the cross.

Greater than the earthquake. Greater than the temple curtain. . .

He performs the miracle of forgiveness: "Today you will be with me in Paradise. This is a solemn promise." (Luke 23:43 TLB).

IF you were to die today would you be with Jesus in Paradise?

Conclusion: Middle School Homework

Holy Words