

Intro

G'Day Church Family!

So, throughout the month of January - we're doing a series on "SHUN" words in the Bible - that's words in the Bible that end in "TION" - SHUN

Words like: Revelation, Substitution, Salvation, Redemption and so on.

We'll also continue this look at "SHUN" words in January 2020.

You have Bibles in front of you and a sermon outline in your bulletin.

First - let me ask God to speak to our hearts and minds. Let's pray

Our "SHUN" word this week - is Salva-tion

So, we'd better define what Salvation is:

[PowerPoint 1-Defintion]

A definition from the Oxford Dictionary:

To save, preserve or deliver from harm, ruin or loss

So, some examples:

A lifeguard could save someone from drowning

A surgeon could perform a life-saving operation

The SES could save someone trapped in a car

A fireman could save someone trapped in a burning house

A financial adviser could save someone from financial ruin or loss

And so on...

(pause)

The word "save" has the idea of - victory, safety and preservation.

[PowerPoint 2-Physical or spiritual]

Sometimes, the Bible uses the words 'saved' or 'salvation' to refer to a physical deliverance such as the Apostle Paul's deliverance from prison (Phil 1:19)

More often - though - the word "salvation" concerns an eternal, spiritual deliverance. Which is what we're looking at today

So, what do we need saving from?

[PowerPoint 3a-What?]

What do we need saving from?

Well...

[PowerPoint 3b-Wrath]

We need saving from God's anger or wrath - because of people's sin and rebellion against Him.

You see - God cannot look at sin - Habakkuk 1:13 says,

[PowerPoint 3c-verses]

God's eyes are too pure to look on evil; God cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

And Psalm 7:11 says:

God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day.

God must judge sin according to His righteousness and perfection (Rom 5:9 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9)

[PowerPoint 4a-What?]

Right back in the 1st book of the Bible - God warned Adam - if he disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree - Genesis 2:17 - said - Adam would certainly die

[PowerPoint 4b-sin]

So, sin - disobedience to God - causes physical death - and it also causes spiritual death - a broken relationship with God

In Adam and Eve's case - they would one day die = physical death - and they were also kicked out of the Garden of Eden - and away from the presence of God = spiritual death

Sin separates us from God

And - the problem for us is - according to Romans 3:23

[PowerPoint 4c-Romans]

[We] all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

And according to Romans 6:23a

The wages [God's payment or punishment] for sin is death

So, to answer the question -

What do we need saving from?

[PowerPoint 5a-heading]

The answer is:

We need saving from God's anger over our sin

We need saving from the punishment of sin which is physical death and saving from spiritual death - being separated from God permanently when we die

[PowerPoint 5b-Hell]

What we actually need saving from is HELL -

Hell is a real place where - people who don't believe in Jesus - will be forever absent from the presence of God

Hell is described as eternal fire (Matt 25:41); unquenchable fire (Matt 3:12); a place of torment and fire (Luke 16:23-24); and a place of everlasting destruction (2 Thes 1:9)

Jesus Himself says the punishment in Hell is just as everlasting - as life in Heaven (Matt 25:46)

And the bottom line is we can't save ourselves from Hell

Because we all sin and fall short of God's perfect standards - as we just said - and we can't stop sinning

So, who can save us?

Who can save us?

[PowerPoint 6a-Heading]

It stands to reason - that if God is perfect and we're not

The only one who can save us

Is God!

2 Tim 1:9 and Titus 3:5 both tell us that God saves us - not because of anything we've done - but because God sent - Jesus - His Son - fully God and fully human - and perfect - to save us

[PowerPoint 6b-John 3:16-17]

God's rescue mission is best summed up in John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him [Jesus] shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

So, God had a rescue plan of salvation

Because He loves us

And that rescue plan was not to condemn people for their sin

But to save people from the punishment of sin - through something Jesus would do

Jesus fixed the broken relationship between God and humans

By a reconciliation process

It meant - Jesus had to die on a cross - and take our sins on Him - and die our death on the cross - and take our place - dying for our sins - instead of us dying for our sins

Let's be honest - because we all sin - and we can't stop sinning - we deserve the punishment for sinning - which is death and separation from God

But instead of this - God sent Jesus - on a rescue mission of salvation

Why?

Because God loves us - and wants our relationship with Him fixed - even though we don't deserve salvation

God gives it as free gift

That same verse in Romans 6:23

Which says: **The wages of sin is death**

[PowerPoint 6b-Rom 6:23b]

Also says: **BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**

So, salvation is a free gift from God

God's free gift to us - is called *Grace*

And that free gift involves 2 things -

By Jesus' death on the cross - to prove He has power of all sin - we can have the gift of forgiveness

By Jesus' resurrection 3 days later - to prove He has power over even death - we can have the gift of living in Heaven forever - instead of Hell

So, the only way we can be saved is through God's grace in sending **Jesus**

(Ephesians 2:5, 8; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

How do we receive salvation?

How do we receive salvation?

[PowerPoint 7a-Question]

That was the question the Philippian jailer asked in our NT passage - [Which you can turn to now - page 1720 in big Bibles and page 1112 in small Bibles]

In Acts 16:30

The Philippian jailer asked the question:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

What must I do to be saved?

What a great question!!!

The jailer was impressed by Paul and Silas' love and concern for him and the other prisoners. He was impressed by Paul and Silas' ability to find joy in the Lord - see v25 - even though they were in jail - they were praying and singing hymns!

The jailer was so impressed with Paul and Silas - he wanted their life
(pause)

Paul's answer to the question - what must I do to be saved?

[PowerPoint 7b-Answer]

Is in v31 - Paul says - believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household

Believing in Jesus - means having faith in God's grace and love in sending Jesus

Some may say - where is the repentance here? - doesn't the jailer have to say sorry to God first?

Paul doesn't mention repentance here - because the jailer is already repenting

He's fallen to his knees trembling in v29

And when Paul says - Believe here - The Greek word (*pistis*) - means "trust in" - "rely on" - "cling to"

What is the jailer - to trust in - and rely on - and cling to?

Answer - the jailer is to trust in and rely on and cling to the fact:

That Jesus came - died on the cross for his sin to be forgiven

And to believe that 3 days later - Jesus rose from the dead - to show he had defeated the punishment of sin - which is death itself - and swapped death for eternal life

[PowerPoint 7c-steps]

So, what are the steps to receiving this salvation

1. First - Hear the Gospel - the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection
- listen to this good news and believe in this good news (Eph 1:13)
2. Second - Believe that this Gospel brings salvation (Rom 1:16) and this involves repentance - as Acts 3:19 says: [Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...](#)
3. Third - Call on the name of the Lord - as Romans 10:9 says:
[If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.](#)
And Romans 10:13 promises:
[Everyone](#) who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

So, a Christian definition of salvation would be:

[PowerPoint 8-Defintion]

The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin, which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.

[PowerPoint 8b-Jesus alone]

Salvation is available by faith - in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on the provision and assurance of God alone!

Now - having faith in Jesus for our salvation - might seem like it's all too easy for some people

They might feel like they should be doing something towards this salvation

Like "being" good or "doing good stuff"

They might even ask - 'Can't we work our own way to salvation?'

[PowerPoint 9a-heading]

Can't we work our own way to salvation?

There is a common misconception - that that's what the people in OT did - that they worked out their own way to salvation - by keeping God's Law - by keeping the 10 commandments

[PowerPoint 9b-Gal 3:11]

But Paul says in Galatians 3:11:

Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified [declared right and not guilty] before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."

So, Paul is saying - to be right with God is not achieved by keeping God's law but by having faith in Jesus

Some people might dismiss what Paul is saying - as only applying to the NT and not the OT - but Paul is actually quoting from our OT reading from Habakkuk 2:4 - the righteous person will live by his faithfulness

The context of Habakkuk chapter 2 - is that Habakkuk has been complaining in chapter 1 as to why it seems like the wicked prosper and God is not acting - but Habakkuk realizes that he must wait and watch - and trust God has it all under control

So, Habakkuk gives in verse 4 of chapter 2 - 2 ways to live

Either live by - being puffed up [tickets on ourselves] - and relying on ourselves and our pride - and saving ourselves - which ultimately, we can't do!

Or live by faith in God - and trusting Him to act and save

So, faith - was the way of salvation in the OT - as well as the NT

[PowerPoint 9c-Law]

You see God's Law was never designed to save anyone (Rom 3:20) - God's law was meant to make people aware of their sins (Gal 3:24) - and God's law was to make people aware of their desperate need to have faith in a saviour who can save people from the punishment of sin

Also, Rom 4 makes it clear that the OT way of salvation was by faith - just the same as it is in the NT

Because Paul says in Romans 4:3

Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness

So, Abraham was made right with God (i.e. saved) by his faith

[PowerPoint 10a-Abraham]

Abraham can't have been saved by working and keeping God's Law - because

Abraham lived 400 years before God gave Moses and the people His Law>

Throughout OT - it was people's faith in God that He would send a Messiah

Saviour that gave them salvation

[PowerPoint 10b-Job]

Even, the OT character Job - confirmed that he had faith that his redeemer lives - in Job 19:25 - Job says:

I know that my redeemer [the person who will buy him back from sin and death] lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

So, the bottom line - **faith** in Jesus our saviour - is the way to be saved - not working our own way there.

(pause)

Some applications to finish with then - as far as salvation is concerned:

Application

[PowerPoint 11a-App1]

1. First - We all need saving from our sin and rebellion against God. And Jesus must be our *personal* saviour. It's not good enough to say - Jesus is a saviour - we must say - Jesus is my saviour (Martin Luther).
Some people run away from Jesus because they think they're too bad and they're afraid of God's punishment. But if people run away from Jesus - they're not running away from the punishment - they're running away from the rescue and Jesus' gift of salvation from sin and death

[PowerPoint 11b-App2]

2. Second - What if someone asked us the question the Philippian jailer asked - 'What must I do to be saved?'
What would we answer?

[PowerPoint 11c-App3]

3. Third - We must be living out our faith in Jesus - Ephesians 2:8-10 says:
⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

By God's grace (His free gift of Jesus) we are saved

Through our faith in Jesus

And all of it - His grace and our faith - are gifts from God

We're not saved by our own works of being "good" - otherwise we'd show off about how great we are - Paul says

But Ephesians 2:10 says - we have a response to this grace and faith in Jesus

V10 says we're God's handiwork (the Greek word is where we get our word poetry from - literally we're God's beautiful piece of poetry - a work of art - a beautiful new creation - all because of our faith in Jesus)

And - it says - God has created us in Jesus - to do good works

Good works that God has already prepared in advance for us to do

These works don't save us - but they prove and demonstrate - we are Jesus people

So, we have to live out our faith in Jesus

We are to be like magnets -

Magnets attract opposites -

As Jesus magnets - we will be attracting non-Jesus people - who see

Jesus in us - and want to come and meet Jesus themselves and receive

Jesus' salvation for themselves

Let's pray...