

# **SOTERIOLOGY**

**The Scope of Salvation**

**Salvation in the Orthodox perspective**

Salvation is only available  
through  
the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why can there be no salvation  
except through the blood of  
Christ?...

# Redemption & Atonement

- Sin is an offense **against God**: King David said, *"Against You, You only, have I sinned and done evil in Your sight"* (Ps 51:4)
- Sin is, therefore, considered **unlimited** because it is committed against the unlimited God. Consequently, any sin requires **unlimited atonement**.

# Redemption & Atonement – Cont'd

- This atonement should be provided by a person who is:
  - Unlimited - To be able to provide this unlimited atonement the Savior has to be unlimited.
  - Sinless - The Savior has to be free from sin to be able to redeem others, or else he would need salvation for himself.
  - Human - Since human beings committed the sin, therefore, a human being should pay the price.
  - Mortal - Since the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), therefore, the savior has to be mortal.

# Redemption & Atonement – Cont'd

- Our Lord Jesus Christ is:
  - **Unlimited** - He said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty” (*Rev 1:8*)
  - **Sinless** - Archangel Gabriel said to the Virgin, “That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (*Lk 1:35*). Our lord said, “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” (*Jn 8:46*)
  - **Human** - Our Lord was called the Son of Man several times, also, the Bible documents that on several occasions He was thirsty, hungry, tired, sleeping, etc....
  - **Mortal** - Even though our Lord is immortal due to His divinity, he assumed a human nature that was liable to die.

# The blood of Jesus Christ-

## The Old Testament

- *"Without shedding of blood, there is no remission" (Heb 9:22)*
- The Passover lamb was a symbol of Jesus Christ: *"for indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us" (1 Cor 5:7)*
- *DID THE PASSOVER LAMB GIVE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THE SALVATION THEY NEEDED? WHY?*

# The Blood of Jesus Christ-

## The New Covenant

- *"This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"*  
(Mt26:28)
- *"Having now been justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."* (Rm 5:9)
- *"...The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sins."* (1 Jn1:7)

- *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,..." (Jn3:16)*

*Does this verse mean that  
EVERYONE will be saved?*

- A: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that EVERYONE who BELIEVES in HIM may not perish but may have eternal life." (Jn3:16)
- Not Everyone will be saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ.
- His Blood is available for us to take and be saved,.....BUT...

# Pre-requisites of Salvation:

- FAITH.
- SACRAMENTS:
  - Baptism.
  - Confirmation.
  - Repentance and confession.
  - Eucharist.
- WORKS.

# FAITH

- *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God."* (Jn 3 :18)
- *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved..."* (Acts 16:31)
- St John the Apostle at the conclusion of His Gospel says: *"But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name."* (Jn 20:31)

# The Sacrament of BAPTISM

- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (Jn3:3)*
- *"...Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (Jn3:5)*
- *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk16:16)*
- Baptism in the Early church: ex.: Acts 2:37, Acts 8:36, Acts 16:33, Acts 16:15, Acts 10:47

# Importance of Baptism

- Salvation began with death:
  - *"...Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death..."* (Rom 6:3,4)
- Salvation continues through death:
  - *"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Chris Jesus our Lord."* (Rm6;11)
- Salvation is perfected in death:
  - *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"* (Rev 2:10)

# The Sacrament of the HOLY UNCTION (Chrism or Myron)

- *"Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)*
- Acceptance of faith in Samaria: Acts 8:14-17
- Acceptance of Faith of the Ephesians: Acts 19:2
- In Baptism, we share Christ His death and we become SONS and DAUGHTERS...while by the Holy Spirit, we live in a way that suits our being as Children of God.

# The Sacrament of REPENTANCE and CONFESSION

- We commit sins everyday: *"If we say that we have no sins, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 Jn 1:8)
- *"No one is good but One, that is, God"* (Mt19:17)
- *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1Jn 1:9)
- *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy"* (Prov 28:13)
- Repentance and Confession in the early church:  
Acts 19:18, Mt 3:6

# The Sacrament of the EUCHARIST

- *"Most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, you have no life in you..."*
- *"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day..."*
- *He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him..."*

*(JN 6:53-58)*

# GOOD WORKS

- Good Works vs Evil Works
- The Balance between FAITH and WORKS
- ...to be discussed in more details in the next lesson.

# Salvation in our life

- Salvation is a dynamic continuous process in our lives.
- *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor 1:18)*

- I believe I have been saved (Faith and baptism).
- I believe I am being saved (sacraments).
- I believe I will be saved (Judgment day).

# Salvation in our life

- *"But he who endures **to the end** will be saved.(Mt 10:22)*
- *" **Those who conquer** will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children" (Rev 21:7)*
- *Be faithful **until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.(Rev 2:1)*

# Homework

- Salvation is only available through.....
- 3 pre-requisites of salvation:
  - 1-
  - 2-
  - 3-
- Mention 3 examples of baptism in the early church and the corresponding verses.