**So Great a Salvation,** All Scriptures from NKJV

Hebrews 2:2-3

 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

The writer calls salvation great, he writes that it is so great or very great, he warns us not to neglect this great salvation, this afternoon we will take a deeper look into how great the salvation of Jesus is.

Acts 17:26-27

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

**Show of hands:** Some people are born with handicaps we don’t have.

Did God give them less? Or did God give you more?

My existence is not by chance or accident, God planned for me to be. He chose my family, my environment, and my point in history. Acts 17:27 teaches that He set this up so that I might seek Him. (God can be trusted to have gotten it right no matter how much is may seem to have hurt.)

**One God, eternally existent as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Trinity):**

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. Then **God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

John 1:1-3

**In the beginning was the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth.

**Mankind made in God’s likeness, (God talks to Himself don’t you?):**

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

(Handout)

**Like God all of us are a trinity, a three in one:** (caution- no analogy is perfect)

God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

We have- a physical body, a soul, and a spirit

Paul’s prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; **and may your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our Soul we also have a trinity, a three in one of: Mind, Will, and Emotions

In general: the condition of our soul greatly affects our Body (Stress, Depression, Joy, etc.)

In general: the communication paths between our Spirit and our Soul are Conscience and Heart

(Acts 17:27, Created to seek the Lord.) It is mainly with our spirit that we seek God, connect with God, and live towards God

# Spirit

### Soul

# Body

### Mankind in God’s Image

#### Mind, Will, Emotions

#### Conscience, Heart

As a group today we are going to explore the three (there it is again 3) states of mankind

Created, Separated, Reconciled

**Created:**

## Genesis 2:15-17

## Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

## And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

## Genesis 2:21-22

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

## Genesis 2:25

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Group discussion: what do we perceive that Adam and Eve were like based on their original creation in the image of God and in His likeness? (What was man like when first created?)

**Separated:**

Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Group discussion: what were the effects of the fall of mankind, what was added to or ruined regarding the image of God now that mankind was separated from Him by sin? (What entered man after falling away from God?)

* Adam and Eve- hiding and blaming, put out of God’s garden, death, murder, walls
* The Devil- an ever present factor, sowing lies and mistrust, influencing many (Mystery)
* Lost- alone and without God in this world, not members of His family (these things are natural but not normal)
* Eternal separation from God, (Matthew 25:41, joining the Devil and his angels in hell)

Can we see how far we have fallen? Can we see how completely different we are from the way God created us to be? The distance is so far, what will it take to bring man back to God’s original plan? A very great Salvation.

**Reconciled:**

* The first act of salvation (innocent sacrificed to save/preserve the guilty)

Genesis 3:21

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

* Born Again, right to become children of God

John 1:10-13

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Acts 2:38-39

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one 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. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Col 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Group discussion: what does being ‘born again’ bring back into our lives and how does this help us to move back towards being people who are in the image and likeness of God? (What did salvation restore in believers?)

God has even taken His own holy law and nailed it to the cross so that it may no longer accuse us.

So Great a salvation (complete the wheel and arrow), as Hebrews indicates: no one can escape if they neglect this. If man neglects God’s restoration through Jesus then man remains in the same punishment as the Devil and his angels.