### **Basic Doctrines of Salvation – God's Love / Provision**

In contrast with the Doctrine of Depravity is the absolute love and provision of God for the sinner. The sinner says to himself, "What can I do to make myself better so that God will love me?" The answer, "Sorry, too late, God already loves you." The sinner says to himself, "What sacrifice can I make so that God will accept me into heaven?" The answer, "Too late the sacrifice necessary for you salvation has already been made and there is nothing that you can add to it." The sinner says to himself, "What can I do to keep God loving me?" The answer, "Too late, God already loves you infinitely. Nothing that you do will make God love you more, nothing you do will make God love you less." The lists go on and on and on and the answer is always the same, "Too late to do works, God's love and provision is both absolute and infinite."

Meditations on the absolute love and provision of God through Christs' sacrifice first and foremost purifies motives. It changes the question from, "What must I do to get God to love me?" to, "What must I do to love God?" As we understand more and more our total depravity as contrasted with God's infinite love and provision a love for God will spring from our hearts that drives us to obey Him. Jesus Christ respectively told His dispels just this – that their love for God would be manifested in obedience. The essence of obedience has nothing to do with the heart of God and everything to do with the heart of man.

## John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, " If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

# John 14:24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Unfortunately today, in a church shaped by the narcissist tendencies of the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements the response of man has shifted from, "God's love and provision for me is both absolute and infinite, what can I do to show my love for Him?" to "God's love and provision for me is both absolute and infinite, what then can God do to show His love for me?"

The author shudders at the thought that the disciple, as he meditates upon the great absolute love and provision of God will grow more and more proud, more and more selfish and more and more demanding. Instead of responding by prostrating himself before God and crying out, "How can I return so great a love?" He will instead shake his fist at God, cry out "In Jesus Name" and demand that God get with it. That God start living and providing on the disciples terms, and now!!

When did faith in and an understanding of the infinite love and provision of God change from the disciple, on his knees, the Bible open before him, crying out to God, "Show me from Your holy Word what you would have me do to show my love for you?" To a man on a stage, cameras fixed upon him, microphones blaring, spot lights shinning, center stage, shaking his fist at God and crying out, "In Jesus name, in Jesus name" as he demands that God prove His infinite love and provision by doing the bidding of man.

It is my prayer for you, that as you spend time meditating upon the infinite love and provision of God that you will be so broken as to spend a lifetime on your knees, the Bible open, crying to God to reveal what He would have you do this day (and not vice versa).

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION</u>**: God's Love / Provision John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4; I John 4:14 – 19 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Imputation (We Receive Christ's Righteousness) – II Peter 1:4; Romans 5:17 & 19 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Salvation – Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:13; I Thessalonians 5:8 - 11 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Regeneration (We Are Born Again) – John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I Peter 1:3 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION</u>**: Adoption (God has adopted us) – Galatians 4:4 – 7; Ephesians 1:5, 6 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Sealed By The Holy Spirit At The Point Of Salvation – Ephesians 1:13, 14;Romans 8:9, 14, 16; I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 6:19, 20 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Eternal Life – John 3:15; Romans 6:22, 23; I John 5:11 - 13 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Peace With God – Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14 - 18 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Freedom – (from sin and death) Romans 8:1 & 2 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Freedom – (from corruption) Romans 8:22 & 21 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Freedom – (futility of the Law) Acts 13:38 & 39; Galatians 5:1 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Freedom – (from satan) Hebrews 2:14, 15 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Abundant Life – John 10:10 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> New Covenant – I Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 9;15 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Family of God / God our Father – Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Family of God / Jesus our Brother – Matthew 12:50 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Family of God / Church the Bride of Christ – Revelation 19:7 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Family of God / Children of God – John 1:12; Romans 8:16, 21 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** God's Kingdom – John 3:3,5; Colossians 1:13 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Priesthood – I Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Universal Gifting – I Peter 4:10 & 11; Romans 12:3 – 8; I Corinthians 12:4 - 7 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Justified – Romans 3:21 – 24, 28; 5:1 – 9; Galatians 3:11 & 24; Titus 2:5 - 7 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Sanctified – John 17:17; I Corinthians 6:11 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**<u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u>** Glorified – Romans 8:29, 30; Philippians 3:20, 21 How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why: