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Alive in Christ

A STUDY OF SALVATION

by **David D. Duncan**

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

*Instructional Development Specialist:
Juanita Cunningham Blackburn*

Illustrators: Bill Stewart and Brenna Olsen



Global University
1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804
USA

Address of the local ICI office in your area:

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THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Alive in Christ: A Study of Salvation* is Course 3 in Unit II. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

Course Introduction

You are about to study a very important subject: salvation. Salvation includes all that was purchased for us at Calvary. In addition, it meets our every spiritual need. Salvation includes forgiveness of the sins of the past, deliverance from the power of sin in the present, and even protection against sin's aggression in the future (Jude 24).

Salvation is both a future expectation and a present source of joy. Yet, many Christians know little or nothing about salvation as a present enjoyment. They think of it only as a way of getting to heaven. But, as we shall see, the Word makes clear that those who partake of the gift of salvation (1) are enlightened, (2) share in the Holy Spirit, (3) savor the goodness of the Word of God, and (4) experience a foretaste of the coming age (Hebrews 6:4,5). Christians thus experience an earnest or down payment of the unlimited, future joy of heaven as they walk with the Lord on earth.

After careful examination of the background of salvation, you will consider the chain of events that begins as the sinner turns away from sin (repentance) to God (faith) and makes an about-face in his or her lifestyle (conversion). You will evaluate the results of the new birth as the new believer receives a new nature (regeneration), a new standing before God (justification), and a new position in God's family (adoption). And finally, you will examine the believer's responsibility to begin to grow spiritually just as soon as he or she experiences salvation. An immature Christian is no credit to Christ and His power to save. Such a person lacks spiritual development because he or she lacks spiritual nourishment (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14).

You will learn that ignorance and indifference hinder spiritual growth and development. We overcome ignorance by reading the Word of God and understanding the value of salvation. Indifference, however, can be overcome only by the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart as you surrender to Him, and receive the hunger and thirst for righteousness that characterize a healthy spiritual appetite.

As you consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of Christians, perfecting their spiritual life and bringing them to productive maturity, you will learn about His method and purpose. This will enrich your life. Our prayer is that, as a result of this course, you will appreciate your salvation more, understand it better, and be able to communicate it more effectively.

Course Description

Alive in Christ: A Study of Salvation concerns the doctrine of salvation. It presents salvation as both the will and work of God that rest upon the atoning work of Christ. Preliminary consideration is given to the grace of God as the source of salvation. The biblical teaching on election and foreordination is examined as background for consideration of the respective roles of God and humanity in salvation. Care is taken to avoid the extremes of emphasis on either the initiative of God or the initiative of humankind in the process and progress of salvation. Included in this study are the biblical teachings of repentance, faith, conversion, regeneration, justification, adoption, sanctification, and glorification.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course, you should be able to:

1. Relate the respective roles of God and humanity in salvation.

2. Put in sequence the logical steps of salvation.
3. Explain the biblical basis for the assurance of salvation.
4. Contrast the method of salvation presented in the Bible with any nonbiblical approach.
5. Appreciate more deeply the love, grace, and wisdom of God that is revealed in His salvation.

Textbooks

You will use *Alive in Christ: A Study of Salvation* by David Duncan as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The *Holy Bible* is the only other book required. Most of the Scriptures quoted in this course are from the *New International Version*, 1978 edition. In a few instances we have quoted from the *King James Version* (KJV) or *Today's English Version* (TEV).

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: (1) lesson title, (2) opening statement, (3) lesson outline, (4) lesson objectives, (5) learning activities, (6) key words, (7) lesson development including study questions, (8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), and (9) answers to the study questions.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will better remember what you study. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

This study guide has different kinds of study questions and self-test questions. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of a
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| ... 1 | a Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ... 2 | b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ... 2 | c Marched around Jericho | |
| ... 1 | d Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although this course has been designed for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his or her instructions.

Possibly, you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

Unit Student Reports

At the end of the book, you will find the Unit Student Reports and Answer Sheets. Follow the directions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for correction and suggestions regarding your work. If you are not studying through an ICI office, you will still benefit by answering the questions in the Student Report.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the answer sheets by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

Author of This Course

David Duncan has worked in the field of education for 30 years. He served as principal of Calvary Bible Institute, Majuro, Marshall Islands, for 8 years and then as director of College Material Development for ICI University for nearly 20 years. He holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from California State University-Fullerton. He is a candidate for the D.Min. degree at the California Graduate School of Theology and also for the Ph.D. degree at the University of North Texas. Mr. Duncan currently writes, teaches internationally, and serves as an educational consultant.

He and his wife Sondra have three grown children.

Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him or her. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Alive in Christ*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this independent-study textbook, including supplemental audiocassettes, videocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the *Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual*.