

A P P L I E D

These questions are for Small Groups and families who want to discuss these truths together.

1. **Spend some time discussing the events and experiences that led to your own salvation?**
2. **Why is it important to stress the work of God in salvation?**
3. **Looking back at your own story, how can you see God at work in bringing you to Himself?**
4. **Read through the various definitions provided for regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Do you have any questions about any of these terms?**
5. **How does knowing that “Salvation belongs to the Lord” help you understand the statement, “Those whom God has redeemed in Christ and sanctified by the Spirit will persevere to the end?”**
6. **Why is it necessary to have a good grasp on what the Bible says about salvation?**
7. **Spend some time praising God for your salvation. How might you share these truths with someone else this week?**

LIVING HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

SERMON SERIES: ReNew Your Belief

Sermon Message: How Can God Fix Me?

September 4, 2011

Dr. Jason Pettus

Public Reading: 1 Timothy 4:6–8

Next Week's Text: 1 Peter 2:1–5

JESUS FIXES PEOPLE IN A WAY NO OTHER CAN BECAUSE OF _____ HE IS, WHAT HE'S _____, AND WHERE HE _____.

John 14:6-11 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

HOW JESUS FIXES PEOPLE

Luke 15:11-32 (Pew Bible page 874-875)

HE _____ – HE REDEEMS.

Luke 15:22a But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him...

HE _____ – HE RESTORES.

Luke 15:22b ...put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

HE _____ – HE RESURRECTS.

Luke 15:23-24 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

THE _____ FIX IS LOVE.

NO LOVE = NO FIX

Luke 15:25-32 (Pew Bible page 875)

NOTE: You can check out Pastor Jason's thoughts at pastorjasonpettus.blogspot.com or on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/pastorpettus.

A copy of today's message is available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service. Suggested donation for CDs is \$2. First time guests get today's CD free by turning in your guest card at the Welcome Center.

S A L V A T I O N . . .

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God, whereby God, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies an individual. That, in order to be saved, individuals must respond by faith to the call of God by repenting of their sin, believing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and committing themselves to follow Christ. We believe that those whom God has redeemed in Christ and sanctified by the Spirit will persevere to the end and can never lose their salvation.

Regeneration is the new birth, whereby God gives to a person a new heart that responds to Him in repentance and faith.

Justification is the verdict whereby God declares a person innocent and righteous by counting the righteousness of Christ to his/her credit through faith in the completed work of Christ.

Sanctification is the lifelong process whereby the believer is transformed into the image of Christ through progressive growth in holiness, both in attitude and action.

Glorification is the culmination of the salvation process at the time of Christ's return that results in the believer experiencing communion with God throughout all eternity.

We believe that there is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ.

*John 3:16; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 6:22;
Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7*

U N P A C K E D

John 3:16 is probably the most familiar verse in the Bible. It explains how God has expressed His love for mankind by making a way for us to have **eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ**. Romans 5:1-5 describes the impact of that salvation has on our lives, "We have been justified by faith" and so now we experience "**peace with God**." These are tremendous promises from the Word of God that deserve further reflection.

In order to develop a better understanding of the doctrine of salvation, it is helpful to consider the balance between what God has done and what He demands of us. The Bible is abundantly clear in maintaining that "**Salvation belongs to the Lord**" (Jonah 2:9). There is nothing that we could ever do to save ourselves. In His grace, God has sent His Son (John 3:16) in order to make a way for humans to be redeemed. "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy..." (Titus 3:5-6). The terms in the article on the left explain several important aspects of the redemption that God brings about in salvation.

However, in order for any individual to experience these blessings in their life, they must respond to God in repentance and faith. Romans 10:10 explains that "**With the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**"

Salvation belongs to the Lord but each of us must believe and confess. These two truths must be held in balance in order to have a biblical understanding of salvation.