

Sessions #5: Truth or Tradition  
(Salvation)

"You've Hear It Said..."

eternal life is what we get when we die  
sinner saved by grace  
promise to try harder, be more committed  
Holy Spirit will help you live the Christian Life

"But I Say to You..."

eternal life is My Life in you now  
saint, holy and blameless before Me  
trust Me, My promises, commitments to you  
I want to live your life

(We can live a lie so long it becomes "truth" to us!)

1) You are "saved" by believing facts.

1) You are "saved" by believing Me.

(Jo 1:12; 3:16; 6:40; 11:25)

"I believe THAT"

"I believe YOU"

- We may spend the rest of our lives searching for all right facts, correct truths, secret knowings...  
and never get around to knowing Christ as our "Life". (Jo 17:3; Col 3:4; Ga 2:20)

2) You are "saved" by the death of Christ.

2) You are "saved" by My Life.

(Ro 5:10; 8:34; 1 Cor 15:3-4,14,17; 1 Jo 5:11-12)

Problem: bad behavior, sins

Problem: bad birth, sinner

- We need more than judicial, legal forgiveness ...we need to be Re-Lived! (Ro 6:3-11; 11 Cor 13:5;  
1 Jo 4:15)

3) Get "saved" and become a better person.

3) Get "saved" and become a new person.

(Ro 3:3-6; 11 Cor 5:7; Ga 6:14-16; Eph 1:3-4; 11 Pet 3:4)

"You were... no good, unrighteous, rotten,  
unforgiven sinner. Now you are... no good,  
unrighteous, rotten, forgiven sinner."

"You were... no good, unrighteous, rotten,  
unforgiven sinner. Now you are... holy,  
righteous, blameless, forgiven saint."

- "You" are being repaired.

- "You" have been replaced. – Ga 2:20

- Our "benefits" are mostly propositional,  
imputed, positional.

- All our "benefits" are personal, imparted and  
actual!

Session #6: Truth or Tradition  
(The Church)

When We Placed Faith in Christ, We Were “Baptized” into a Family:

- the family of God (Jo 14:23) and of all other believers (1 Cor 12:12,18,27)
  - ...a change in “beingness” and “belongingness” – 1 Cor 3:23

“You’ve Heard It Said...”

- The church is an organization/institution
  - ...organized around common goals, beliefs
  - ...society of sovereign selves
    - (individual is primary = “egocentric”)
  - ...want to be successful
    - (learn how to “live”)
  - ...need for communication
    - (“What works?”)
- The church is to be a “happy place”
  - ...contractual
    - (“until unhappiness do us part”)
  - ...needs of man
    - (soul and body take precedence over spirit)

- The church is where you learn to behave
  - ...conformative community

- Consequences:
  - ...consumers ...self interest
  - ...quenching of Holy Spirit
  - ... safe place to hide ...fear dominates
    - = very common!
    - = John 10:10 9(a)!

“But I Say to You...”

- The church is My family – 1 Cor 12:12,18,27
  - ...sharing a common life – Col 3:4; 1 Jo 1
  - ...community of submissive selves – Eph 5:21; 1 Jo 13:35
    - (family is primary – “heterocentric”) – Eph 4:3; Phil 2:3-4
  - ...called to be sacrificial – Jo 12:23-26
    - (learn how to “die”) – 1 Cor 5:14
  - ...need for communion – Eph 4:15-16
    - (“What is God saying to us?”)
- The church is to be a “Holy Place” – Eph 1:1
  - ...covenantal – Eph 4:1-6
    - (a forever family) – Ga 6:2; Eph 4:15; Ro 14:1ff
  - ...claims of God – Eph 4:17-18; Col 1:18
    - (spirit takes precedence over soul/body)

- The church is where you learn to be – Eph 4:1-3
  - ...transformative community – Ro 12:1-2

- Consequences:
  - ...contributors ...other interest
  - ...flow of Christ’s life ...safe place to be real
  - ...love leads
    - = very uncommon!
    - = John 10:10 (b); Ps 127:1