

What is a Christian?

Look at Romans 3:23 – 25a and answer these questions.

- What is salvation?
- Why is salvation needed?
- How is salvation obtained?

Pastor Kenneth defines salvation as deliverance/rescue from a hopeless situation.

To sinners, rebels, and failures with no place to go and no hope, righteousness was not just offered to us but placed upon us as a crown, as a robe. The uncreated Word of God became flesh and walked among us, fulfilled the law we failed to keep, and bore the wrath of God in our place. Jesus is our representative before the Father, God looks at His Son and declares that the price has been paid, the punishment has been dealt. He looks upon Christ and declares us righteous and justified. We can stand before our creator and can enter communion with Him.

There is nothing to be found outside of Christ, you will not find life in your education or your friends. Life is found in Christ, a light that darkness cannot overcome. I heard the gospel and all my darkness melted away like wax before the blazing sun. In Christ, I have experienced love, grace, mercy, and joy so overwhelming that all I can do is fall to my knees in worship.

That being said, the answers taught to me held no weight until I saw the glory of God in the gospel. Does the word of God shake you? These verses are not just about something that happened to someone sometime. These verses speak about how God has saved you.

When you are asked to tell the gospel, it cannot just be a script that you learned, you cannot manufacture the passion that others have. The gospel is a claim that God has saved you.

What does your gospel stem from and can you tell me how the gospel applies to you? Who has saved who from what? Share if you want but you must know how God has saved you and what God has saved you from. Otherwise, much like your sin, you will see it as real but it will have nothing to do with you.

Christians, the question is not if Jesus is the lord of your life, He is the lord of all creation, all things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. You don't get to decide whether He is the lord. The question is if Jesus is your savior. Still not a decision. Has He received your sin and has He given you a new heart? Observe your life, the Lord continues to hold on to those He has saved. Are you changed permanently or do you revert to who you were? Do you live like the world? What are your passions, what are your dreams?

Salvation is not something to gamble. Jesus has declared his return and what is said by God is done. You will stand before the throne of God. Does God know you?

Jesus is our righteousness, His death is our justification, and His resurrection is our life. Christians are covered in the blood of Christ. We have nothing in our own hands and to the cross we cling. We dwell in Christ, boasting in nothing but hoping in Christ alone.

Use your remaining time discussing the many questions I have asked and please, if you are willing, share your personal testimonies. There is great joy in hearing of how God hears and sees and moves in our lives.

Faith is not simply the belief that Jesus is God, it is trust that everything promised by Jesus will be and has been done. May you be brought before the cross daily and may God declare his sovereignty, love, and salvation over you. May you fall upon Christ and find your delight in Him.

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. (**Romans 3:23 – 25a**)