Hey guys, this is Dan Patrick. I am a Christian.

This document aims to explain what salvation really means according to everything I have learned from the Bible and what I truly believe. Even if you don’t care about things like this, give this a read. You may still find it interesting.

To understand salvation there’s some basic biblical concepts you have to accept for this to make sense.

1. God is real
2. We are sinners.
3. God’s standard is perfection.
4. We can’t meet that demand.

The first in that list is the most interesting in my mind. Is there a God? According to scientists with 5+ PHDs the answer is a resounding no. In fact, it seems the more educated someone is, the less likely they are to believe in God. Many today think, only the simpleton believes in God. It’s just a crutch to make people feel better. I aim to question that.

In Timothy chapter 3 it says this of people in the “last days”. (They will be…)

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**7**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

People have become more and more educated. I feel like we also are learning more and more how little we actually know. Bodies with unnumberable cells that function orderly.

An infinite universe. We just happen to live on the one inhabitable planet at the perfect distance away from the Sun.

Let’s talk about the term “faith”. It can mean belief or trusting in something. But in a Christian context it usually has another layer to it. You know the term leap of faith. There’s a bit of a jump that has to be made to believe in God. Why is this jump needed? We haven’t seen God and haven’t died yet so I can’t tell you what happens. I’d argue though, that believing in the Big Bang and evolution takes some faith as well. The scientists are very intelligent. But no one was really there back then. You have to take their word for it. They claim there’s obvious evidence. The Bible also claims there’s obvious evidence.

Pslam 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Romans 1:20 - For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Job 38:4 - Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

John 20:29 - Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

It just takes faith. It would be much easier if God came down and showed us miracles but then no faith would be required. I know this much. We can’t all be right. Somebody’s wrong. Maybe it’s me. And if so, well, I followed some guidelines of how to live from an old book and lived with a false peace claiming a fake protection from a fake being. But if God and the Bible are real however, it would be crucial to know about Gods salvation. If we need salvation, then what do we need to be saved from? The answer is our sin debt. A debt so large it would take literally an eternity to pay it.

Isaiah 55:8-9

[8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

[9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

I know we think we aren’t that bad compared to other people. God’s not comparing us to other people. He’s comparing us to him and his standard.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

According to these two verses above, we’ve all sinned. We’ve come short of God’s standard. According to Romans 6:23, Sin must be paid for (thus the wages aka payment). That verse talks of death and life. Both are in reference to the afterlife. Eternal death and eternal life. Eternal death is Hell and eternal life is Heaven.

You’ve surely heard the term “born again”. Since there’s a second life and a second death, if you are born again, you then gain access to the second life (eternal life in Heaven) This term was first used in John chapter 3 where a religious man named Nicodemus came to Jesus to ask him questions.

John 3: [3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [4] Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? [5] Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Physical birth and spiritual birth are two separate things. Thus, the term born again.

Contrary to popular belief, getting into Heaven is not about being more good than you are bad. We can’t be good enough. Look at James 2:10, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law (meaning God’s rules), and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” His standard is perfection. God knew we couldn’t be perfect, so he sent Jesus (part of the trinity of God) to live a perfect, sinless life as a human and to suffer a cruel death. He was murdered through crucifixion. And even though Jesus had the power to stop this, he purposefully sacrificed himself.

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

God is aware of all our wrongdoings including even our thoughts. Our personal records are tarnished with sin. If we accept Christs’ gift of salvation, our record is replaced with his record. So, when we’re at the judgement and our record is reviewed, we are allowed into Heaven. Not because we were good enough, but because Jesus was good enough. Again, if we accept his salvation our record is replaced with his. Upon receiving salvation your name is added to the book of life.

Revelation 20:15 - And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Again this “perish” is referring to the eternal death, aka Hell.

Ephesians 2[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.

So, it’s not about our good deeds. Otherwise, people could say they earned it and that they are better than those who hadn’t earned it. Jesus paid the price by himself. Since we can’t earn salvation based on how good we are, the worst person imaginable could still gain salvation from sin. When Jesus died on the cross, there were two other people, who were criminals, crucified on either side of him. One criminal mocked Jesus while on the cross. The other believed on Jesus at the last minute of his life after living in sin and being sentenced to crucifixion.

Luke 23

[39] And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. [40] But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? [41] And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. [42] And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. [43] And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

This criminal just said, “remember me”, but Jesus saved him because he knew that the man was repentant of his sin and that he believed Jesus could save him. Repentance is to feel a sincere regret or remorse for your wrongdoing. This criminals’ words prove that it’s truly not about the words of some exact prayer but about a sincere belief that we are sinners and about having faith (complete trust) that Jesus can remove this sin penalty from us.

One of the many hang ups people have with God is that bad things happen to good people all the time. How do you explain young people dying from cancer and other terrible situations. God is in control couldn’t he stop it? The answer to that is yes. Well, then why doesn’t he? Gods’ original plan was to have Adam and Eve live in eternity and never get sick or feel pain. When they chose to sin, humanity changed. They no longer had perfect bodies. We still feel the effects of this every day. Why did they even have a choice to sin in the first place? Well, God is big on the idea that people should have a choice. No one is forced to do right. He wants people to choose to follow him because they want to, not because they are robotic slaves. Salvation is just another choice. To either reject God and say it’s all a joke, or to believe that this is real.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Believing that God and Jesus exist is not enough. The devils believe God and Jesus exist but they obviously rejected God. Just because Jesus died for the sins of the world as a free gift, that gift can be rejected or accepted. God gave us the choice.

How does one get saved? Simply do these 2 things in sincerity.

1) Acknowledge that you are a sinner and that you’ve offended God with your sin.

2) Trust in Jesus to save you from your sin penalty by asking him to forgive you of your sins.

That’s it. No really. There’s no catch. There is nothing else you have to do. You don’t have to be a perfect person. That’s still impossible. If you do wrong you are still saved at that point. Remember, we can’t be good enough to earn salvation therefore we also can’t be good enough to keep it. Christs’ sacrifice covered past and future sins. If you are saved though, you will have a desire to please God because you appreciate all he’s done for you. I still ask forgiveness for sins I commit, not to keep my salvation but to have a good relationship with God. Similar to how I apologize to my wife if I’ve wronged her. Not for fear of divorce but to be in right standings with her because I care about our relationship.

One last point I’ll make is this. People hate hypocrites. And in Christianity there’s a lot of them. I’ve seen fake preachers who are in it for the money. I’ve seen lots of unbiblical acts supposedly done for some Christian cause. Not to mention there are a lot of cheesy sayings and ignorant people who have little to no tact on how to say things nicely. I’ve seen it all. I’ve rolled my eyes many times at stupid stuff that makes people think less of God and Christianity. Some people who claim to be followers of Christ truly are just liars.

Mathew 7:

[22] Many will say to me in that *(judgement)* day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I don’t live as a Christian because of people. People are flawed just like me. People can and will let you down. God is in a different category. I believe there is creator and there is creation. While God is misrepresented by people and pop culture that doesn’t change who God really is.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Thanks for reading,

Dan