

So Great Salvation – Discussion Guide

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God's So Great Salvation -Discussion Guide

Gain a deeper understanding of the ideas presented in the Paris Reidhead books "Finding the Reality of God" and "Evidences of Eternal Life," and sermon series, So Great Salvation, by using these discussion guide questions.

Before the beginning

- What was the purpose of the Apostle John in writing this epistle (1 John)?
- Who is Satan? Why was he cast out of heaven?
- God is light, love, truth and life. What did Satan become as a result of his rebellion against the Most High?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John, Isaiah 14:12-20, Luke 10:18

In the beginning

- What is the difference between temptation and sin?
- Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Why?
- What outward change did disobedience bring into the lives of Adam & Eve?
- Why was Abel's offering acceptable to God?
- Why was Cain's offering unacceptable?

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 5:27-28, 1 John 2:16, Genesis 3:12, Hebrews 9:22

Conversion

- In your own words, define what it means to repent
- Why is it essential for conversion?
- What part does our human will play in repentance?
- Is repentance a one-time act, or is it something we do continually? Explain
- What does it mean to eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood? Does the explanation given in this chapter differ with your previous understanding of this command?
- Has the Lord given you an awareness of any areas of your life – inner attitudes or outward actions – that are not pleasing to Him?
- What is your understanding about Jesus' exhortation, "Take up your cross daily and follow me?"

SCRIPTURES: Luke 13:3-5, Matthew 5:20, John 6:48-54, Matthew 10:38, Mark 10:21, Luke 14:27, John 8:36, John 3:3-7, Colossians 1:27

Awakening

- What is "easy believism," and what has caused its growth?
- If you are a Christian, what was your salvation experience like? How did your life change?
- What does a sinner need to know before he is taught *how* to be saved? How is this accomplished? Which type of Scripture passages should you memorize?
- What does it mean to intercede on behalf of sinners? Who is given this responsibility?
- What does it mean to be a *witness*?
- What does it mean to "believe *on* the Lord Jesus Christ?"

SCRIPTURES: 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:1, 1 Corinthians 15:34, Ephesians 5:14, John 3:16, Acts 16:31, Psalm 73:18, Jeremiah 23:12, Ephesians 2:2, Revelation 1:5, 6, Psalm 51:10, 1 John 1:19

Conviction

- What does it mean when a sinner is convicted?
- Why does a sinner need to be convicted? What is he convicted of?
- Who brings conviction upon the sinner? What is His instrument of conviction?

SCRIPTURES: Romans 8:7, Romans 3:23, Genesis 42:21, John 16:8, Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:24, Psalm 19, Romans 1, Psalm 51, Acts 2:37, Matthew 11:15

Repentance

- What is the essence of repentance?
 - Why is it necessary?
 - Is repentance still necessary today?
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Faith

- What is a simple definition of faith? Faith cannot be separated from behavior. Why?
- How do you go about turning “head faith” – or any of the other types of faith described in this chapter – into “heart faith?”
- Christians talk about living or “walking” by faith.” What does the “walk” of faith mean to you?

SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 11:1-6, Acts 20:20, 21, Romans 4, Acts 1:8, Romans 10

The New Birth

- What happens at the “new birth”
- Why is it necessary?
- What are some evidences of the new birth?
- Is it possible to be holy without it?

SCRIPTURES: John 1:12-13, John 3:3

Witness of the Spirit

- What are some of the evidences that a person has been born of God?
- Who is the only one capable of telling a person whether or not he’s been born again? What happens when we assume this role?
- In light of the Holy Spirit’s path into the heart of a sinner – awakening, conviction, repentance, and heart faith – how would *you* determine whether or not someone you know is ready to pray and give his or her life to God?
- What is the difference between “feeling” either excited or saddened by a gospel message, and “knowing” that you are a child of God?
- Read Galatians 5:16-25. Are there areas of your life that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about when you read this passage?
- How does Horatius Bonar describe “the witness of the Spirit?”
- What reason does the Bible give for our redemption?
- What gives man true understanding?

- What is it within our hearts that can truly say “Abba Father?” See Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15-16; Mark 14:36; 1 John 4:13.
- How do we certify the evidence of eternal life?

SCRIPTURES: Job 32:8, 1 Corinthians 2:11-12, Galatians 5:16-25, Romans 8:16; 17:1, 1 John 5:6, Isaiah 64:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9, Titus 2:11-14, Galatians 4:4-6, 1 John 4:13, Romans 8:16, 1 John 2:15

Love not the world

- What are the four distinct definitions of the term “the world”
- With which definition is the Apostle John concerned?
- In 1 John 2:16 how is the world described? How do these three categories relate to ancient idol worship? How do they relate to current philosophies?
- What is Gnosticism?
- Define Dualism
- What is one of the tenets of Antinomianism?
- How do these heresies manifest themselves today?

SCRIPTURES: John 3:16, John 17:21, Hebrews 11:38, John 15:18, 1 John 2:15-16, Matthew 16:26, 1 Corinthians 2:17, James 1:27, Judges 2:13, 1 Samuel 7:3, Leviticus 18:21, 20:2, 1 Kings 11:7, 11, Kings 23:10, Genesis 1:31, 1 John 1:5, John 1:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20

Christians do not walk in darkness

- What does it mean to “walk in darkness?”
- What Scripture reinforces this statement: “There is no state of grace that you will ever attain where you are immune to the possibility of sinning.”
- How can we know victory in Christ?
- What is the ultimate evidence of our Christianity?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 2:1, Matthew 1:21, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 2:1, Romans 6:11, Ephesians 4:27

Obedience is the test

- What does E.M. Bounds say about God’s commandments?
- Explain Wesley’s statement: “The commandment to the sinner, “Thou shalt not’ becomes the promise to the saint, “Thou shalt not.’
- According to the Bible what does the word “death” imply?
- Explain the difference between “walking in darkness” and falling into sin.”

SCRIPTURES: Colossians 1:12-13

Salvation is a person

- What significance does the Apostle John assign to how we walk?
- List three Scriptures that support the statement: “Salvation is a Person”
- How was Satan vanquished through the power of the cross?
- What is the contract God has with his children?
- How are you to know the will of God for your life?
- What did John Wesley declare about God’s commandments?
- What is your attitude toward God’s commandments?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 1:6, John 14:6, Psalm 27:1, Exodus 15:2, Acts 28:28, 1 John 2:17

Loving one's brother

- What does the Book of Job prove?
- What is the evidence of eternal life spoken of in this chapter?
- What is the Christian's response to injury and hurt?
- How are we to deal with conflicts with a brother?
- What message does God send to us in 1 John 3:14?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 2:10, Mark 11:25, Matthew 18:15-17, 1 John 3:14, Matthew 5:44

Fellowship with God

- How would you define the following: Deserter; Denier; Discerner; Defender; Deserver
- The last times, end times, the last days, the final hour all refer to what period of time? What are the characteristics of this period of time? List Scriptures that support these characteristics.
- How can the antichrists be identified?
- What is the result of mixing pagan philosophies and Bible teaching? Give illustrations.
- Define unction. What is the purpose of the "unction from the Holy One" in our lives? How does the unction protect us daily? What is the main purpose of John's first epistle?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 2:18-29, Revelation 2:9; 3:1; 3:4, 1 John 2:22; 23, Mark 7:6-9, Psalm 45:7, 1 John 2:28-29, 1 John 3:2-3, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:1; 3:8; 4:3, Matthew 24:24, Ephesians 4:14, 1 John 2:24-27

Walking in the light

- What is "the way of escape?"
- What does the Scripture command us to do?
- What is the nature of the law? How did their attitudes toward the law differ between David and Saul? What was the end result?
- According to Matthew 1:21 what was the purpose of Christ's coming to earth? (See 1 Peter 3:15)

SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 10:13, Colossians 3:5; 3:8; 3:12-13, Psalm 119:9, 1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 12, 13, Matthew 1:21, 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Corinthians 13:5

Temptation and Sin

- Are our desires sinful in and of themselves?
- What is the difference between sin and temptation? Does sin always involve the "act?"
- What five things happen when a child of God sins?
- What is the "mirror" that believers should go to for cleansing?
- What are the three possible attitudes toward sin?
- According to 2 Corinthians 13:15, how are you as a Christian to deal with sin?
- According to Titus 2:11-14 what lifestyle are we to have in the world? How can we maintain this standard?
- By what means has victory been provided?
- What do you think of the statement below?

R.A. Torrey wrote, "To abide in Christ is to renounce any independent life of our own, to give up trying to think our thoughts, or form our resolutions or cultivate our feelings and simply and constantly look to Christ to think His thoughts in us, to form His purposes in us, to feel his emotions and affections in us. It is to

renounce all life independent of Christ, and constantly to look to Him for the inflow of His life into us, and the outworking of His life through us.”

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 5:22, Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 52:11, Ephesians 4:27, Psalm 34:7, Hebrews 10:31, Hebrews 12:6, John 15:3, Exodus 30:18-21, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32, 1 John 1:9, Galatians 6:1, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Hebrews 12:6, Titus 2:11-14, Romans 6:6, John 15:4

Victory

- What are the three major enemies that confront and attack us?
- Will we ever be so spiritual that we cannot be tempted?
- How do you “reckon” or consider yourself “dead” to sin? What does it mean to be “alive to God?”
- What is the difference between “truth in the abstract” and truth that has become “real” in your life? How do you go about making the truths in God’s Word “real” in your life?

SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 4:15, Romans 6:11

Overcomers

- Identify the world we are to overcome
- How does the Scripture say we are to overcome the world?
- Victory in overcoming the world begins with a choice. Explain that choice. Give examples
- Does Satan tempt us in the same way he tempted Adam and Eve? Did he tempt Jesus in the same way? Explain why Jesus did not yield to temptation. Explain why Adam and Eve did yield to temptation
- The world thinks in instant terms. Is salvation instantaneous? Explain your answer.
- Is overcoming instantaneous? Explain your answer.

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 5:4, Matthew 4:3, Genesis 2:16-17, Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23

Who is my neighbor?

- What is the test of union with Christ? What Scriptures support this test?
- On what two commandments hang all the law and the prophets?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? What Scripture supports your answer?
- Give an illustration of this kind of love.
- Who is your neighbor? What is the test of love for your neighbor?
- Comment on the quote of A.W. Tozer” “God does not love populations. He loves people.”
- How are we to know how to respond to the over-powering human need in the world today?

SCRIPTURES: 1 John 3:14, John 13:34-35, Matthew 22:37-40, Deuteronomy 6:5, James 2:15-17, Luke 10:29-37, Proverbs 8:17, 1 John 3:17, 1 John 3:22

The hallmark of a Christian

- What is the hallmark of true Christianity?
- What is a witness?
- What is the work of the Spirit of God in the life of a sinner? (Romans 8:16)
- Define the following: Awakening, Conviction, Brood over
- What was David Brainerd’s grave concern about his ministry among the American Indians?
- Why should we have the same concern today?

SCRIPTURES: Proverbs 11:30, Romans 8:16, Acts 17:28

“Go ye into all the world”

- What is an intercessor?
- What are the results of intercession, witnessing and the work of the Holy Spirit?
- Who is the judge of the result?
- If the result leads to salvation, what is the proof?
- Why can't we humans be the judge of the results in a person's life?
- What is God's purpose for His people, the church?
- Why were the efforts of pioneer missionaries and a pioneer church successful?
- According to the following Scriptures what are the evidences of eternal life? Why has God given us these evidences?
 - *1 John 1:7*
 - *1 John 2:3*
 - *1 John 3:14*
 - *1 John 2:15-17*
 - *1 John 2:24*
 - *1 John 3:10*
 - *1 John 3:24*
 - *1 John 4:13*
 - *1 John 5:16*
 - *1 John 5:4, 5*

SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 2:9-10, Mark 16:15, John 14:23-24, Mark 16:15, 1 John 5:13