BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY - PART 4: SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST

A. INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells man that he is a rebellious sinner living under God's wrath and judgment. This is the perilous predicament of every person. Salvation is God's solution to man's dilemma. God has taken the initiative to save man from sin and its consequences through Jesus Christ.

B. WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. Jesus is a man
   a. Born of a woman – Luke 2:6-7
   b. Jesus grew as other children – Luke 2:52
      e.g. physically, intellectually, spiritually, socially
   c. Human characteristics
      i. Tired & thirsty – John 4:6-7
      ii. Wept – John 11:38
      iii. Sorrow – Matthew 26:37
      iv. Tempted – Hebrews 2:18
2. Jesus is God
   a. Conceived by the Holy Spirit – Matthew 1:18, 23-26
   b. Did not sin – Hebrews 4:15-16
   c. Demonstrated God's authority
      i. In His speech – Matthew 7:28-29
      ii. In His actions
         - calmed a storm – Mark 4:39
         - healed the sick – Mark 2:11-12
         - commanded demons – Mark 1:33-34
         - fed multitudes – Mark 6:40-44
         - raised the dead – Mark 5:38-42
         - forgave sin Mark 2:10
   d. Claimed to be God – John 5:18; 10:30 (liar, lunatic, God)
   e. Recognised as divine by His closest followers – Matthew 16:15-16
3. Jesus is the God-man: one person with two natures

C. WHAT DID JESUS DO?

1. Plan of salvation
   a. Promised throughout the Old Testament – Luke 24:25-27
      i. God would one day send a Saviour/Redeemer/Messiah – Genesis 3:15
      ii. Saviour would rescue God's people from their sins – Isaiah 61:1
   b. Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promises – Matthew 1:21; John 19:30
2. Mediator of a new and better covenant – 1 Timothy 2:15
   a. Not based on works of man (Adam) – 1 Corinthians 15:22
   b. Based on God's grace through Jesus Christ (2nd Adam) – Hebrews 8:6
3. Accomplished salvation for His people (Reconciliation/restoration with God)
   a. Perfectly obeyed all God's laws/requirements for man – Romans 5:19
   b. Paid the penalty God prescribed for sin – 1 Peter 3:18
      i. Died on the cross: substitute "lamb" – 1 Peter 2:24
      ii. Satisfied God's justice: turned away God's wrath – Romans 5:9
      iii. Removed the guilt of sin: blood shed for forgiveness – Hebrews 9:22

c. Rose again from the dead – Matthew 28:5-6
   i. Authenticates claims of both the Bible (Psalm 16:10) and Jesus (Matthew 16:21)
   ii. Defeated Satan – Luke 10:18
   iii. Guarantees resurrection of His people – John 14:19
d. Ascended back to heaven – Acts 1:9
   i. Where not seated at God's right hand – Acts 2:33
   ii. Gives the Holy Spirit (3rd person of the trinity) to believers – Acts 2:33
   iii. Will one day return to judge all mankind – Acts 17:11