

# The Fourfold Gospel

## PART 1: SAVIOR

### STUDY OVERVIEW

Christ Community Church is part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, a denomination that grew out of the ministry A.B. Simpson in the late 1800s. Simpson developed the Fourfold Gospel, which became core to the DNA of the Alliance. These lessons provide an overview of that message: Jesus is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. Our identity in Christ is deeper when we understand his presence and power in these multi-dimensional ways.<sup>1</sup>

### STUDY OBJECTIVES

- To have a deeper love for Jesus and awareness of his multi-dimensional involvement in our lives.
- To have a deeper appreciation for the foundational beliefs of the Christian & Missionary Alliance.
- To love like Jesus, learn from Jesus, live like Jesus, and lead with Jesus.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the first word or phrase that comes to your mind when you hear the name Jesus?

### JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

Salvation is a gift from God—only Jesus provides the sacrifice that makes our salvation possible. This gift of salvation is offered to all people (Titus 2:11). God’s love and compassion are beyond comprehension; he “does not treat us as our sins deserve” (Psalm 103:8–10). God’s love is everlasting for those who fear him (Psalm 103:17–18). God is a loving parent who welcomes us back with open arms when we choose to walk toward home—the father pursues both the repentant son and the one who is petulant and angry (Luke 15).

We are saved from our sins (Acts 2:38, Romans 8:1, 1 Peter 3:18–22), for the mission of God (Ephesians 2:8–10), and for the opportunity to live “self-controlled, upright and godly lives” (Titus 2:11–14); for the choice to “devote ourselves to doing what is good” (Titus 3:7–8). Our adoption into God’s family is sure (John 1:12) and our inheritance will never spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:4).

Read the following verses aloud:

- John 3:16–17—For God so loved...
- Revelation 7:10—Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.
- Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one else...

What words or phrases are most encouraging to you from these verses?

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<sup>1</sup> [cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-story](http://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-story)

What are some of the things Jesus saves us from? Have participants read the below texts and share.

- Romans 8:1—Guilt
- Acts 2:38, Romans 5:1—Sin
- Romans 5:9—God’s Wrath
- Galatians 3:10–13—The Curse of the Law
- Acts 26:17–19—Satan’s Power
- 1 Corinthians 15:54–57—Death

What are some of the things Jesus saves us for? Have participants read the below texts and share.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17—Living as New Creations
- John 14:16–18—Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- John 15:26–27—Peace
- John 1:12, Galatians 4:4–6—Family, Adopted by God
- Romans 8:38–39—God’s Love
- John 3:16, 1 Peter 1:3–4—Eternal Life

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## **A BRIEF REFLECTION ON ATONEMENT—HOW JESUS SAVES US**

Consider dividing into two groups to examine the following texts before sharing the notes below.

*Atonement means “reparation or expiation for sin.”*

**Jesus saves us from the wages of sin by offering his body as a "substitutional sacrifice."**

- Jesus’ death reflects the Jewish Passover; he serves as the “lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19)
- Jesus’ death satisfies God’s wrath (Jeremiah 25:15–17, Isaiah 51:22, Romans 5:9–10)
- Jesus’ shed blood demonstrates his righteousness (Lev. 16:15–16, Isaiah 53, Romans 3:25–26)
- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- Jesus refers to his “blood of the covenant... poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28)
- Paul describes God making Christ “to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- The author of Hebrews suggests that there is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood, and that Jesus provides that for us. (Hebrews 9:22–26)

*Atonement also means “the reconciliation of God and humankind through Jesus Christ.”*

**Jesus saves us from the bondage of sin by giving his life as a “ransom for many.”**

- Christ is a victor who provides liberation from sin and reconciliation with God (Mark 10:45, Romans 5:10, 8:2)
- We are made alive in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) so that we could be reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:16)
- We are redeemed from the curse (Galatians 3:13, Revelation 22:13)
- We are rescued from the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13)

Both views of atonement deepen our understanding of how Christ serves as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and King. The legacy of this diversity is a deeper, richer view of atonement, a more profound one than possible if only looking at certain verses for our understanding of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.

**A few other definitions:**

- *Justification*—the act of being declared righteous based on our faith in Jesus.
- *Redemption*—the act of having a debt paid; of being set free from the bondage to sin.
- *Sanctification*—the process of being made holy; of being set apart for God’s purposes.

## **RESPONSE**

- Have participants share which of these gifts from Jesus they are most thankful for and why.
- In view of our thanksgiving, what action is the Holy Spirit asking us to take?

## **PRAYER**

- Have each participant choose one of the verses from this study and write it into prayer form.
- Here's an example from Colossians 1:12–13:

*God, we give you thanks for allowing us to share in the inheritance of your kingdom. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us from the dominion of darkness. Help us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and make daily choices to walk in the light. Forgive us our sins, as Jesus has purchased our redemption. In the name of the Son we love, Amen.*