



# How Am I Saved?

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Are You Saved?

What is salvation?

### 2. Read

Discover New Church teachings about salvation.

### 3. Watch a Video

Watch *The Day-to-Day Process of Our Salvation* at [bit.ly/Day-to-Day](http://bit.ly/Day-to-Day) (5min 7sec).

### 4. Discuss

How are we saved?

## New Church Concept Salvation

To be saved is to be led forth from hell. *Apocalypse Revealed* 62

The Divine truth which proceeds from the Lord is what makes order, and is order itself. Consequently as everything that is according to Divine truth is according to order, it is according to order that people who have lived well shall be saved, and that they who have lived ill shall be condemned to hell after death. It is the reception of the Lord's mercy while they lived in the world through which everyone is saved. They who receive it then are in the other life in the Lord's mercy, for they are then in the capacity of receiving it there. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8700.2

## FaithBuilder 1 | Lesson 26 | Salvation

### Are You Saved?

Choose questions to prompt thinking about salvation.

1. How would you define "salvation." Give an example of "salvation" in a sentence.
2. Are you saved?
3. What do Christians mean when they ask "Are you saved?"
4. Can people know they are saved *for sure*—either today, or in future?
5. What are people saved *from*?
6. What is life like for a person who is not saved—either today, or in future?

### What Is Salvation?

Wikipedia defines "salvation" as "being saved or protected from harm or being...delivered from some dire situation. In religion, salvation is...saving of the soul from sin and its consequences." (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvation>) New Church teachings on salvation agree with this definition, as do the teachings of many religions—but different religions disagree on exactly how salvation works—*how* God saves, and *what we must do* to be saved.

Being saved is another way of saying "being in a heavenly state" of life or "going to heaven when you die."

People who are in the good of life, that is, who live in love to the Lord and in charity toward the neighbor, are saved. *Arcana Coelestia* 8700.2

All who are in charity will be saved by the Lord. People who are endowed with goods from a heavenly origin are also endowed with eternal salvation, that is, are saved. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2228.

### How Are We Saved?

The Lord wants *everyone* to be saved, to go to heaven. But He leaves us free to reject His love, and love ourselves more than Him or others. If we reject the Lord, we choose hell. To be saved we must willingly participate in the process of salvation. Our participation means we acknowledge the Lord and His Word, and live our lives according to the Word's teachings.

The means of salvation relate to two essentials, that evils must be shunned because they are contrary to the Divine laws in the Ten Commandments, and there must be the acknowledgment that there is a God. See *Divine Providence* 329

"Shunning evils" means not acting selfishly when opportunity arises, and living by the rules set out in the Ten Commandments.

## How Does God Save?

The Lord continually reaches out to us, trying to lead us to heaven, and He saves us to the extent that we participate in the salvation process.

God is continually endeavoring to save a person; but He cannot do this unless a person prepares himself to become a recipient, and so clears the way for God's entry by opening the door. See *True Christian Religion* 73

The Lord is continually in the act of regenerating a person, because He is continually in the act of saving him; and no one can be saved unless he is regenerated, according to the Lord's own words in John, That someone who is not born again cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5,6). Regeneration, therefore, is the means of salvation, and charity and faith are the means of regeneration. *True Christian Religion* 577

## How Did the Lord's Coming on Earth Save Us?

Many Christians believe the Lord saved humankind through dying on the cross for our sins, and that we only need to believe in Him to be saved. The New Church takes a different view, teaching that the cross was the last of the Lord's life-long battles against hell. In conquering the powers of hell that had risen up and blocked access to the Word, the Lord opened a new way for us to see Him, to choose to follow Him by living in the light of His Word, and so be saved.

Before the Lord's coming, hell had so increased that no Divine Truth or Good could pass from the Lord to humankind. Consequently, the human race was threatened with condemnation. In order that hell might be driven back the Lord came into the world, and, removing hell, subjugated it and thus opened up heaven. He did this that He might afterwards be present with people on earth, and save those that lived according to His commandments, and consequently regenerate and save them; for it those are saved who are regenerated. *True Christian Religion* 579

## Watch a Video

Watch part of *The Day-to-Day Process of Our Salvation*. (**Start the video at 12min 22sec and end at 17min 29sec** (5min 7sec) at [bit.ly/Day-to-Day](http://bit.ly/Day-to-Day). (Enter bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) You may find other parts of this video useful as well. The entire video is over an hour. You will need to pick and choose sections that might appeal to your students.

## Discuss

*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. If the Lord wants everyone to go to heaven, why doesn't He simply save us?
2. A covenant is a two-way agreement. What covenant must we enter in order to be saved? What does the Lord ask of us? What does He promise if we do what He tells us to in the Word?
3. Is heaven a reward for obeying the Lord? Where might this attitude lead?
4. Who saves—do we save ourselves because we do what's right? Or does the Lord save us?
5. Many people act rightly but don't believe in the Lord. Will they go to heaven?

## New Church Concepts

### The Lord's Salvation

If the Lord had not united His Human Essence to His Divine Essence people in the world would no longer have had any capacity of understanding and perceiving what is good and true, so that they would have had nothing of blessedness and happiness, consequently nothing of salvation. From this we can see that the human race could not have been saved unless the Lord had assumed the Human and glorified it. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2776.3

### Sense of Self

There are some who are not saved, because the Divine Love desires that people should feel in themselves the happiness and the blessedness of heaven, for otherwise it would not be heaven to them, and this cannot take place unless it appears to people that they think and wills from themselves. *Divine Providence* 330

### Salvation

Salvation and eternal life is first of all to worship the Lord and to live in accordance with the Word, because by their means there is conjunction with the Lord and association with the angels of heaven. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 851

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up tempting Him and saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And he answering said, "You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, and from your whole soul, and from your whole strength, and from your whole thought, and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this, and you shall live." (Luke 10:25-27)