

# CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

## Salvation Plain and Simple

The Setting:	The Pages of Scripture
The Evidence:	The Books of John and Romans (as well as many other books of the Bible)
The Characters:	John, John the Baptist, Paul, Jesus Himself, and many witnesses
The Controversy:	Does God choose who goes to Heaven, or is salvation offered to everyone?

There was a day when few would have questioned the plan of salvation. In recent decades, however, there has sadly been a shift in doctrines in once-strong fundamental churches. God is sovereign, but He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Knowing this, it is impossible to suppose that He chooses who can go to Heaven and who cannot. It is also impossible to read the Bible and not see man's free will.

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.**"*

Romans 5:8—*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Romans 10:9—*"That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**"*

Romans 10:10—*"For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**"*

Romans 10:13—*"For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Rom. 10:13).*

It is difficult to narrow the subject of salvation down to just a few verses since the Bible is packed with so many. The book of John, as well as other references, likewise presents the powerful case for Jesus' purpose for coming to Earth:

John 3:16-18—*"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.** God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**"*

Some say it isn't fair that those who haven't heard of Jesus will go to Hell, but God doesn't willingly send anyone to Hell; we were **condemned already** (John 3:18). That's why Jesus came. If we could have gone to Heaven on ignorance, there would have been no need for Him to come and die. He came, a poor, lost world to claim.

A distinctive of John is his indisputable statement of why he wrote it. He declares in John 20:30-31:

*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:  
But these are written, **that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;  
and that believing ye might have life through his name.***

Additional verses for salvation in the gospel of John: John 6:35; 7:38; 8:12; 10:10; 10:11; 11:25-26; 14:6; 20:29. These verses and many more reveal God's deep love for mankind and the hope He offers to all who believe.

*Food for thought:* Remember when the death angel passed over Egypt (Exodus 12:23)? The instructions were clear. The blood had to be applied to the door post. Once the blood was applied, there was nothing more to be done. Those who did so could go inside and not worry.

So it is with **anyone who applies the blood of Christ** these six thousand years later. God planned for the salvation of the world through His Son, Jesus Christ, **"the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world"** (Revelation 13:8), who Himself submitted to the Father's plan in shedding His own blood for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).

What love **"that we should be called the sons of God"**! (1 John 3:1)