



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 7 - Discovering Salvation Through Faith and Understanding Christ

Perfecting Faith

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Join Scott Stanley on a thought-provoking journey as he explores the essence of understanding Jesus Christ and the path to salvation. This episode challenges commonly held beliefs, shedding light on the true role of faith, grace, and works in achieving redemption. Through scriptural insights and personal experiences, Scott guides listeners towards a deeper comprehension of how iniquity, thought, and action intertwine in our spiritual walk.

Dive into the profound meaning behind key biblical verses, as Scott emphasizes the significance of preaching in nurturing faith. He urges us to reflect on our journey, encouraging us to work out our salvation with dedication, fear, and trembling.

As he delves into the mysteries of Christ's sacrifice and the nature of iniquity versus sin, Scott reveals the ongoing importance of overcoming apostasy and embracing the true teachings of Jesus Christ. Listen to understand how these timeless truths impact our lives today and equip us to help others out of spiritual confusion.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. I'm Scott Stanley, continuing the videocast on understanding the Christ. Today, I want to touch on something. As I was watching some televangelists and listening to the things they say, I began to realize there are just fundamental truths that they don't understand. But they're out here teaching this to millions of people.

So I want to say something to those of you who have ears to hear. We're trying to develop our understanding of Jesus. Why? Because he said that *he's the way, the truth, and the life. You don't go to the Father, but through him* (Jhn 14:6). So we want to understand Jesus so that we can better understand his Father. Remember, again, the apostasy happened in the days of the apostles and continues to the end of the world, and we've seen that Jesus was born in eternity.

But what about salvation? See, this is what we're trying to do: Understand the truth, to be saved. Well, there is a verse in Ephesians: *For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It's a gift of God* (Eph 2:8). Now, in all of the universal churches that I participated in, I was told that what that verse was saying was, "by God's grace, he saves me." What was saved? "Well, he forgives you. If he forgives you, you can go to heaven."

By grace, you are saved through faith. What do you mean? "Well, you have to believe Jesus was raised from the dead. If you can believe that and say that in a prayer, God will forgive you. So by God's grace, he forgives me through faith, and this salvation is not of myself. It's a gift." That was how they put that together for me.

Well, I want to alter that. *For by God's grace are we saved through faith.* What is saved? Well, Titus 2:14, *Jesus died to redeem us from all iniquity.* Your salvation... he will save you from your sin when your iniquity is straightened out, and you learn how to overcome the iniquity which the author of that is Satan (1Jn 3:8). So by God's grace, you're saved. He's redeeming you from iniquity... by faith.

What is faith? Romans 10: *Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God.* Well, *how are they going to hear without a preacher* (Rom 10:13-17)? By preaching, you're going to be

told the truth, and when you believe it, you're going to have tools to apply to your salvation.

Now I just want to put some verses together here. *For by grace, you're saved. He's redeeming you from iniquity through faith, through what you've been taught.* Remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:21, that God determined he would save us through the foolishness of preaching. See, the foolishness of preaching brings you faith. *How shall I hear without a preacher?*

So he's going to save you through the foolishness of preaching, as you believe the truth. 1 Peter 1:9, *the aim, or the end, or the completion of your faith, is the salvation of your soul.* So you're going to be taught truth that becomes faith. How do you complete that? How is that finished? James 2:22, *Your works will perfect your faith.* Works perfect faith.

Start from the beginning. By God's grace, you're going to be saved or redeemed from iniquity through what you're being taught. What you're being taught is not of yourself. It's a gift of God to you to hear the truth. When you're taught the truth, you act on it, and your works will perfect your faith.

Let's add another verse to this. *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"* (Php 2:12-13). See, this idea that you're going to pray a prayer and all of a sudden, you're saved, it's not scriptural. But this is what I was taught. In fact, a pastor had me turn to Romans 10:9-10 and put the date in there where I prayed "the prayer," 12/01/1979, and, "If Satan ever challenges you to think you're not saved, just turn over to Romans 10:9-10 and look at that date, and remember you prayed the prayer."

Well, it doesn't fit the scripture. When I prayed the prayer, I wasn't saved, I was converted, and I started on the path to find the truth, to serve God, and live with him, work with him, let him work with me. I remember I was living in Oklahoma. I prayed the prayer, and everything changed in my life. I was converted. I had decided I'm going to serve God, and I went to work at General Motors and started telling everybody, "I'm saved. I'm saved." I was excited about it.

There was a guy there who asked me, he said, "Well, saved from what?" I had no idea. I stopped and I thought. I said, "Well, hell, I guess. I don't know." I'm telling you so that

we don't walk in confusion and darkness. You are to be saved from all iniquity. Iniquity is the thought you have before you sin. Thoughts produce feelings. Feelings move you to action. That twisted thought is iniquity. It creates in you a feeling, maybe a rebellion. And that rebellion, that feeling, when you act on it, is sin.

He is saving us from our sin. That doesn't mean, "I prayed a prayer, 'God, forgive me.' I'm going to heaven. It's over. Let's just go to heaven." See, if that's what you believe, rethink it. Again, *the salvation of your soul is the completion of your faith. Faith is completed by your works, and you work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

We're going to be getting into some deep things concerning Jesus Christ. Why? Because *he is the way, the truth, and the life. You don't come to the Father except through him* (Jhn 14:6). We have learned already in our videos that he is the only begotten Son of God, that he was born in eternity past, that God's plan for us was that Jesus would be our Messiah, and he would be the sacrifice that was slain from the foundation of the world.

We are going to understand that that sacrifice needs to be looked at really closely. We need to understand what was going on at the cross, who that is, and why he is dying. We need to understand that. We need to understand what was portrayed on that cross, as Paul tells us, that *He who knew no sin was made to be sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God* (2Co 5:21). Well, how in the world do you take a person who has known no sin and you make him to be sin?

Again, I was told that "God put all of our sin on his Son on that cross." Yet, Isaiah 53 says something different. *God laid on him the iniquity of us all* (Isa 53:6). Not the sin, the iniquity. So we're going to be getting into these things, but we need to understand basically what is happening here.

By God's grace, he is saving us through the foolishness of preaching, allowing us to receive truth and act on it and perfect our faith. By working out our own salvation through what God is telling us, we are the workmanship of God. God has a ministry, and he is telling us the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. He would have us believe that truth, act on it, that our lives may be changed, that we may overcome all of the twisted thinking that we have been taught.

The apostasy began in the first-generation church. The apostasy will last to the last generation church. We're trying to come out of apostasy. This is what the book of Revelation is about: The church at the end, who can come out of the apostasy and serve the true and living God through Jesus Christ, his Son. Again, this is the purpose of these videos, and we're going to be getting into the deep things of God concerning Jesus, concerning the cross, and we're going to take them a step at a time.

You can't give too much information at a time. People can't handle it, so you just take baby steps. Your mind is infinite. There's nothing that God knows that you can't know, too, if given enough time. We're running out of time. This world is turning upside down. The world is going to destroy itself, and Christ is going to save us out of it. So I beg you, spend some time with these videos. Spend some time with these verses. Pray about it. Memorize them.

Understand what God is doing because we need to help other people who have ears to hear, too. It isn't just you and me. There are a lot of people out here in confusion, and if they begin to suspect something isn't right in their church, we need to be able to give them answers. We need to stand on the truth, have the courage to speak the truth, and declare Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. That is the testimony of God.