

## **Ignite: Saved Now or Saved Later?**

**Objective:** By the end of the lesson the student will understand that salvation is a process culminating in our being “born-again” as spirit beings at Christ’s second coming.

### **Bible Verses:**

Philippians 2:12-13

Titus 2:11-14

Philippians 1:6

Matthew 5:6

Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 6:25-34

Hebrews 6:4-6

Hebrews 10:26-29

**Essential Question?** Are we saved when we repent and get baptized? Or does it happen at Christ’s second coming?

### **Opening:**

Read Philippians 2:12-13. If we have to continue to work out our salvation how can it be a done deal? It isn’t a done deal until we are resurrected at Christ’s second coming. The salvation process begins when we repent and get baptized. That is when we receive God’s Holy Spirit which is a down payment for us of the change we will experience in the future.

Reading Titus 2:11-14, is there something we need to be doing to achieve salvation? Yes, we should be leading Godly lives.

### **Content:**

Repenting and getting baptized is only the beginning of the process that leads to salvation. Philippians 1:6 tells us a good work has begun in us, but it will not reach culmination unto the second coming of Jesus Christ.

After baptism God’s Spirit dwells with us and leads us away from sin (Matthew 5:6). God is holy and righteous and our nature begins to change in that direction. But we still have to follow through on what we are hearing (Matthew 7:24-27).

Salvation is a process with many pieces. In Matthew 6:25-34 we learn about a number of things we need to do as Christian’s to stay on the right track.

- A. First we must trust our loving Father (Matthew 6:30-32).
- B. We have to evaluate our motives and appreciate ourselves (Matthew 6:26).
- C. We have to give up worrying and fretting (Matthew 6:27).
- D. We need to obey God’s will for our lives (Matthew 6:33)
- E. We have to take life one day at a time (Matthew 6:34).

If we keep worrying about our past we are not fully convinced that God has forgiven us. We must have the faith to believe that God's word is truth and that is all we need.

What is the warning in Hebrews 6:4-6? That if you fall away from God after having had God's Holy Spirit you can lose your salvation. Hebrews 10:26-29 makes it clear that the falling away must be willful and deliberate. Someone who sins and repents has not trampled on God's Holy Spirit. The key is in the intent in the individual's heart. Willful and deliberate disobedience after gaining the Holy Spirit puts you in a precarious place in your relationship with God.

### **Independent Practice:**

Have students answer the following questions: Do you ever doubt you will be saved? What is the unpardonable sin? (Deliberately and willfully deciding you want to go against God after you have received His Holy Spirit). How can you tell if a recurring sin is willful and deliberate and could be considered unpardonable? (The intent of the person committing the sin. If you don't want to keep sinning it is not unpardonable).

### **Close/Reflect**

Remember that life is a process and so is salvation. It is like getting on a bus and driving across country. When you hop on the bus it is like your repentance and baptism. Sinning throughout your life is like getting off the train as it stops along the way in various cities. But getting back on when it is time to go to the next city is like repenting and relying on God. When you reach your final destination it is the second coming of Christ and you become a spiritual body.

**Sources:** The Zondervan Pastor's Annual, by T.T. Crabtree, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House), 1999.