



Doctrine 11: Resurrection hope

We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgement at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

Big ideas

- **The Christian hope in life over death is based on physical resurrection of Jesus Christ**
- **Judgement is the final victory of good over evil**
- **Our bodies, and the entire creation will be made new**

“*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you*”
(*Roman 8:11*).

Is death the end? Do we have any basis to hope that there is more to life than death?

Jesus' resurrection was a physical, bodily resurrection. It was not just a spiritual one. After his resurrection, he ate and drank, proving that he was not just a spirit or ghost. His resurrection was a defeat of death and the source of hope. It is the pattern or firstfruits for our own resurrection.

“*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him*” (1 Corinthians 15:20–23).

Not only will our lives be renewed and resurrected, the whole of creation will be renewed and restored in a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). The reality of pain and death is real but Jesus' resurrection provides a certain hope for the future that sin and death will not have the last word.



Victory of good over evil

Judgement on evil is good. We don't want evil to be ignored and we don't want God to be indifferent to evil or injustice. Thankfully, God alone is the judge and is just and fair.

“ *The Lord reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.
He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.
The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who
seek you*” (Psalm 9:7–10).

God does not favour the rich, the famous or the powerful. This is a source of hope for those who are poor, oppressed and cannot achieve justice through human channels.

God's judgement also recognises the importance of human life. People, made in the image of God, are accountable for our actions and decisions in life. Our lives are significant. At the same time, we know that God is full of grace and mercy. By faith in Jesus, we need not fear judgement.

Hope

We all experience problems in life. It may be an illness that won't go away, or a lifetime of poverty or oppression. Sometimes there are no solutions to these problems in the here-and-now. However, the resurrection of Jesus provides hope for a future where God will:

- Fully heal and restore us – body, soul and spirit
- Remake and renew the whole creation
- Bring about justice for the poor and oppressed
- Bring an end to evil and death

“ *God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away*” (Revelation 21:4).

Some might be tempted to sit back and say: “Well God intends to clean everything up himself at the end. I can put my feet up and relax”. Others might say: “The soul is more important than the body. We need to just focus on evangelism, and not on social justice and caring for the world”.

However, God has called his church to partner with him in bringing about individual and corporate renewal. This is why William Booth said: “Making heaven on earth is our business”. This takes up Jesus' teaching on how to pray:

“ *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*” (Matthew 6:10).

The Bible sees people as whole – physical and spiritual. Jesus saw people as whole – and cared for the physical and spiritual needs of people. This doctrine helps broaden our vision to be concerned for both evangelism and social justice.

God's call is for his people to point to the resurrection of Jesus and to live now in anticipation of the final resurrection. This is what The Salvation Army stands for in a broken world.

Discuss

- What are the dangers if we lose sight of the whole person and focus just on the spiritual or just on the physical?



Next steps

At the start of this course, our hope was that it would help you grow in your faith and know whether being a soldier is right for you.

All people are welcome at The Salvation Army – whether you are a soldier or not. The Army, in fact the whole Christian church, exists for others, as well as for the members. We want you to feel loved and accepted. We want you to feel you belong and can serve. God loves you and gave his Son to die for you. We are here to express that same love.

God wants you to know and follow him. Jesus calls you to be his disciple. That means you learn from him and seek to obey him. It means you live for him day by day. You become light for the place where you live. You serve the people there in Jesus' name. As a disciple, you will also belong to Christ's body – his church. You will love others in the church. You will love the poor, the hurting and the lost in the community.

The end of this course is a good moment to think about the next steps on your journey of Christian discipleship. What is your response to Jesus' call to committed Christian living?

If The Salvation Army is your church, you are welcome to follow and serve Jesus with us. You will be encouraged to be active in ministry as a disciple of Jesus.

You may also choose to become a more formal member. You may sign up to serve God with this army of salvation and commit to the mission of the Army. You can dedicate yourself to live a holy life that blesses this world.

You may choose to become an adherent and make The Salvation Army your church. You promise to support the work of your local corps. You commit to a lifestyle which shows Jesus to others. Adherents do not wear the soldier's uniform.

You may choose to become a soldier. A Salvation Army soldier embraces the truths on which the Army stands – that is, the 11 Doctrines. A soldier commits to the disciplines of the Army. For example, you will play a part in the Army's mission. You will live a lifestyle that supports the mission. That includes the disciplines of not using alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography. You are encouraged to wear uniform, especially when representing the Army in the community. As a soldier, you will do all you can to advance the mission of The Salvation Army and be one with other Salvationists around the world, supporting them with prayer, gifts and love.

Formal leadership within The Salvation Army, such as corps leadership or becoming a cadet for officership, will require you to be an active soldier.

If you have any questions, feel welcome to ask your corps officer or the person leading this course. You may want to talk and pray with them about the impact that the course has had, and any ways you feel called to deepen your commitment to following Christ.



The Salvation Army Doctrines

1. **We believe** the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. **We believe** there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. **We believe** there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. **We believe** in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united so that he is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. **We believe** our first parents were created in a state of innocency, but by their disobedience, they lost their purity and happiness, and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. **We believe** the Lord Jesus Christ has, by his suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. **We believe** repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.
8. **We believe** we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. **We believe** continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. **We believe** it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. **We believe** in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgement at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

The soldier's covenant

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and desiring to fulfil the mission of God he has for me and his Church here on earth as a soldier of The Salvation Army, I now by God's grace enter into a sacred covenant.

- 1.** I believe and will live by the truths of the word of God expressed in The Salvation Army's eleven articles of faith:
- 2.** I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to his leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and the reading of the Bible. I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life.
- 3.** I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest or immoral.
- 4.** I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others: my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow Salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.
- 5.** I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and of family life. I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God.
- 6.** I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.
- 7.** I will be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to him, and in his name caring for the needy and the disadvantaged.
- 8.** I will be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps, giving of my own income as there is need to support its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army.
- 9.** I will be true to the principles and practices of The Salvation Army, loyal to its leaders, and I will show the spirit of salvationism whether in times of popularity or persecution.
- 10.** I now call upon all present to witness that I enter into this covenant and sign these articles of war of my own free will, convinced that the love of Christ, who died and now lives to save me, requires from me this devotion of my life to his service for the salvation of the whole world; and therefore do here declare my full determination, by God's help, to be a true soldier of The Salvation Army.

Extension materials

The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine.
London: Salvation Books, 2010.

Doctrine 1	Word of the living God (p. 1 – 24)
Doctrine 2	Creator of Heaven and Earth (p. 25 – 50)
Doctrine 3	The God who is never alone (p. 51 – 78)
Doctrine 4	God's eternal son (p. 79 – 108)
Doctrine 5	Distorted image (p. 109 – 126)
Doctrine 6	Atonement through Christ (p. 127 – 144)
Doctrine 7	The process of salvation (p. 145 – 162)
Doctrine 8	The nature of salvation (p. 163 – 178)
Doctrine 9	Obedient faith (p. 179 – 190)
Doctrine 10	Holiness (p. 191 – 222)
Doctrine 11	Resurrection hope (p. 223 – 246)

See also:

Edge, Lynette and Morgan, Gregory. *Partnering with God: Being a Missional Salvationist*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2017.

Needham, Phil. *Christ Standing Outside the Door: Biblical Keys to our Salvationist Future*. London: Salvation Army, 2018.