**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 29**

**Questions: *Salvation, how does it take place? Is it a choice; i.e., making a “decision for Christ”, or does the Holy Spirit call one to salvation?***

1. **How does salvation take place?**
	1. Salvation means being in a right relationship or “safe” with God.
	2. Salvation takes place when a persons sins are forgiven through believing in Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the cross for you. This is justification: to be declared righteous by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works of the law.
	3. Saving faith is not a working of the human will (choice), but the gift of God. (see Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. **Is salvation a choice (i.e., “making a decision for Christ”) or does the Holy Spirit call one to salvation?**
	1. If “choice” means by oneself “without the Holy Spirit”, then salvation is not a choice.
		1. “I believe that I cannot ***by my own reason or strength*** believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened and sanctified me in the true faith.” (Small Catechism, Explanation to the Third article of the creed)
		2. There is nothing wrong with saying we “choose” Christ, if we understand that choice is not effected by ourselves, but by the working of God.
		3. Further to this, our soul, mind will and strength are not what convert us to Christ, but are the very things that are converted when the Holy Spirit works faith in us. Our choosing Christ, if we wish to speak that way is not a *cause* of the Holy Spirit calling us to salvation, but an *effect* of His having called us.