Christianity Paper 1 and Seminar

Paper 1 Practice:

“Thus it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.  
The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. [...] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.”

a) 3 teachings in passage:

God created humanity in his image. Adam shown to be created in the old testament in the image of God, with his divine nature shown in passage. Created ‘from the earth, a man of dust’, God’s creation of the earth, humans, all things.

There is a holy spirit that lives within all people. Concept of the trinity, father son and holy spirit all containing the divine essence of God. Second man being from heaven, the divine ‘life giving spirit’ in each person shown in the passage through Adam.

Concept of heaven and a divine afterlife. Passage highlights the second man (part of the person) coming ‘from heaven’ showing divine nature and the ultimate reward that is given to humanity from God. Heaven as the goal and destiny for those who live in accordance with God.

b) Explain Christian teaching about salvation through Jesus Christ.

Christian teaching revolves around God’s greatest expression of love being the sacrifice of his son Jesus Christ to atone for humanity’s sins. The original sin of humanity is the basis for the need for salvation through Jesus, shown in Christianity through the practice of baptism. Jesus’ salvation is also retold through scripture and appreciated through the holy day of Good Friday, and the church practice the Eucharist to remember Jesus’ sacrifice for the people. God’s love for the people, or grace, is shown through Jesus Christ and his actions, showing his divine and human nature as salvation for humanity.

The gospels of the new testament show Jesus Christ as the model Christians should follow to live in accordance with God’s wishes and nature. There are several instances in the gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, where Jesus is shown to be forgiving and loving of all people, even those who have sinned. Examples include his forgiveness of a woman’s adultery, Mary, saying that ‘he who is without sin shall cast the first stone’, highlighting the concept of sin being in all people and the need for kindness and forgiveness. The concept of original sin shown through Adam and Eve highlights how God’s perfection was ruined by the sinful nature of humanity shown when Eve gave into temptation, and humans now are sinful by nature and require salvation. The practice of baptism is when an infant or adult is ceremoniously cleansed in front of the church community, becoming a child of Christ and God. Original sin is believed to be cleansed through this practice, as trust is placed in the grace and love of Jesus Christ which frees humanity from sin. Baptism marks the inclusion of the child or person in the church community, and through Christ as a pure child of God.

Salvation was also shown to be given to humanity through God sacrificing his son, Jesus Christ, to atone for the sins of humans. Jesus, outlined through the concept of trinity, is the perfect embodiment of God’s divine nature, but is also human and the sinless “lamb of God”. Therefore, through Jesus Christ salvation can be given to people as he is the perfect embodiment of Gog’s love and all that is good. The holy day Good Friday remembers and commemorates Jesus’ crucifixion told in the Gospel of Matthew, showing his sacrifice for humanity’s sins. Jesus is forced to carry his cross through Jerusalem and is crucified because of disagreements that he is the next messiah and saviour of all people, going against the beliefs of the temple. The holy day allows Christians to remember this sacrifice of Jesus as an expression of God’s love, showing Jesus being the salvation of humanity.

The practice of the Eucharist in Christian church services also commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus to save humanity. The practice consists of members of the congregation eating and drinking bread and wine, representing the body and blood of Jesus. This practice commemorates the last supper, the meal which Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, outlined in the gospels of Matthew Mark and Luke. During this time, Jesus tells his disciples to eat the bread which is his body and drink the wine which is his blood, showing his sacrifice of himself for his disciples. His willingness to give up his life for others is the expression of God’s love (as Jesus is a part of the trinity, containing God’s divinity), for the salvation of his people. The practice of the Eucharist in Christian church services shows members of the church receiving Jesus’ sacrifice for the purpose of salvation and freedom from sin.