

SPIRITUAL

MEMORIAL

OF

WORSHIP

WHY CHRISTIANITY?

COURSE 101

LEARNER'S GUIDE

Truth Explosion

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

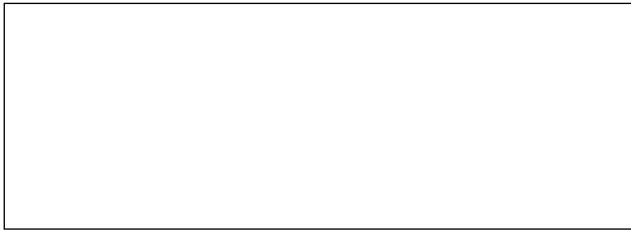
Matthew 28:20

Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

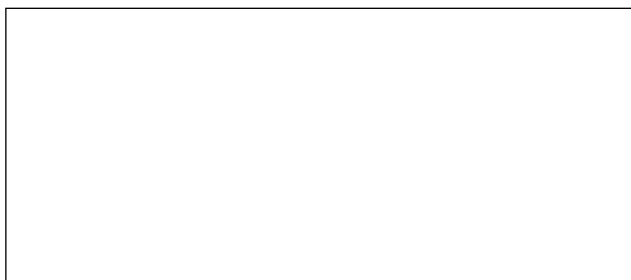
We have a biblical mandate to "teach" people sound doctrine.

The above Scripture clearly indicates that you are in the right place at the right time! You are here to learn and be taught everything He has commanded. What He has commanded brings us to the topic of **sound doctrine**.

Why is doctrine important?



Statistics:



"The doctrine of salvation" embraces all of time, as well as eternity past and future. It touches all of mankind and all of creation without exception. It even has ramifications in the sphere of the angels. It is the central theme of both the Old and the New Testaments. It is personal, international, and cosmic and centres on the greatest Person who ever lived –our Lord Jesus Christ - Thumbran, Shan, 2021.

L E S S O N 1

- S U C H A G R E A T S A L V A T I O N

"How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?" (Heb 2:3a).

Today we are exploring the concept of salvation, or the doctrine called soteriology in theological circles, drawing from the Greek term “*soter*”, meaning, "saviour." We will explore important concepts, definitions, and questions; for instance, if salvation is God saving us, then, what have we been saved from? How did God save us?

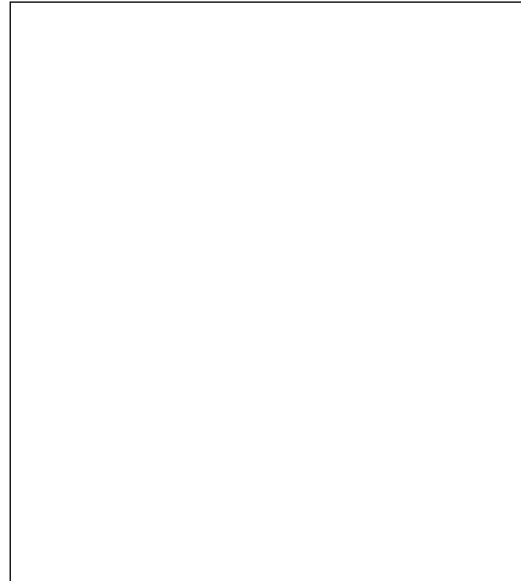
“When the Bible says that people need to be saved, it communicates the message that they are _____.

Jesus Himself said He came "to seek and to _____ that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

It is vital that people understand that they are eternally lost _____

Jesus Christ. They desperately need to be saved because they are totally lost and without hope for _____ apart from Christ”.

What is Salvation?




The Concept of sin

God has not defined sin as normal or as subjective. His concept of sin is the same today as it was in eternity past when Lucifer and one-third of the angels rebelled against Him. Anything that God hates, we ought to hate too, and God hates sin.

What is sin?

Sin is anything that fails to conform to the holy and perfect character of God.

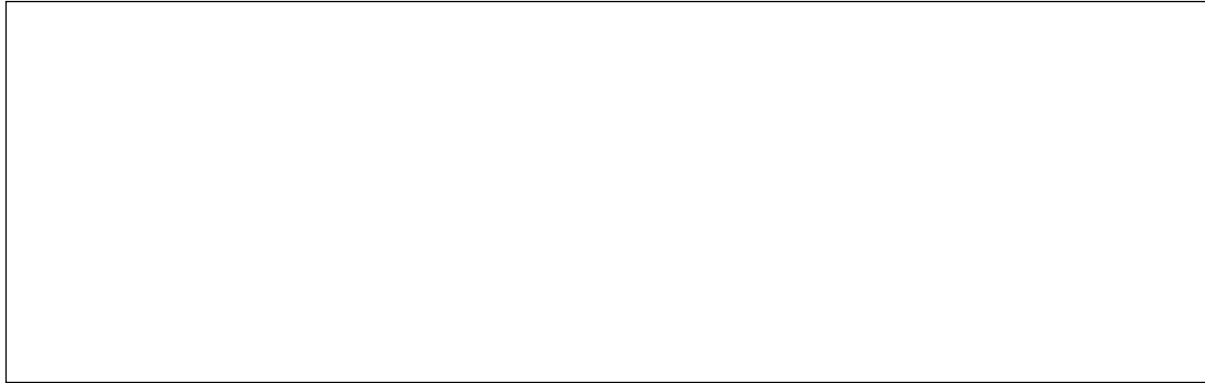
What does Proverbs 16 v. 16-19 tell you?



Holiness is God's Standard

The holiness of God is the "attribute of attributes!"

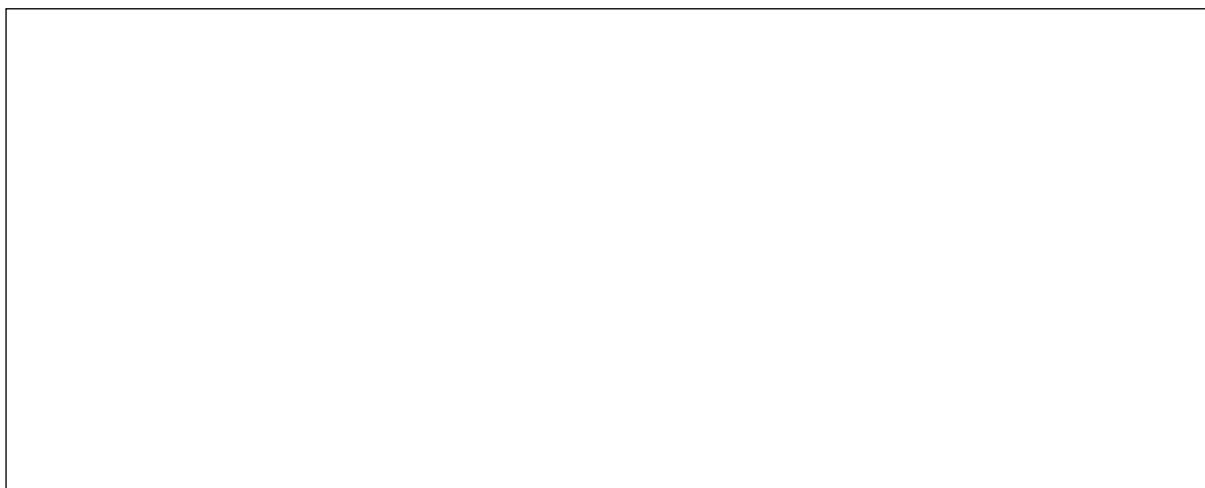
Holiness is the attribute by which God wanted to be especially known in Old Testament times (Lev 11:44 f.; Josh 24:19; 1 Sam. 6:20; Ps 22:3; Isa. 40:25; Ezk 39:7; Hab 1: 12; Lev 19:2).



We have become too comfortable living in an age that _____ God's standard and makes _____ that which He hates.

Sin is the failure to reflect God's holy character and obey His righteous laws.
(Romans 3:23).

According to what the apostle John wrote in 1 John 1:5, what is God?
Also reference John 3:4-5.



How Sin Entered

According to these Scripture references, list in the block below where did sin come from? (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-14). (Rom 12:3).

Sin began in _____, and it started with the _____ for desiring not only more and more, but the ultimate, to be _____, which is _____.

Pride is so pervasive that it can spread in a person's heart, and they are not aware of it. (1 Timothy 3:6; Genesis 2:17).

What does the forbidden remind our first parents (Adam & Eve) of?
(Genesis 3:1 – 6; Romans 5:12)

How Sin Corrupted Humanity

Depravity means that every facet of human nature has been _____, _____, and _____ by sin. We are spiritually dead in our sin. We walk according to the powers of this world and indulge in the lust of the flesh. Until the Holy Spirit convicts us!

Sin's Corruption Is Complete

Are we as humans born corrupt, or do we become corrupt over time? See Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:18; Ephesians 2:1.

When God told Adam and Eve that on the day they ate from the tree, He commanded them not to eat from, what would happen to them? (Genesis 2:17; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 6:23).

Sin's Corruption Is Obvious

Sin can also be collective, as when an entire nation or group of people systematically participates in and supports evil. Slavery is an example of collective sin. (Genesis 19:24-25). Sin is also collective in the sense that the entire creation has been affected by sin (Romans 18:19-22).

The Bible is very clear about the consequences of sin. What is the wages of sin according to Romans 6:23?

Death in the Bible never means the _____. Death means eternal _____.

Three Deaths Resulting from Sin

1. What is Spiritual death according to Ephesians 2; Genesis 3:8-10.

2. What is Physical death according to Rom 5:12.

3. What is Eternal death according to Revelation 20:14-15?

Spiritual death can be reversed by salvation, and physical death will be reversed by resurrection. But there is no reversal of eternal death. The horror of eternal death is total separation from God. Hell is the worst form of bondage because people are locked in their sin forever.

Sin's Devastation on the Creation

All of creation, what we call nature, was affected by sin. We have all the disturbances and destructiveness of nature because sin has spoiled God's creation. Romans 8:21-22

The unusual part of it all is that God is not responsible for it; Adam _____ is. Yet, God _____ keeps sin from having total domination in nature.

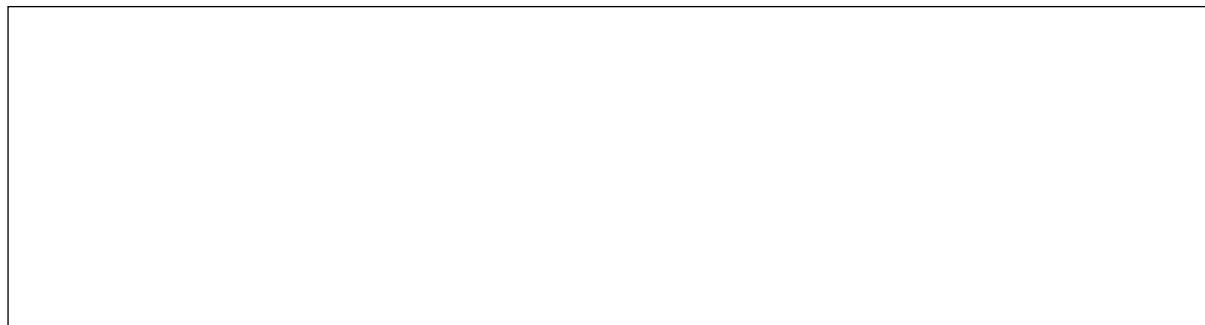
When God created Adam, He put him in the Garden of Eden "to cultivate it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

When Adam sinned, God cursed the ground as one of the consequences (3:17-18).



The Cure for Sin - Salvation

Even if it has not yet been discovered, every disease has a cure. Sin is a dreaded disease from which all of creation is crying out for a cure. God has a remedy for this scourge, which is found in the Cross of Jesus Christ (John 3:16).



PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Lucifer's original sin was one of pride. He wanted to be equal with God.

That thinking is pretty much at the root of our own sin. Before we came to Christ, most of us operated as if we were our own gods. If you are not a believer and have never dealt with this issue of your heart, it is important then that you do. It takes humility to simply acknowledge your sinfulness before God (Romans 3:9-10), to believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died to pay for your sins on the cross and arose from the dead to save you (Rom 5:8). You can know the joy of forgiveness and eternal life. If you have not received Jesus, why don't you say the sinner's prayer (see appendix *Sinners Prayer*) and ask Him to come live in your heart?

2. Proverbs 14 gives a list of the social sins we can get ourselves into, what are these? Read this chapter of Proverbs. If any of these are problem areas for you, bring them to the Lord right now and ask Him to remove these sins. Also, if He reminds you of anyone whose forgiveness you need to seek, do it as soon as possible.

3. Psalm 32 expresses David's joy at God's _____ after he repented of his sin. Read this wonderful Psalm. If you cannot honestly say this is your experience right now, go before the Lord and stay there until you have dealt with anything that might be blocking your fellowship with Him.

4. God sometimes uses fellow Christians to draw us back. What would be your attitude if another believer came to you, with the right motive, to confront you in love about a sin in your life? Would your first response be anger and defensiveness, or openness and gratitude that someone cared?

Salvation, Gradual and Instant

Only God can _____ the disease of sin. Only the _____ _____
_____ _____ can offer the payment required to appease God justice, the payment, the blood of His own Son (Rom 6:23)

Salvation is both an instant reality and a gradual process.

Three Aspects of Salvation

Salvation narrowly defined, could also mean being brought into a state of “*soundness and wholeness* before God” (Chafer, Lewis, S, 1976, 21). It means, coming into a place of _____, where man escape the stormy winds of the wrath of Heaven and enter into God's great harbour of _____ and _____.

Biblical Salvation has three aspects:

(a) *I am* _____ (Justified).

(b) I am _____ (Sanctified).

(c) I am _____ (Glorified).

Or, to express these important concepts more fully ...

1. I am **SAVED** from the **PENALTY** of sin. (Eph 2:45; Rom 6:23).

At the moment a person places their faith in the finished work of Christ, that individual is saved from the death *penalty* for sin and is declared **righteous**. (Gen.15:6; Ps. 103:12; Rom. 4:1–5; Titus 3:5).

2. I am **BEING** saved from the **POWER** of sin. (Phl 2:12b-13; 2 Per 1:10-11).

This is the present tense of salvation. At the moment a person places their faith in the finished work of Christ, that individual is not only justified but the ongoing working process of sanctification, begins. This is when they in this present life as a believer in Christ, is also being saved from the power of sin (Rom 5:10; Heb 7:25; James 1:21).



3. I am **ABOUT** to be saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin. (Phl 3:20-21 NIV; 1Thes 5:9-10 NIV; Heb 9:28 NIV)

This is the future tense of salvation and speaks of the great hope that lies before us.



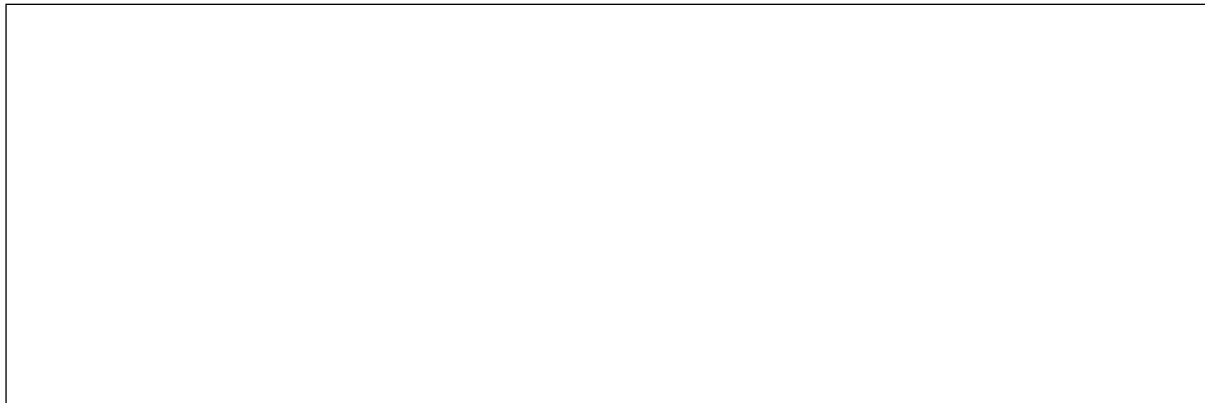
Three Doctrines of Salvation

Justification, Sanctification and Glorification. These three basic doctrines can also be expressed in this way... “If I have accepted Christ as Saviour, and walk with Him day by day, then ...”

1. I have been delivered from all PAST sin - that is I am **JUSTIFIED**. (Acts 13: 38-39 NIV; Rom 5:1 NIV).



JUSTIFICATION means: (John 3:16; Rom 3:24; Rev 22:17; Rom 5:1)



Appreciating our Justification

We don't measure sin by human standard, we measure sin by the absolute perfection resident in a holy God. Since God's verdict is the only one that _____, we need to answer how guilty sinners can be made _____ before a perfectly holy and perfectly just God. (Job 9:2; Psalm 130:3; Romans 3:24-26).

The Declaration of Righteousness

The declaration of Righteousness is another essential aspect to understand. (Romans 8:33; Rom 5:12-14).



The Benefits of Righteousness

The gift of justification produces a radical change and benefits that we can enjoy.

Write in the blocks below what each practically mean to you, try to give examples.

1. Incredible Peace

Romans 5:1; Romans 8:31, 35, 37.

2. Unlimited Access

Romans 5:2.

3. Eternal Hope

Romans 5:3-5; Rom 8:28.

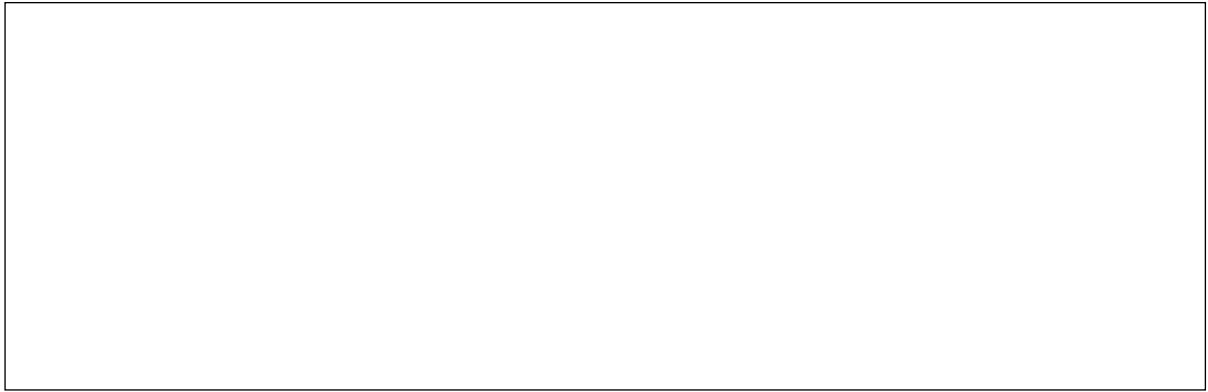
4. Restoration to Fellowship

Justification by the blood of Christ brings us _____ into a right relationship with God. We _____ need to get saved again. The penalty for sin has _____ been paid. While we can never lose our relationship with God, we can _____ our fellowship (intimacy) with Him due to sin... Confession means... (1 John 2:1.)

Repentance, on the other hand, addresses the need to repair our relationship with God due to some prolonged unrighteous attitude or action in order to prevent or terminate His temporal judgment for our sins. The word *repent* means to _____ the mind in order to reverse the direction. (Luke 15).

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

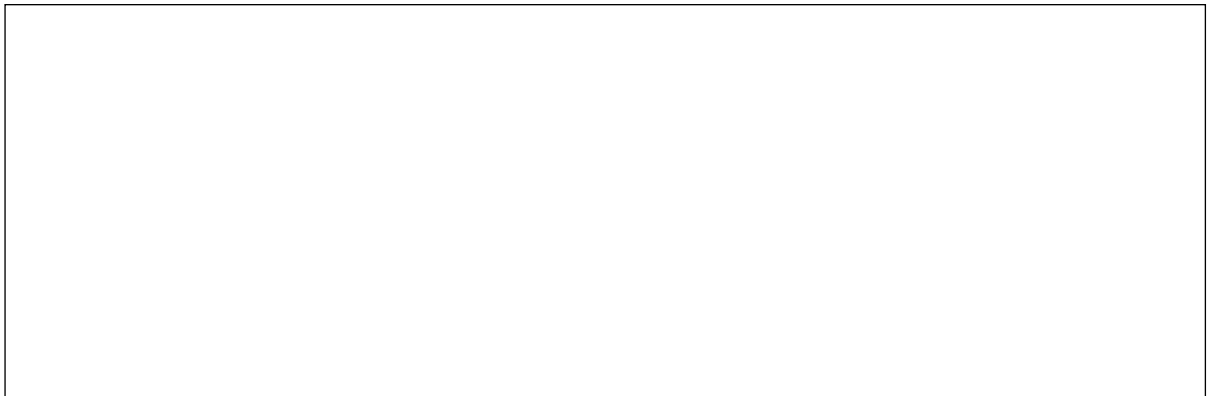
1. In our current post Christian era, Christian norms are no longer widely acknowledged or accepted, so how we conduct our lives in full view of the world can impact our culture.
2. Do you feel like people and circumstances are against you? Well, take courage! One of the great benefits of being justified by faith is that we have the peace of God that has removed the barrier of sin in our lives. Whatever is getting you down, keep this promise before you: "In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Romans 5:37). Claim your victory!
3. According to Romans 8:28, God has called us according to His purpose. What does this mean for your personally? Obedience to God's Word aligns us to His will.



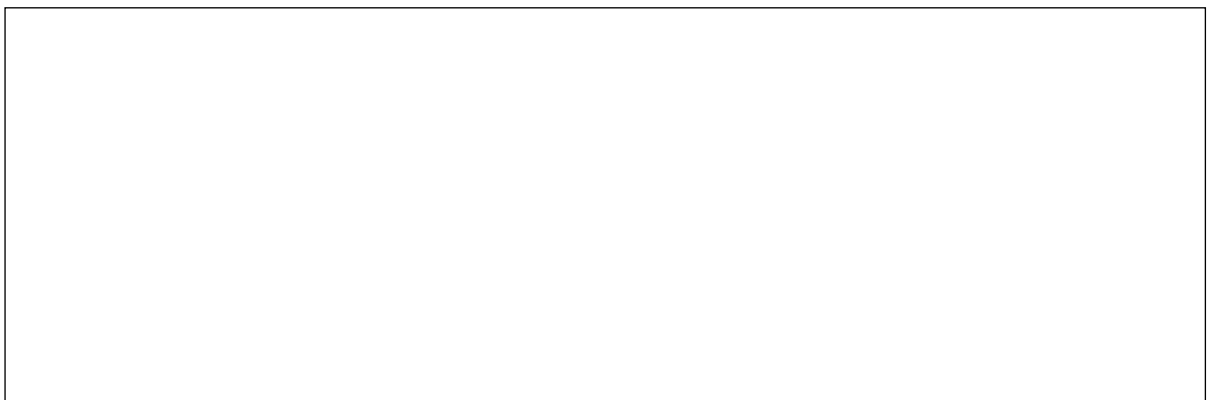
4. Romans 3:10 is emphatic. None of us are righteous.

Nothing you can do can make you righteous in God's eyes. But because you are justified by God, He credits His righteousness to you! It's an amazing spiritual transaction on your behalf, and one you _____ . Always try to _____ your justification in visible ways, or works, that point others to Christ.

I am being delivered from all PRESENT sin: that is, I am **SANCTIFIED**. (1 Th 4:1-4 NIV; 2 Th 2:13 NIV).



SANCTIFICATION vs JUSTIFICATION (John 10:10; Phil 2:12; 2 Pet 1:5-9)



Our sanctification is a _____ changing and developing of our total being into the _____ of Jesus. It is the conscious setting _____ of ourselves for the service of God (Rom 12:1-2).

Infancy to Maturity – Signs of spiritual maturity is when you crave for:

- 1. Deeper _____ of God’s truths and the ability to _____ it.**
(1 Cor 3:1).

- 2. Recognises the difference between right and wrong, then does what is right. Spiritually mature people don’t need “_____” like a babysitter, looks after a young kid. (Heb 5:14).**

- 3. Not easily _____ by false teachers or teachings. They are _____ in God’s word and classical Bible doctrine. (Eph 4:13-15).**

- 4. Rooted in the _____ of God. Their words and actions flow from the fountain of God's love, especially for _____ . (Eph 4:13-15).**

- 5. _____ their church. (Eph 4:13-15).**

6. Lives with an _____ perspective. (Phl 3:13-15).

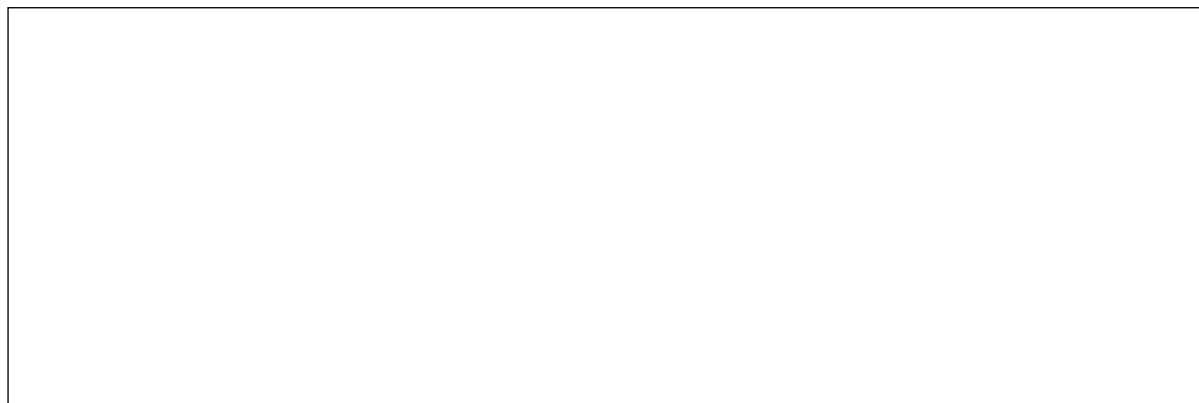
7. Control their _____. If a Christian has good control of his speech, you know he is on a path to _____. (James 3:2).

8. Reflects God's _____ to the world. (Matt 5:48).

Set Apart from, and Set Apart to

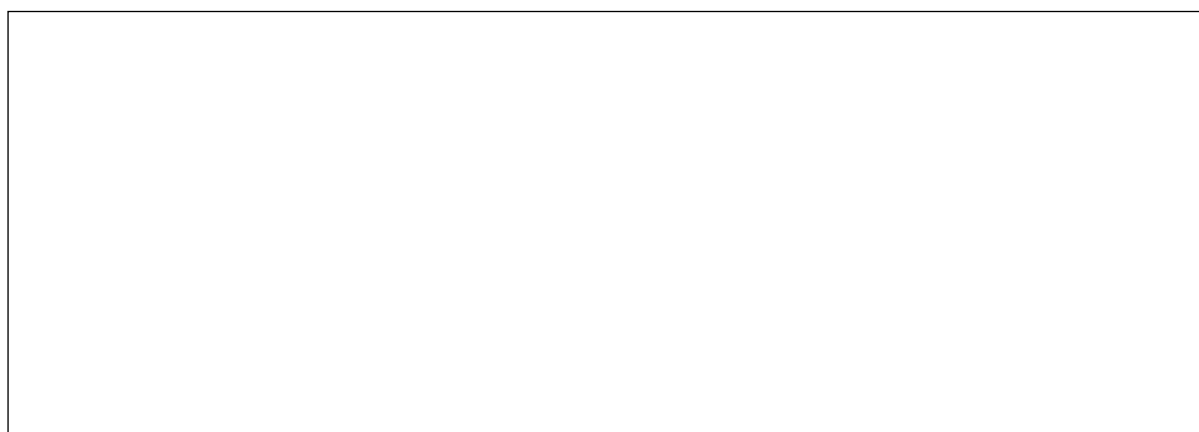
The word sanctification means " _____ ."

Every Christian can experience the two-fold reality of sanctification – being set apart from something and set apart to something else. (1 Peter 3:15).



Three Phases of Sanctification

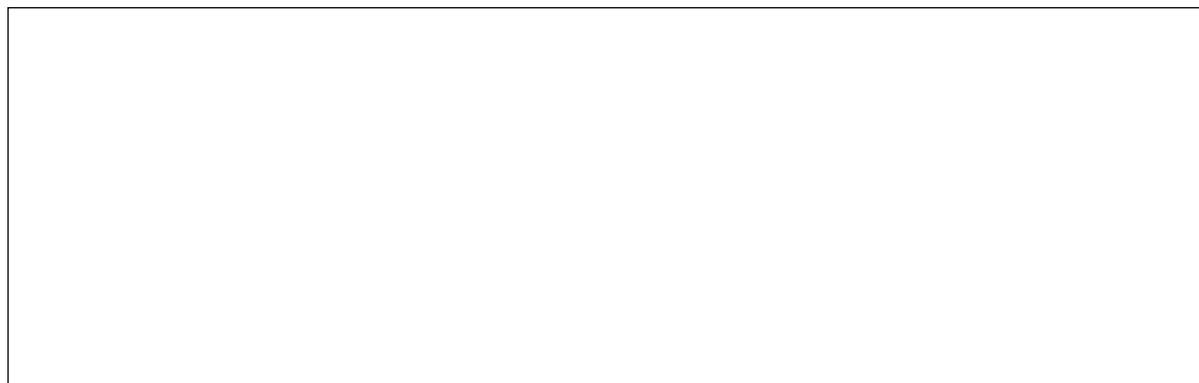
God's ultimate goal in our sanctification is stated for us in Romans 8:29.



Our sanctification as positional, progressive, and perfect.

Our Sanctification Is Positional

What is the spiritual position we were given at salvation? (Ephesians 2:6).



Our Sanctification Is Progressive

Remember 1 Peter 3:15? "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." This is the essence of progressive sanctification, which involves acting in accordance with your position. (2 Corinthians 7:1)



“Stating it in another way, progressive sanctification means that we are now telling sin what to do and where to get off instead of sin bossing us around”.

Our Sanctification Will Be Perfect

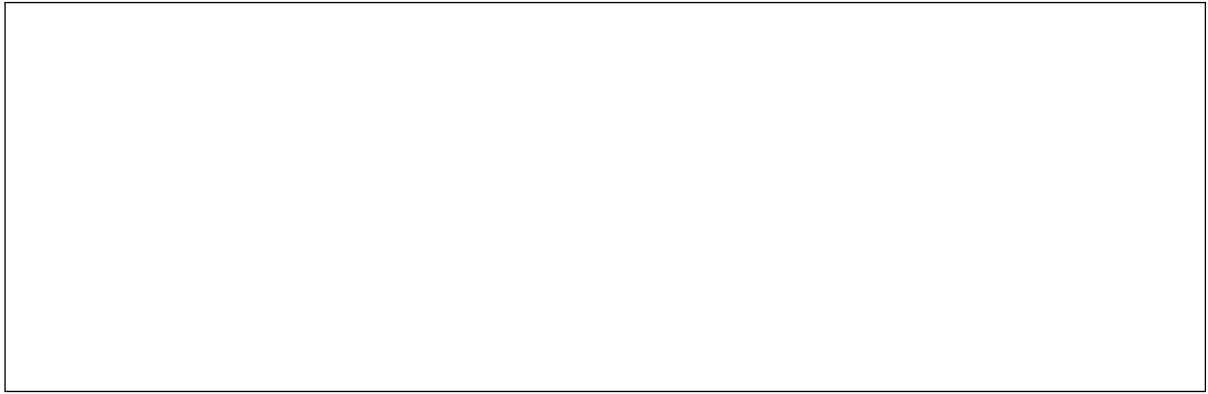
Our sanctification is not only positional and progressive, but someday it will be perfected. The completion of our sanctification will be the completion of our _____.

Listen to the words of Jesus' half-brother, Jude, "To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy" (v. 24).

How does the process of trading our sin-scarred bodies for new bodies take place? How do we leave behind these earthly lives of progressive sanctification for the perfection of Heaven when we are with the Lord? See 1 John 3:2.



We believe because of Paul's word of comfort and hope (2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43).

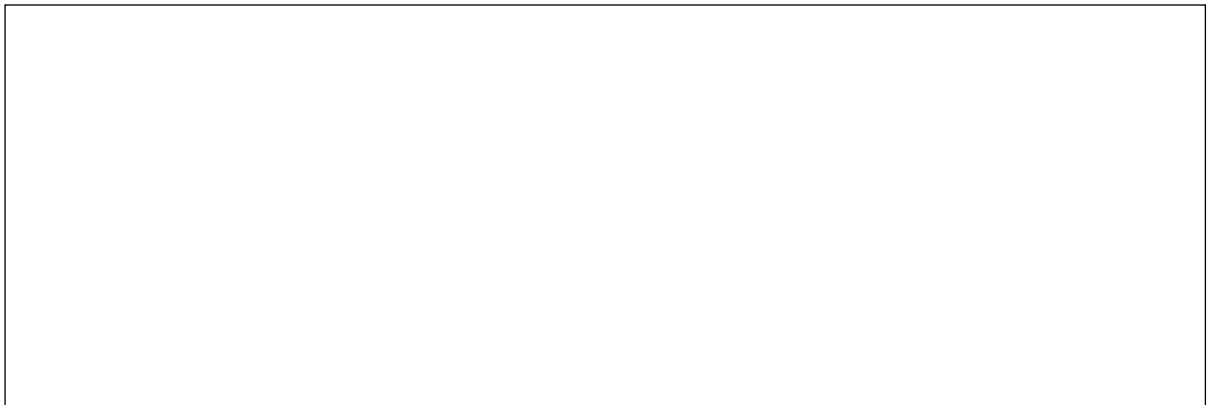


The Dynamic of Daily Sanctification

How can I get victorious sanctification working in my life right now? **This is an issue for all of us because every Christian has ingrained habits and sin patterns that need to be broken and a mind that needs to be re-educated.**

God and You Are Working Together

Your growth in Christ is a cooperative effort between you and God. (Romans 8:13; Col 1:29, Phil 4:13, Phil 2:12-13)

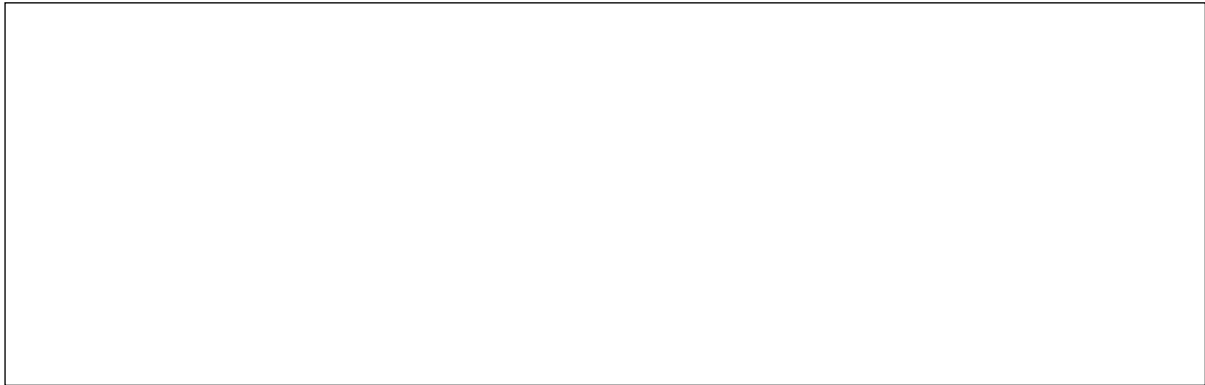


The Trinity Is at Work in You

Exodus 31:13 calls God "the Lord who sanctifies you." Jesus prayed to His Father, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17). God the Father uses the Word to bring cleansing in the Christian's life. (1 Pet 5:10; 1 John 1:7)



Jesus Christ is our Cleanser and Sanctifier. (1 John 2:1, 2 Cor 3:18)



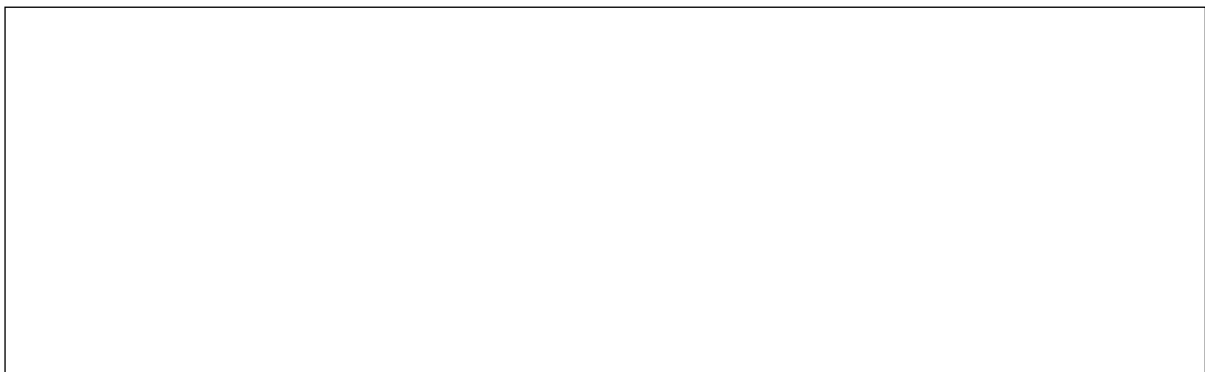
You Have a Role in Your Sanctification

The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:12 to work out our own salvation. In other words, I cannot work out your salvation for you, or vice versa.



PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Give your inner resident, Jesus Christ, a scrub brush, mop, bucket, and what- ever else He needs to scrub you clean and make you look good. Yield any known area of disobedience to Him. Give Him the key and the permission to enter any room of your heart that may be locked now.



2. Galatians 2:20 is a verse every Christian should memorize and quote every day. Write it down and review it daily. Say it to yourself until the truth of it becomes part of your permanent memory bank.

3. The present tense part of your sanctification has to do with the daily conduct of your Christian life. One of the ways we improve on our practice is by spiritually cleansing ourselves. Sin present in your life will prevent fellowship with God. Make it a point to claim the promise of 1 John 2:1 daily and stay clean before God.

4. Is your heart divided between the Lord and the world? Only you can answer that. Sometime soon, get alone with God and read through James 4:1-10 prayerfully. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how your love life with the Lord is doing.

3. I will be delivered from any PROSPECT of sin: that is, I will be **GLORIFIED**.

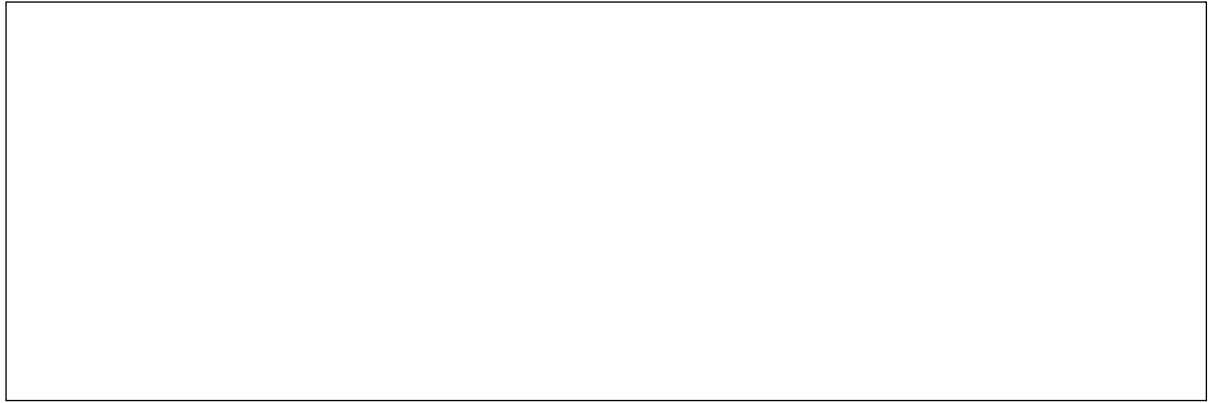
“...In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in Heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet 1:3b-5 NIV).

“...Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2 NIV).

GLORIFICATION

While justification is a free gift, sanctification involves a _____, and glorification will include _____ for the sanctification process in the future state. It means that in the future kingdom of God sin will be no more... (Rev 21:3-4 NIV).

(Matt 16:24-27; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Col 3:23-25; Rev 3:21, 22:12; Rom 8:16-18 NIV). Every Christian has a tremendous hope lying before him, a hope of honour, of reward, of eternal joy.



The Splendour of Salvation

The splendour of salvation should be clear for you now to understand, as we examined it in its threefold understanding; justified, sanctified, and glorified. We, could say:

“Salvation embraces everything God provided for us by Jesus Christ's sacrifice at Calvary. It includes the mercy of God; adoption into the Father's family; forgiveness of all sin; victory over Satan's power; healing of body mind and spirit; financial empowerment; a complete and free righteousness; abundant supply of every need; peace of heart and mind; a part in the resurrection; and a calling to reign as a prince or princess with Christ from now and when He establishes His Kingdom.”

If the word salvation means to be saved, then we are saved from the following conditions of sin:

The Penalty of Sin

This is the first fundamental aspect of our great _____ . (John 3:16-18).

God has a remedy for this scourge, which is found through the Cross of Jesus Christ (John 3:16).



The Bible declares man to be ...

Doomed Sinners

(Rom 3:23; Rom 5:12).



Alienated from God

“...We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;” (Is 53:6a).

“..But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear” (Isa 59:2).

Lost and Hopeless

(Rom 3:10-12; Rom 1:18).



Spiritually in Darkness

(Mich 7:21- 23; 1 Cor 2:14).

It is _____ for anyone to shake himself free from the result of his sin. In His immense _____, the Father chose the second alternative, read: John 3:16-17 and John 3:3

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Salvation is an all-encompassing word. Reflect on each of the areas, God has saved us in, find Scriptures that support these realities, and begin to thank God for His goodness and mercy and believe God for the victory in other areas.

2. In your own words, describe the penalty of sin and how God's salvation through Jesus has saved us.

Introduction to Lesson Two

BORN AGAIN IS NOT ENOUGH! It takes two to tango, as they say - and they're right. Success even in relationships are intentional. So, an autopilot approach in one's relationship with God will not work, because the same principle applies in our walk with God.

It is not enough to believe in the 'new birth' or in being 'born again'. We must pursue a personal and passionate relationship with Jesus Christ. Being born gain is getting to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a _____ *Saviour*. (1 John 1:3; Rom 10:9-10).

In this lesson, we learn about Nicodemus and his search for the truth. (Luke 22:6; Acts :5; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5).

LESSON 2 – BORN AGAIN IS NOT ENOUGH

“You must be born again” (John 3:7a).

What is the New Birth?

This may best be answered by stating firstly, what it is not! It is obvious from the word of God, that being born again (the theological term: regeneration) does not mean a mere turning over a new leaf, a new start or beginning. Nor is the new birth found in baptism, nor in the dedication of infants, nor in church membership. A person can be a church member all his life and yet not be born again! (John 3:1-9; John 3:2,3).

Nicodemus was a ruler, was rich, was a great preacher, active in religious affairs, believed in Scripture, respected Jesus – *YET HE WAS NOT SAVED!*

Is it possible that many people who are sitting in church each week hearing God's glorious word, including pastors who share the word, are ____ born again? What do you think in the light of the story of Nicodemus?

Christianity Not Churchianity

Are people relying on their social standing, or their Bible knowledge, or their respect for God, or their church activities, to bring them eternal life? (Isa 64:6).

It is impossible for the natural man to do anything pleasing in the sight of God; all our self-activities are stained by sin and made unpleasant to the Lord.

Only One Way

We conclude that salvation, the experience of the ____ ____, is not something which a man of his own will can produce within himself: far from it - the new birth is a divinely wrought change of _____ making one a _____ in Christ. (Acts 13:39; Rom 3:20; Rom 3:28; Eph 2:8-9; 2 Tim1:9; Tit 3:3-7).

Urgency of the New Birth

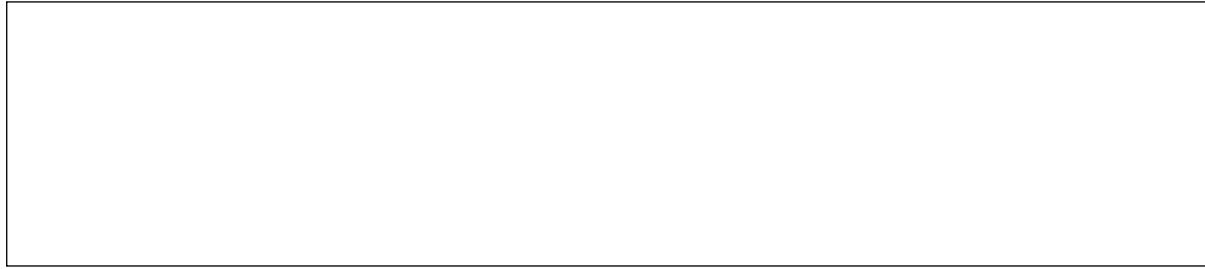
We can easily see the vast importance of being truly saved by faith in Christ alone (John 3:5-7; John 3:5-7).

Across the ages of human history, man has ever chosen the way of the flesh, not the way of the Spirit of God. Adam and Eve chose the fleshy tree of _____, rather than the tree of _____. (Gen 3:19b; 1 Co 2:14; 1 Cor 15:50; John 4:24).

Only Christ can lift us from the dust of mortal life into the eternal reality of the kingdom of God. So, we see the absolute necessity for a man to be born again.

Nature of the New Birth

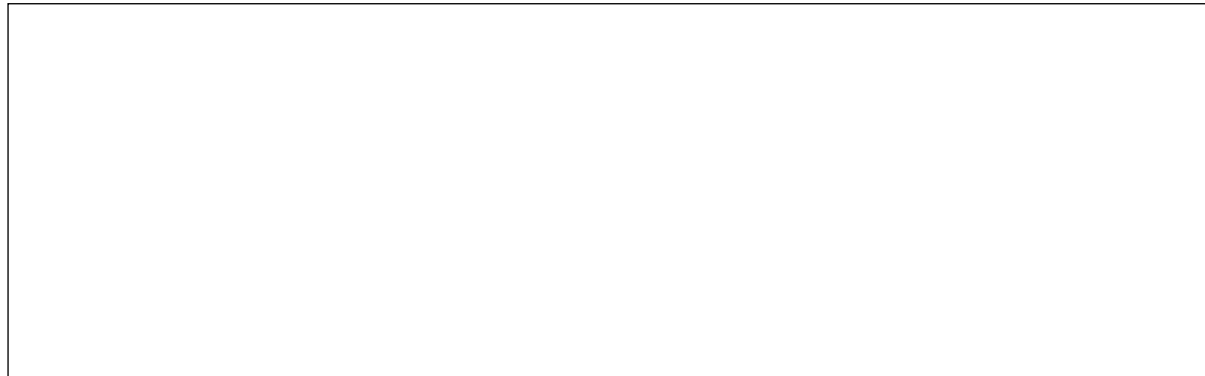
The words of the Lord Jesus Christ to Nicodemus, show that _____ is the spiritual counterpart of our natural birth. The Master said, “You must be born again!” Nicodemus heard these words and *immediately* he saw their implication. (*John 3:4a*; John 3:4b). This great man saw the startling significance of Jesus' words.



Born of Water and Spirit

Jesus answered Nicodemus' query in two ways. (John 3:5; John 3:8).

With all their vast knowledge, men today still do not really understand the way of the winds. So it is with the new birth. Born of water and born of Spirit. (John 15:3; Eph 5:25b-26; Tit 3:5).



New Birth Our Spiritual Regeneration

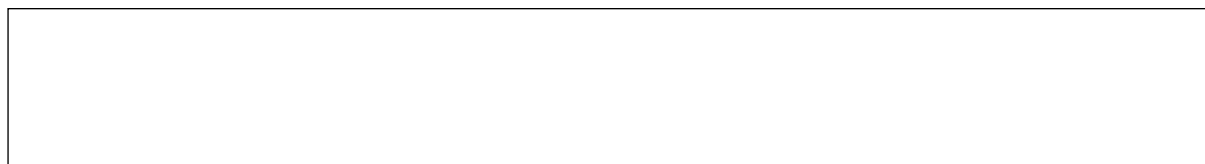
We can define the term of *regeneration* as the process by which God implants new spiritual life, His very life and nature, in the heart of a sinner who believes on Jesus Christ for salvation. This means the _____ of the sinner is no longer sin because it has been regenerated. Its nature is the nature of God, that seeks to do His will, regardless of the mind and body that needs to be sanctified.

Exploring the Meaning of Spiritual Regeneration

The Bible uses at least three figures to describe the process of regeneration.

The New Birth

The first is the new birth, most familiar with under the term "born again" (John 3:3, 7).



The Spiritual Resurrection

The Bible also describes regeneration as spiritual resurrection. (Rom 6:4-5).

The New Creation

A third important biblical figure for regeneration is a new creation. We have seen the Apostle Paul's powerful statement in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

Necessity of the Regeneration

The truths we have just reviewed describe _____ changes of heart and life, because regeneration is just that – a radical process. Nothing less will do the job when it comes to bringing life out of death.

We Are Born Spiritually Dead

The Bible declares that we are made up of three realities: body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess 5:23). Our first parents died _____ the day they disobeyed God, and every member of the human race is born dead in "trespasses and sins" (Eph 2:1).

We Are in Need of Eternal Life

Regeneration occurs when God imparts to us His very life, which the Bible calls eternal life. (John 17:3).

It's important to see that Jesus did not define eternal life solely in terms of its length. The eternal life that God gives is a quality of life that Jesus defined as knowing God the Father and Himself. We can enjoy intimate, face-to-face _____ with God because we have His life within us.

The Means of Regeneration

Regeneration occurs by a sovereign work of God in the heart of the believing sinner. It could not be any other way, for salvation is God's initiative from beginning to end. In fact, the entire _____ is involved in the work of regeneration. What is the means by which God regenerates us? (James 1:18; John 5:21; Titus 3:5; James 1:18 and John 5:21; 1 John 3:14).

Jesus Announces the New Birth

John 3 is a story about a man named Nicodemus who visited Jesus. The Greek term Jesus used for "born again" can also be translated "born from above," which points to the source of regeneration and the new life that it brings.

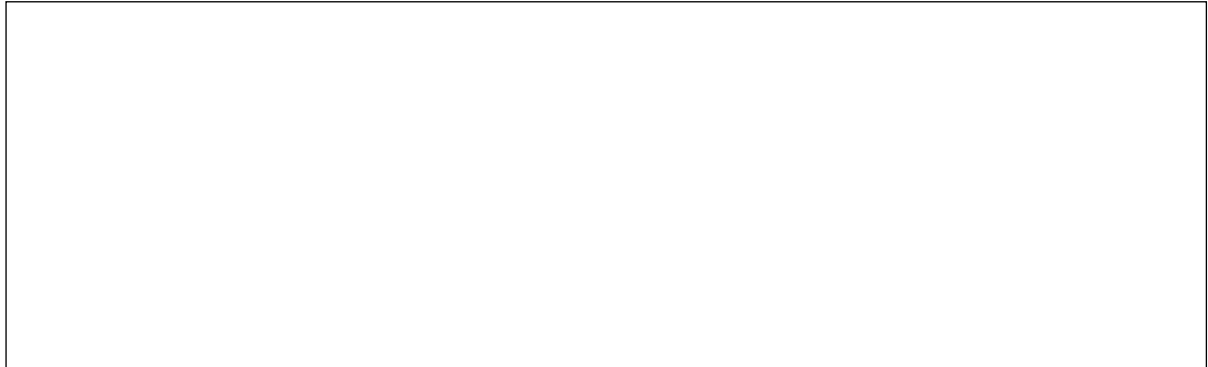
Religion Is Not the New Birth

Nicodemus was mystified by Jesus' answer (John 3:4,5). Jesus was telling Nicodemus that he needed to be born _____, not once, to enter the kingdom of God. To relate to God, we need to be made alive in our _____, which only comes through spiritual birth.

Jesus made this clear by His next statement to Nicodemus. Flesh can only give birth to flesh. It cannot give birth to spirit. Only spirit can replicate spirit. _____ can make you a better person, but only _____ can make you alive when your spirit is dead in sin. (John 3:6,7).

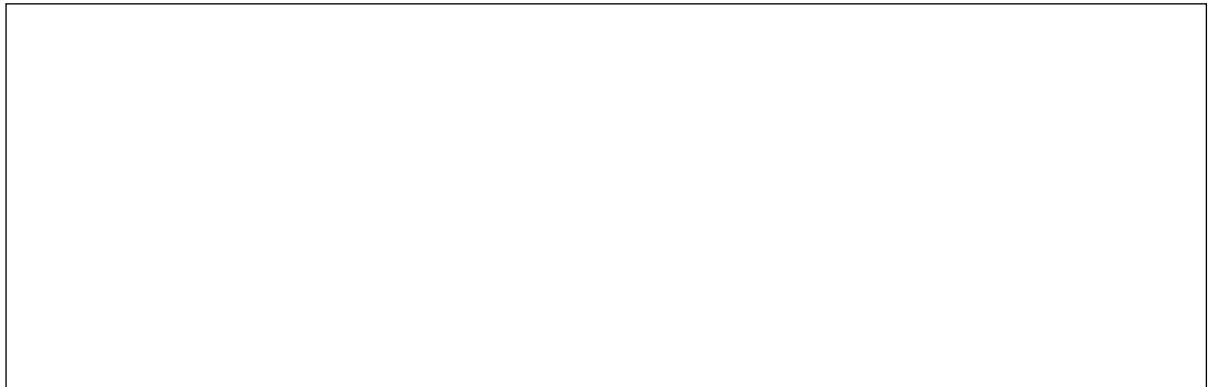
Salvation Is from God Alone

Jesus then perplexed Nicodemus even more by using another analogy to illustrate the mysterious, sovereign nature of salvation. (John 3:8,9).



We've Been Bitten by Sin

The means of regeneration is the new life. Jesus used an illustration in John 3:14-15. Jesus was lifted up on the Cross to pay for those sins, and anyone who looks to Him will not die but will receive new life.



The Manifestation of Regeneration

If you are born again by the Spirit of God and the life of God is in you, there should be manifestations of that life that are unmistakably obvious both to you and to those around you (Galatians 5:16-17).



We Will Resemble Our Father

Another way that regeneration manifests itself is by the child bearing the characteristics of its parents. That's true in physical and spiritual birth. We have seen that when God saved us, He put His own _____ within us. (1 John 3:9; 2 Peter 1:4; Colossians 2:10).

Every Christian is born again _____. There are no spiritual defects in our new life. Why do we still have imperfect thoughts and say and do imperfect things? How can we know that we are beginning to resemble our Heavenly Father, Who gave us new birth and wants us to reflect His nature? (Romans 7:20)

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Lesson 2 explains that sin left us spiritually dead with no ability to fellowship with God. Now, as a believer, you have been regenerated with new life and enabled to enjoy fellowship with God. Do you take that truth for granted? As a child of God, don't let a day go by without communing with your Heavenly Father.

2. God's work of regeneration is one of the great truths of Scripture. It's one of the many spiritual works and resources God provides for us. Take a moment to thank Him for all the resources He has given us for pressing on in the life of faith and living it victoriously.

3. Does your new life in Christ show? The Bible tells us that we are "made complete" in Christ because of our new birth (Colossians 2:10). Someday we will know that completeness fully. In our daily experience, we must always strive to grow in our new life and show the characteristics of Christ. When people see you, do they see Christ?

4. First John 3:9 tells us: "No one who is born of God practices sin."

In our experience, however, all of us fail and sin daily. Obviously, the new life from God is not the part doing the sin in our lives. Rather, we find ourselves _____ by our old sin nature. Do you have any sin in your life that you need to confess? If so, embrace 1 John 2:1 and clean that sin from your mind and heart through our advocate Jesus Christ. It has no place in your life!

PICTURE THIS

Regeneration is the _____ work of God in the heart of the believer. As physical conception results in physical life, spiritual conception results in spiritual life. Below are four truths that help explain the work of regeneration.

God’s Work in Regeneration

TRUTH	SCRIPTURE	WHAT IT MEANS
Saved for relationship.	1 John 1:3	Christianity not only consists in believing in something, but in receiving Someone!
Religion does not lead us into the new birth.	John 3:4-7; 1 Pet 1:18.	Religion standing, cultural or economic standings does not give us a relationship with God, only a spiritual rebirth through faith in Jesus Christ.
Salvation is by God alone.	John 3:8-9.	One of the greatest deceptions by Satan is that religious activity can be a means of salvation. Only through God’s work of regeneration can we be saved.
We have all been bitten by the snake of sin.	John 3:14:15	All of us have this disease called sin. We will all die spiritually unless we receive the regeneration of the new birth, through Jesus Christ.

Introduction to Lesson Three

HOW CAN WE BE BORN AGAIN?

Reflect honestly on these questions...Are you content with your Christian life as it is? Are you sure that you have had a genuine experience of salvation? Are you satisfied

with the depth of your experience, or do you feel that you would like a deeper, more satisfying relationship with the Lord? (2 Tim 1:12b).

As Jesus was _____ to the Father, so we must be also. Jesus was not a ‘Churchchian’, he was a son in _____ with his Father, which defined every moment and corner of his existence. This is the secret to a happy Christian life.

LESSON 3 – HOW CAN WE BE BORN AGAIN?

“Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Gaining the New Birth

Jesus told Nicodemus how he could be born again. Jesus was the Son of man, and he was lifted up on the cross to die for your sins that you might believe in Him and not perish. (John 3:14-15; John 3:16; John 3:17, John 3:18).

So, what does this say about our GOOD WORKS?

Some people have the idea that God will look upon their good works and have mercy upon their souls when they die. This is so far removed from the truth. If you die in an _____, there is no such thing as “rest in peace”. This is why sharing your faith is so important. (John 11:25-26).

Benefits of the New Birth

If any man will _____ repent of his sin, turn back to God, wholeheartedly believe Scripture, and place his utmost faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then God has promised that the Holy Spirit will work a mighty work of _____ in that man. (Rom 8:16).

The benefits of this great salvation:

- His sins, though they were as scarlet, will be utterly _____ and he will have peace as a quiet river. (Isaiah 1:18)
- All things will become _____.
- He will know that he has _____.
- He will be a _____ of God's family.
- He will have _____ unspeakable and full of glory.
- He will have the witness of God's Spirit that he is _____ of God.

Being born of God and becoming a member of God's family, we are born into the _____ of that family, an inheritance splendid beyond all imagination. (Gal 4:7b; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17-18; 1 Pet 1:3-5; 1 John 5:10-13).

Makes No Difference

If any man or woman _____ to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, they will have to face Him when He returns to this earth; and when He comes again it will be to _____, not to save. (John 3:18). You can begin a more abundant life if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Act 4:12b; John 1:12; Rom 10:9).

Who is this Saviour?

Who is this Prince of Peace that has secured for us this great salvation?
(Matt 1:21b; Col 1:15- 20; John 1:29b; 1 Tim 1:15).

He took the _____ that should have fallen on us and died in our place on the cross. (Rom 5:6,8; 1 Pet 2:24)

He poured out His life's _____ that we might be washed clean of every mark of sin. (Heb 9:22b; Heb 9: 26b; 1 Pet 1:18a; 1 Pet 1:19a; 1 John 1:7b).

How do we come to know the Lord, and be “born again”? (John 5:39b; James 1:17-18; 1 Pet 1:23-25).

What does it Mean to Believe?

The word translated BELIEVE in the New Testament means much more than to give a mere mental assent to the truth. It means to _____, to ADHERE TO, or to _____ ONESELF TO. It FIRSTLY means to commit _____

Secondly, we must _____ our faith in Jesus Christ... (Luke 6:45; Matt 10:32-33).

What are we to Confess?

No church can save us; and no man can save us. We are saved by Jesus Christ alone! Therefore, it is Jesus Christ on Whom we must _____ and Whom we must _____(Isa 53:12). WE CAN BE SAVED AND KNOW IT, free from every disturbing _____ and _____. (Prov 27:1; 2 Cor 6:2b; 1 John 5:13).

Assurance Deficit Disorder

The problem with the symptoms of Assurance Deficit Disorder includes an inordinate fear of death and Hell. Why is assurance an important church doctrine? What is the antidote against false teaching? (John 14:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Take a minute to read and reflect on 2 Timothy 2:11-13. How are you running the race of endurance? Those who endure and finish the race will be rewarded by reigning with Christ. Be encouraged that your salvation is unconditional. Be motivated that your

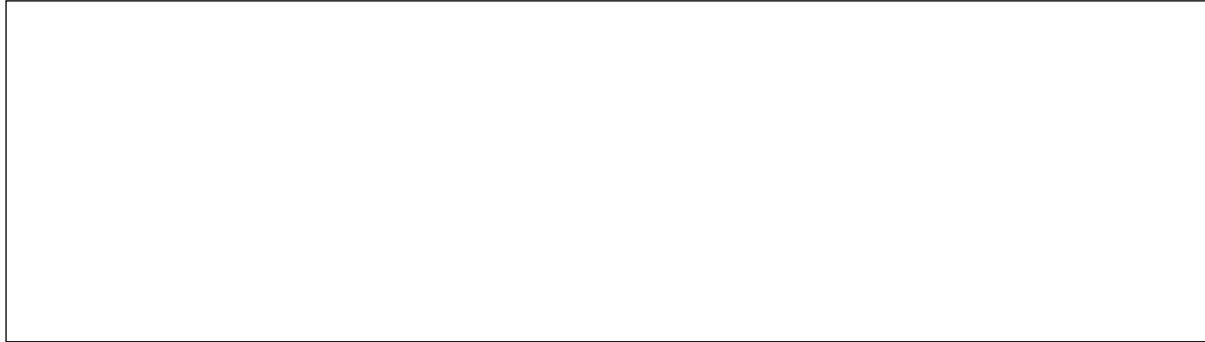
rewards are conditioned upon your response here on earth. Are you game enough to endure the race until the end?

2. How is your relationship with Christ? Since He is your life, are you abiding in Him so you can experience the continued flow of life? Perhaps you have been out of contact with that flow for some time. If so, take a moment to place yourself into His abiding presence, and begin experiencing His empowering in your life.

3. We may not all be equal in our gifts, abilities, and opportunities, but all of us can be faithful to God's call in our lives. Even though we do our best, God knows we all fail at times. The important question is, has dependability been the pattern of your life?

4. People in this life are slaves to many things—money, power, hobbies, sports, and so on. Are you willing to get serious about being a slave for Christ? You'll never be

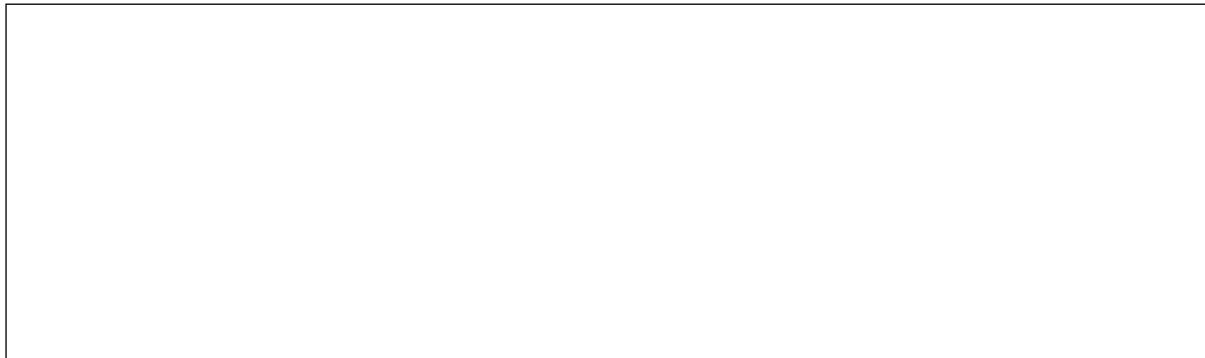
embarrassed if you invest your service in God's Kingdom. God always gives back more than we could ever give up for Him. Throw yourself into God's service and give it your all!



Assurance by Faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48i4l1715uc> HOW GREAT THOU ART

The problem for many Christians is that they do not fully understand what it means to trust Christ and then live by faith. The trouble usually starts when people add human effort either to salvation by faith or to the life of faith. (Eph 2:8-9; Romans 4:2-5).



If salvation is a faith proposition totally apart from works, why should it surprise us that assurance is also a faith proposition totally apart from works? (Isa 64:6; "filthy rags" KJV). The fact is that on the best day we ever had, our finest works are like a soiled garment in God's sight. Look at Jesus' sobering statement in Matt 7:22.



The Nature of Faith

Many people are unclear as to the nature of true faith. The Bible urges us to believe in Christ and receive His offer of salvation, and we are _____ to believe. Does the Bible assign any saving merit to our faith? Does the doctrine of justification by faith save us? Can any doctrine save anyone? Who is the Saviour?

Faith is an inner conviction and persuasion that *what God says to us is true*. Look at Hebrews 11:1 as to what faith means. The object of our faith is far more important than the intensity of our faith. We do not need more faith. (Luke 17:5-6; John 14:1).

For _____, Jesus is the object of our faith, for _____, Jesus is the object of our assurance. Jesus is the object of faith, and if your faith is in Him, you are His for eternity (John 3:16).

APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. One reason we need to rid our lives of known sin immediately is because the Enemy may try to convince you that your sin can cause you to lose your salvation. Remember, if you are a believer, your salvation is a work of God's grace - it is a gift that you can neither earn nor lose. Never allow false teaching that might come your way to conflict

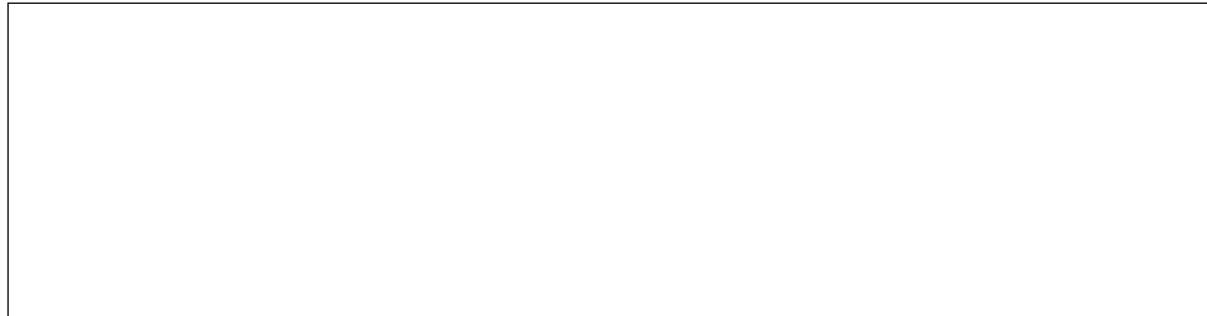
with what you know to be the truth. Take a moment to read and meditate on 1 John 5:6-13 and ask God to strengthen your heart with its truth.

2. There are going to be times when you don't feel saved. There are going to be times of doubt and confusion when you wonder if you are on the right train. And there are going to be times when you have sinned and failed and don't even feel worthy to be on the train. Memorize 1 John 4:11-13, so that when such times come you can rest in the truth that "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life."

3. Do you ever have doubts about the security of your salvation? Remember that your salvation is not dependent on your feelings or circumstances. Rather, its security rests with a Person who is your Saviour. Take to heart the admonition: "Do not be unbelieving but believing" (John 20:27) and take your doubts to Jesus.

4. One blessing of assurance we ought to be thankful for is the fact that it lifts a heavy weight from our shoulders. We could never secure our own salvation. As a result, we are free to serve Him out of gratitude and love. What motivates your service to God? A fear that you might lose your salvation, or gratitude that God is holding you firmly in His grasp?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyp4IBOylt4>



False Sense of Assurance

Often the same sincere person would respond to the altar call to receive Jesus again. What was lacking? False security is always dangerous. The central truth is that our assurance rests in nothing but the finished work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit that we are truly children of God (Rom 8:16). How does a false sense of security often manifest itself?



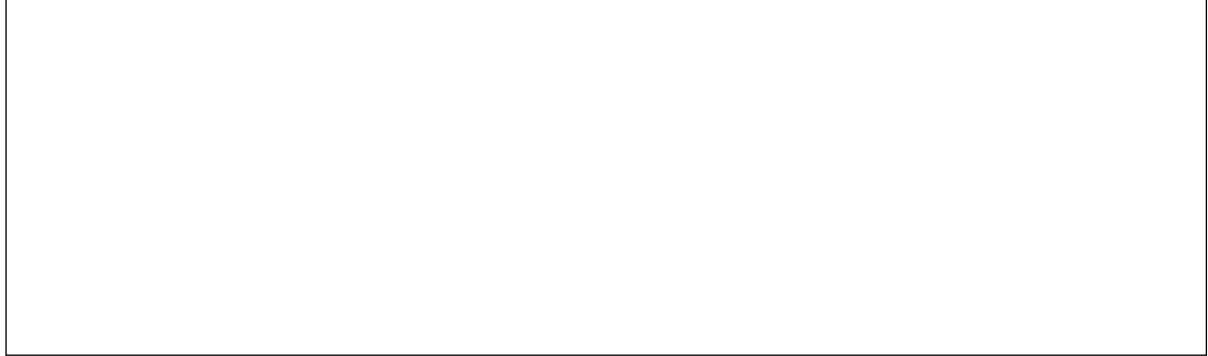
There are demands that Christ has the right to make of us, based on the incredibly high price He paid to redeem us. Thus, the truth that we are forever secure in Christ does not give us an excuse for failure and spiritual lethargy and coldness.

Assurance and Spiritual Failure

There is no denying the fact that saved people who are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption and secure forever in Christ can still fall into sin and failure.

The Possibility of Spiritual Failure

David is an example of moral failure in his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah (2 Samuel 11-12). All spiritual failure ultimately is against the Lord. The early church also contained examples of spiritual failure. (1 Cor 5:1-5; 2 Tim 4:10).



The Road to Spiritual Failure

Admitting the possibility of spiritual failure is the first step to being on guard against it. There are plenty of warning signs along the road that leads to spiritual failure. There are four important ones:

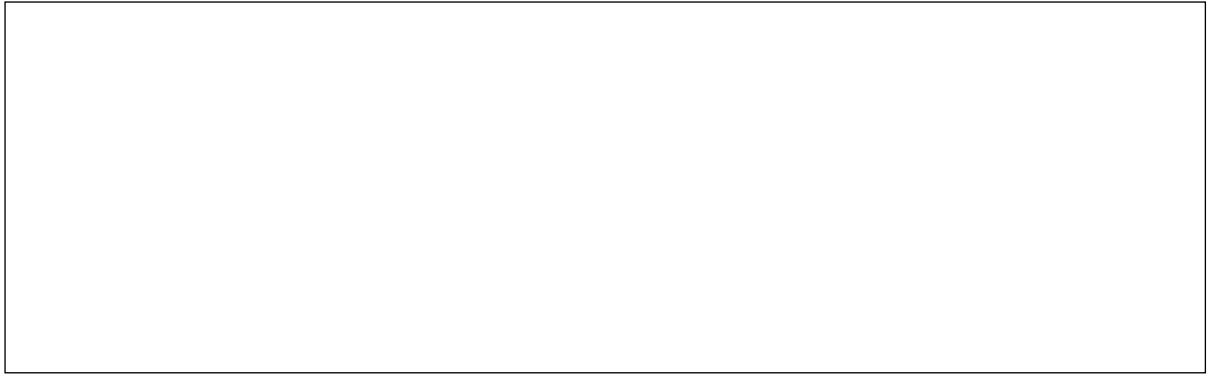
Neglecting the faith

The first sign is spiritual neglect. We don't have to curse the Lord or teach false doctrine to get into trouble. We can simply neglect our faith. (Heb 2:2-3).



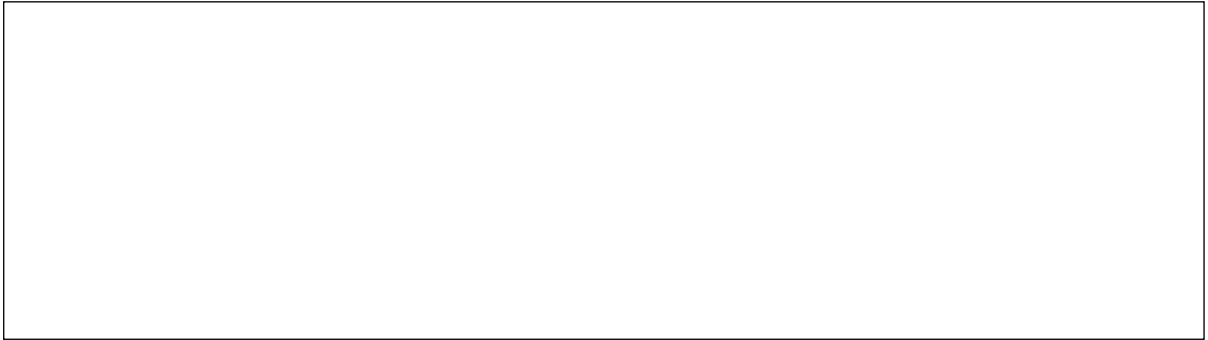
Spiritual Insensitivity

If allowed to persist, spiritual neglect leads to spiritual insensitivity. Hebrews 3:12-13 contains a warning. And when unbelief sets in, you become susceptible to the deceitfulness of sin. Particularly pride. How do you know when you are in pride?

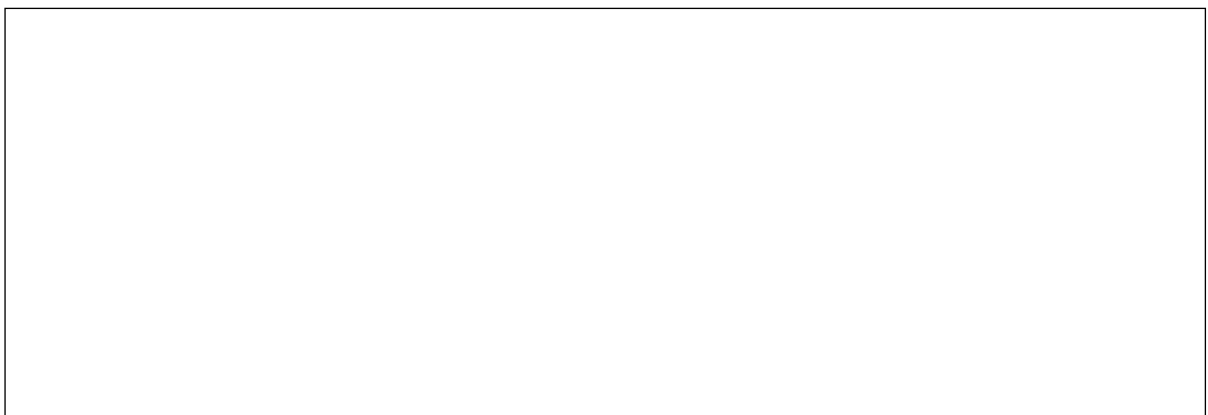


Spiritual Stagnation

If you have ever seen a clouded, stagnant pond, you know what happens when the flow of freshwater is cut off. Nothing gets in or out. Even if you poured a bucket of freshwater into a stagnant pond, the new water would soon become green too. (Hebrew 5:11). What is the result?



Spiritual defection is the fourth sign. If we miss the warning sign of stagnation, we're really heading into some serious territory on the road to spiritual failure. (Heb 10:23-25).



Forsaking the local Church

Forsaking the local church is tantamount to spiritual defection. The Bible knows nothing of a Christian who is severed from the church and going at it alone. If you are

slipping toward spiritual failure and lethargy, the body of Christ can reel you back in. It requires a repentant heart.



The Cure for Spiritual Failure

Many people who agonize over whether they have lost their salvation need to be reminded that their deep concern is one of the best signs that they are truly saved. Lost people do not usually lose any sleep wondering if they are saved or not. The same principle applies to spiritual failure. A good place to begin in renewing your spirit is to practice self-examination.

Assurance and Self-Examination

The Bible tells us again and again to examine our spiritual condition.

Self-Examination and Spiritual Failure

Consider the spiritually ill-mannered Corinthian believers who were making a sham of the Lord's Supper by being gluttonous and even getting drunk (1 Cor 11:21). The judgment was physical discipline in the form of illness and even death (v. 30). The judgment mentioned in verse 32 must be read the same way. Look at Hebrews 12:6. We would be wise to examine ourselves to make it unnecessary for God the Father to spank us. Use the opportunity – what is the Holy Spirit showing you?



Self-Examination and Spiritual Productivity

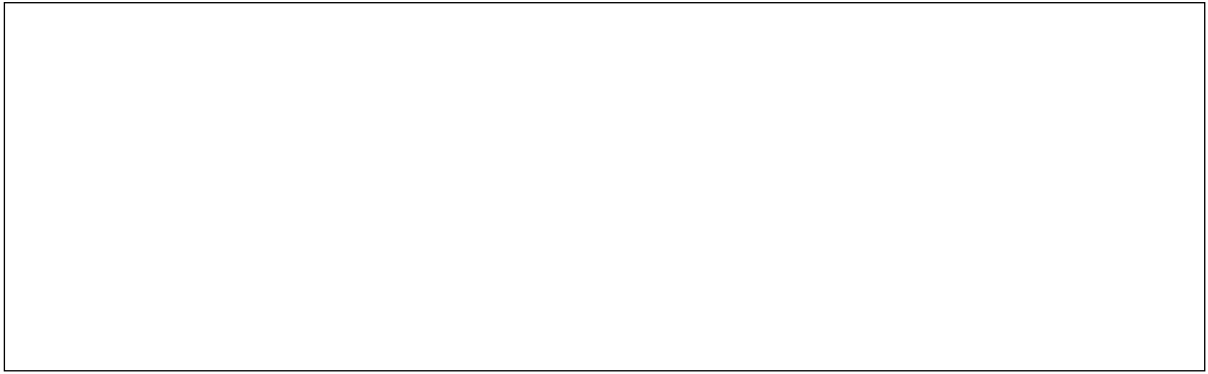
What do we learn from 2 Cor 13:5 about “checking ourselves?”

What is the “test” of faith Paul referred to in 2 Corinthians 13:5?

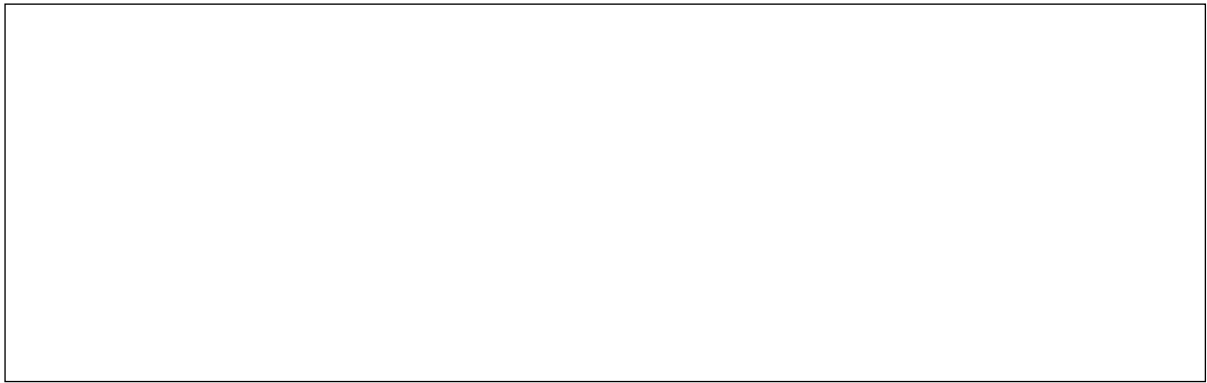
To be disqualified is to fail the test, lose the race, and forfeit the victor’s reward. Paul was not afraid that he was going to lose his salvation. What was he afraid of? (1 Cor 9:27).

Self-Examination and Spiritual Growth

The apostle Peter also addressed the need for self-examination in 2 Peter 1:10. What did Peter mean?



If you are growing in your faith and producing the qualities listed in 2 Pet 1:5-8, that is a proof of the reality of your salvation. Salvation is not dependent upon your spiritual growth but upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.



The word certain in 2 Peter 1:10 is translated "guaranteed" in Romans 4:16 and "assurance" in Hebrews 3:14, strongly suggesting that Peter used it here to convey certainty with regards to salvation. It is in this context that we must evaluate the word stumble at the end of verse 10. Second Peter is a reminder that God wants us to get busy growing in the grace He has given us instead of fretting about whether we are still in God's grace. (2 Pet 3:18; 2 Peter 1:5-7)



Applying diligence to supply the qualities that make for spiritual growth means that we must have a plan to grow; and work that plan. (2 Peter 1:8).

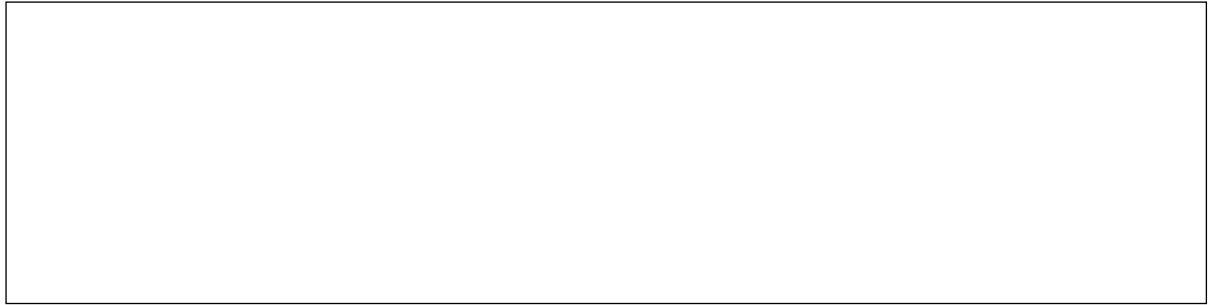
Assurance and Discipleship

Many children of God don't understand what discipleship means. Looking at the concept of discipleship in the context of assurance first; discipleship is not your ticket to Heaven. Nor is it the source of your assurance of salvation, but a process of growth whereby we get on with the business of becoming like Jesus Christ. (Matt 10:24-25).

Discipleship is not instantaneous. Instead, it involves a lifetime of _____. The word disciple means "student" or "learner". A more formal definition is that discipleship is a process of the local church that brings people from spiritual _____ to spiritual _____.

The Meaning of Discipleship

When we became followers of Christ, we were enrolled in Jesus' school of discipleship and introduced to its curriculum. This is a lifelong process of learning from which we will not graduate until we are promoted to Heaven. And even there we will not stop learning, because we will spend eternity discovering more and more about our great God (Eph. 2:7).



Our challenge as Christians, then, is to become such committed, excited, and teachable disciples of Jesus Christ that we begin to look, and act like Him. The Bible calls it being "conformed" to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). Assurance of salvation makes effective discipleship possible.



How Discipleship Differs from Salvation

Confusing these two leads to a lack of assurance and sends us searching for it in the wrong places. Discipleship and salvation are distinct. (John 6:60,66). Jesus measured His effectiveness by discipleship, not crowds. (Mark 8:34-35; James 2:14; Luke 14:26)



Another important contrast between salvation and discipleship is what we might call their observability. (John 19:38; Matt 10:32-33).



Salvation is unconditional, but discipleship is conditional. To be free, we have to know the truth. (John 8:31-32; John 8:31,32).



How Discipleship Relates to Assurance

Salvation gives us new life, and assurance gives us the security and confidence to develop that new life as we follow Christ in discipleship. There is a tremendous interplay of salvation, assurance, and discipleship in Titus 2:11-13.



The grace of God appeared to us and brought us salvation and that same grace will be manifested to us at the end of this age when Jesus appears and takes us to be with Him in glory. (Titus 2:11-13). If we can trust Christ with our eternity, can we not trust Him with our few days on earth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. When is the last time you did a spiritual self- examination? The Bible encourages us to do this on a regular basis. Examine your heart and ask God to help cleanse your life of sin, claiming 1 John 2:1. Should you neglect this responsibility, be assured that God disciplines His children.

2. Beyond monitoring sin in our lives, spiritual self-examination means monitoring our spiritual productivity. This is a test to confirm that God is working in our lives. If you are not seeing spiritual fruit and God’s blessing in your life, perhaps you have allowed the world’s substitutes for God to creep into your life. Take inventory and clean house if necessary. Ask God to help you keep things on a proper spiritual course in your life.

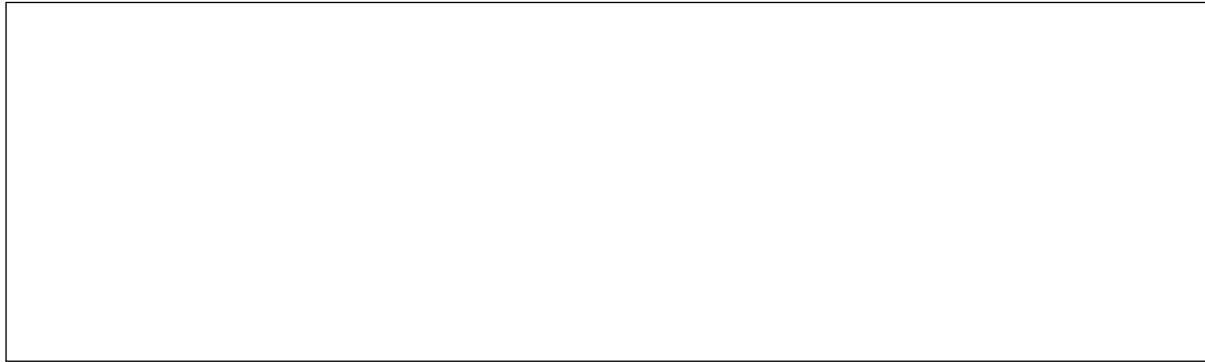
3. Whereas salvation deals with our legal relationship to Christ and is unconditional, discipleship is conditional, and has to do with the level of intimacy we have with the Saviour who guarantees our eternal life. Maybe you became a Christian when you were ten years old; now you are forty-five, and you are still asking to see God. Maybe the intimacy you are missing is waiting for you in a deeper commitment to Christ in discipleship.

4. Discipleship for the believer is a costly commitment. The assurance of your salvation is the motivation and the power of discipleship. Are you ready to follow Him in committed discipleship here on earth? If you can trust Christ with your eternity, can you not trust Him for your days on earth?

Introduction to Lesson Four

CALVARY THE CRUX! Calvary stands central in the Bible to God's magnificent plan of redemption. The cross is the focal point of divine revelation, the pivot around which all Christian experience revolves. Had Jesus Christ not died, we would have remained eternal enemies of God, but in His death remission and reconciliation was made, in order that you and I could be at peace with God.

The old blood covenant of atonement as powerful as it was, existed only as the basis on which the new and eternal covenant is founded. (Matt 26:28).



Jesus brings us a _____ covenant, having displaced, and fulfilled the _____ covenant (Heb. 10:9). With the fulfilling of the old, everything connected with it was set aside. What do we know of the first covenant and Who was the surety of that? (Exo 40). What is the new covenant and Who is the surety thereof? (1 Pet 2:1-10; Heb 7:22; Heb 7:25).



Just as God stood behind the old covenant and was its surety, so Jesus is the surety of every Word in the New. What strong faith should be built upon a foundation like this? The resources of Heaven are backed by Jesus and backed by that covenant and sealed in His blood.

LESSON 4 – CALVARY THE CRUX OF OUR REDEMPTION

“My blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins” (Matt 26:28).

What is your insight about the famous “Underground Railroad” and Mrs. Tubman?
What does this say about the process of redemption?

This story of redemption from human slavery, forms an excellent backdrop for discussing the redemption that God accomplished when He sent His Son from Heaven to lift us from our spiritual slavery to sin. Redemption involves paying a purchase price, and it was often used in the context of the slave market. This is how the biblical writers used the term to describe the purchase price that Jesus Christ paid on the cross. As surely as the chains and shackles of slavery held their victims in an iron grip, the chains and shackles of sin hold every person in an iron grip until Jesus comes to the slave market with His precious blood and redeems us from the auction block.

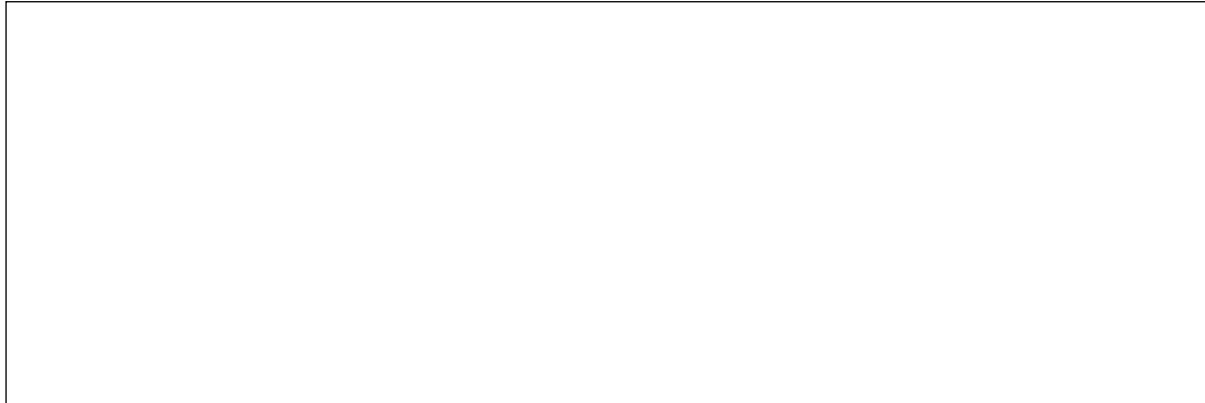
What do we learn from John 8:30-34 as to people understanding Jesus’ references to slavery and bondage to sin?

The Concept of Redemption

Removing the sin

The word remission or remit means 'to remove'. The best that the Israelite had under the first covenant was a blood covering or atonement (Lev 17:11). But under the new covenant, our sins are not covered, they are put away. They are remitted! They are as

though they had never been! (Matt 26:28 NKJV; Hebrews 9:25-26). What does “culmination of ages mean?”



Making the Purchase

The Greek term for *redemption* means "to buy or to purchase." Jesus paid to redeem us from slavery to sin. The Greek word usually translated "redemption" can also be translated "ransom". (Matthew 20:28)



Setting the Slaves Free

The concept of a ransom helps us to understand that when Jesus redeemed us, He did so for the purpose of setting us free, not re-enslaving us. New Testament writers did a number of times was take this word for redemption (lutrosis) and add a prepositional prefix to it (apolutrosis) that "super-sized" it.



When the Greek word for redemption is used with this prefix, it signifies more than that Jesus bought us from the slave market of sin. It means we are redeemed completely and *permanently*. Look at Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7,14; 4:30; and Colossians 1:14, what do we learn about the permanence and eternal security of our redemption?

Pushing the Goat over the Cliff

The background of redemption goes all the way back to ancient Israel as the nation observed the Day of Atonement. Leviticus 16:8-26 gives us insight into the two goats the priest chose, the “_____” and the ritual that signified sin.

The Condition of Redemption

What was the conditions of our redemption? Jesus had to pay to redeem us. (1 Pet 1:18-19). Jesus could afford the cost.

Jesus Had to Shed His Blood

Blood has always been the price for _____. (Heb 9:22). We cannot buy our way out of the sin mess. Peter called silver and gold "perishable things" that have no purchasing power in Heaven's economy. (Ephesians 1:7). Why blood? (Deuteronomy 12:23). (Heb 9:11-14). What did Jesus' death purchase? (Hebrews 9:15; Phil 2:10-11; 1 Tim 2:15).

Jesus Had to Be Sinless

Since God is perfectly _____, He will not accept payment for sin from a _____. That is why Jesus was born of a virgin. Sin is passed on through the _____, so Jesus could not have a human father. He had to be born _____ sin, and He also had to live a _____ _____ (1 Pet 1:19). Why were the lambs brought by the Israelites to offer for their sins to be without defect?

He had to be perfect so He could offer His "precious blood" to redeem us out of slavery. (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:14).

Jesus Had to Become a Man

Animal sacrifices could only cover sins until God's perfect sacrifice came. (Heb 10:4).

_____ we can offer God will even begin to make up for what it cost Him to save us - His precious Son. The cost of our redemption is infinitely high.

The Accomplishment of Redemption

What did Christ's redemption accomplish for us?

Jesus Freed Us from the Curse

The Bible says that we were under a curse before we came to know Jesus Christ.

(Galatians 3:10). Since we have all failed to keep God's law, we are all under its curse.

The good news is that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us. (Gal 3:13). (James 2:10).

Christ's death redeemed us from the law's curse, which was the sanctions and penalties the law imposed on those who disobeyed it. The law of God had consequences attached to it. That is true even in human law. God cannot skip the law because His holy demands are inextricably tied to His holy character, but He will allow somebody else to pay the debt we owe. That is why Jesus came. (Galatians 4:4-5).

God Adopted Us into His Family

Thanks to redemption, we're family!

We Are Set Free from Fear

What do you think most people fear more than anything else? (Heb 2:15). There is fear in the thought of death, especially for those who do not know Christ. Death has a sting to it. (1 Cor 15:56).

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Are you motivated to serve Christ? Jesus bought us out of our slavery to sin and saved us from death, and He did so by paying a high price that we cannot fathom. If you are not serving Christ and using your gifts to further His kingdom, volunteer now to serve. If you do not know where to start, ask your Pastor or Leader for help.

2. Colossians 1:28 exhorts us to proclaim Christ, "admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom". Seize opportunities to proclaim the good news

of our Lord. Keep in mind that we proclaim Christ not only by our words, but also by our actions.

3. Not only has our redemption set us free from our bondage to sin, but Matthew 20:28 also emphasizes that we have been redeemed completely and permanently. We can never be enslaved in such a way again! Give thanks to God for sending His Son to redeem us.

4. Since your relationship with Christ is first and foremost one of love, ask Him to keep your heart tender toward Him. If your focus is on loving the Lord, you would not have to worry about being sensitive to sin.

Redemption in Four Stages

Jesus was born that He might die. He died that He might redeem us from the slavery of sin. His whole life was given over to this tremendous purpose. Jesus Christ wrought out this great salvation then, in four stages:

1. By His HUMILIATION (You will be humiliated):

(Phil 2:5-8; Isaiah 54:4).

2. By His OBEDIENT LIFE (You are required to obey):

(Rom 5:19; Luke 5:1-11).

3. By His SUFFERING and DEATH On the Cross:

(1 Pet 2:24B; Eph 1:7a; 1 Cor 8:9). Why is the cross called the great exchange?

It is an excellent thing for us to be continually dwelling on the cross of Christ.

What does it mean that all Christ's sufferings on the cross were foreordained?

4. *By His RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, and INTERCESSION before God:*

(Heb 7:25). The resurrection of Jesus is the most important _____. The **resurrection proves that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah)** and the Son of God. Without a resurrection Christianity would be still born, a lifeless religion with no _____ to transform a depraved _____.

It is hard to account for the rapid spread of Christianity, in the first century without a spectacular first cause. The earlier Christians faced tyrants, lions and fires that put thousands of them to death! Why ...?

Four things the Cross Did

When Jesus gave the cry of victory, “It is finished,” from the cross, what was finished? What had been accomplished at the cross? We consider **substitution, redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation.**

1. Substitution for Sinners

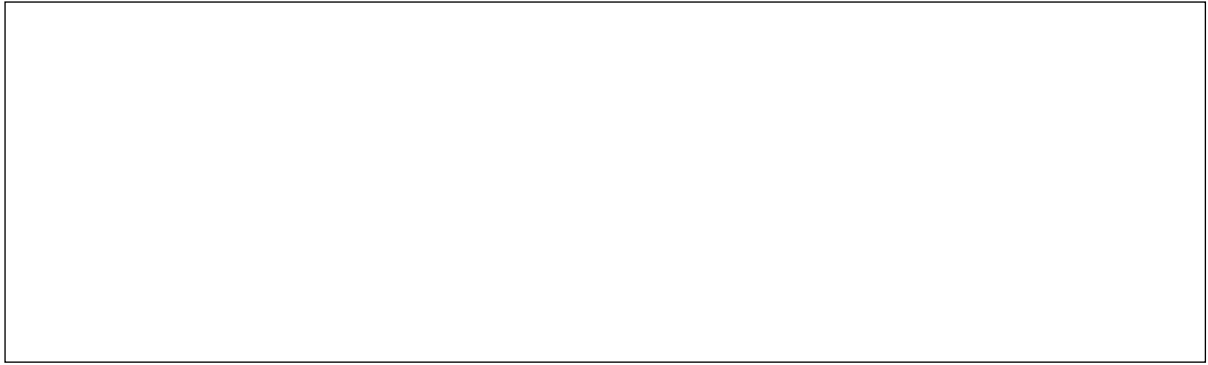
Jesus Christ died for sinners. (2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; 1 Pet 3:18; Gal 3:13). The word “substitution” also means...

2. Redemption from Sin

Every believer in Christ is a twice-owned person. We are God’s both by creation and by redemption. The verb “redeem” means...

God promised to be the Redeemer. The Exodus was God’s mighty act of redemption from the oppressive burdens the Egyptians had placed on Israel. (Exo 5:2; Exo 6:1, 6). God promised to Redeem His people and He did! (Exo 12:13,14).

The Passover is an essential _____ event that provides two pictures (types) of Christ. (Rom. 3:24).

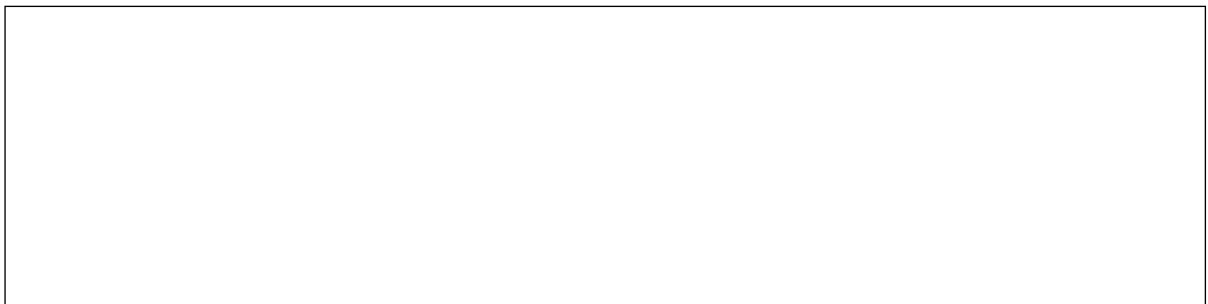


3. Propitiation Towards God

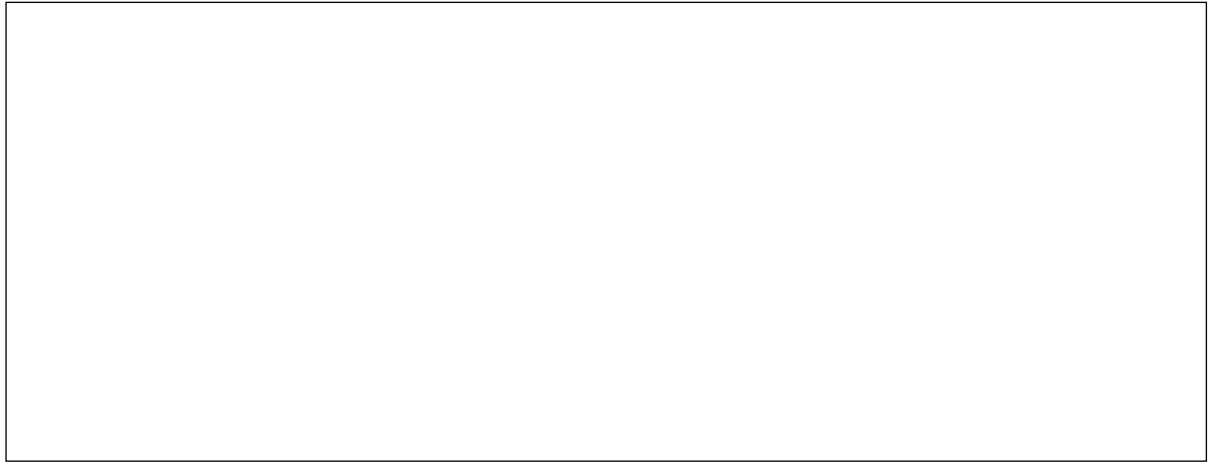
Whereas redemption is God's work on the cross in reference to sin, propitiation is His work on the cross in relation to Himself. Christ's death propitiated (satisfied, appeased) the righteous wrath of God. (Rom 3:24–25).



Sin violates God's righteousness and thus brings His wrath against the sinner.



How can God reach out to us in love without compromising His holiness? (Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:5; Lev. 16:12–15); Heb. 9:11–28; Rom. 3:25). (1 John 2:2) With His righteous wrath against sin satisfied, God could act in mercy and grace toward sinners, all of whom deserve eternal damnation.



4. Reconciliation towards God

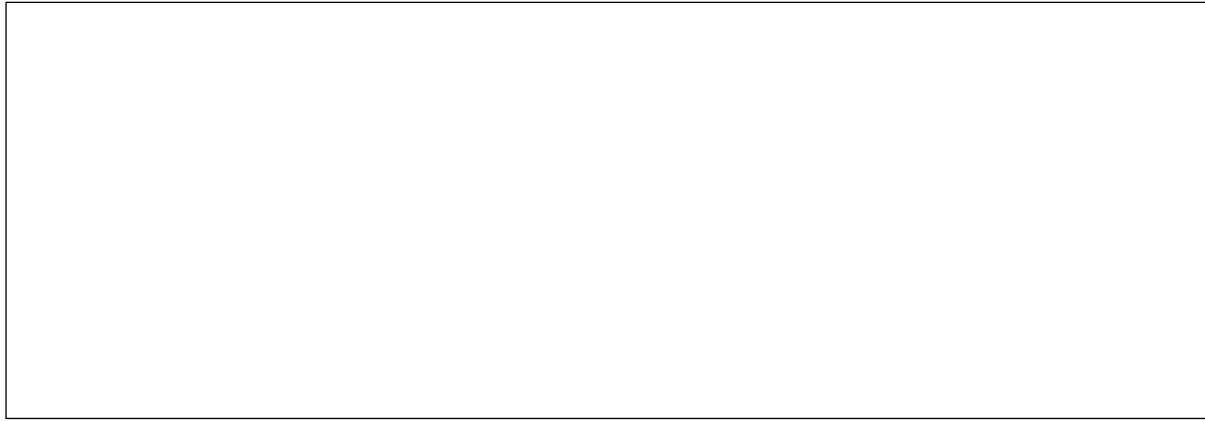
Reconciliation means the removal of alienation between God and humankind. The Greek word for “reconcile” means? Sinners are called “enemies” of God (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21; Rom.5:10; Col 1:21–22).



What do we learn about reconciliation between humans in Matthew 5:23–24? Why can this not be done in reference to salvation?



God did for people what they could never do for themselves. What a great salvation! (2 Cor. 5:18–19).



Four things the Cross did For Saints

What spiritual benefits accrued to the person who by faith receive Christ as their Saviour?

1. *Established in Grace*

Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation is “justified freely by His grace” (Rom. 3:24; see also Titus 3:7), is saved by grace (Eph. 2:5,8), and has redemption and forgiveness “according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7). As a result, we “are not under law but under grace” (Rom. 6:14). We “stand” (that is, we are positioned spiritually before God) in a position of grace (5:2). Why are people confused about the relationship between law and grace? (Matt. 22:37-40).



“What purpose then does the law serve? (Gal 3:19; 23-25)



Did Christ abolish the law? (Rom 10:4; Matt. 5:18). The fact that Christians are under grace and not the Law (6:14), that is, the Mosaic Law, does not mean they have no laws to follow. Lawlessness or anarchy is the essence of sin (1 John 3:4).

To be “under grace” means...

2. Freedom from Sin's Captivity

As a result of Adam's sin and our participation in that sin, we were all constituted _____ and _____ was the result. What do we learn about grace and sin from Romans 5:20; 6:1,2,6?

What is “done away with”? Romans (3:3, 31; 4:14; 6:6; 7:2, 6).

The power that energizes sin (Satan's tyranny) has been _____. As a result, what does this mean for the believer in Christ? (Romans 6:6; 1 John 2:1; 2 Cor 5:17; Romans 6:1-11).

3. Forgiveness and Cleansing

Because Christ has freed us from the tyrannical rule of Satan and captivity to our sinful ways, we have sufficient spiritual resources to keep from _____, why do we still sin and what are we assured of? (1 John 2:1; 1 John 1:8,10; 1 John 2,1).

Who is the "Advocate" (parakletos, "one called alongside") and what does this mean if you sin as a believer? (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; Rev. 12:10; 1 John 2:1,2)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the Heavens” (Heb. 7:25–26; Rom. 8:34).

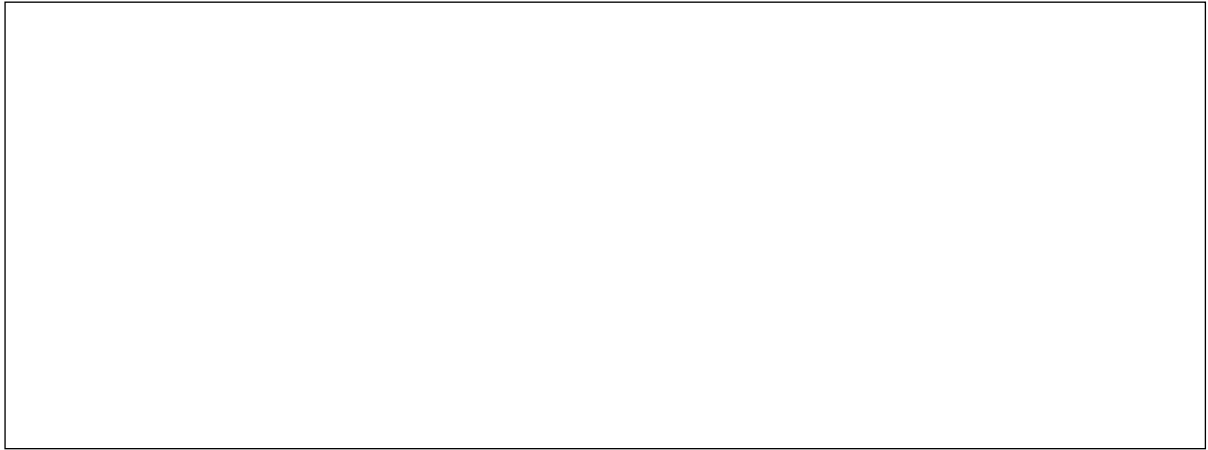
However, why must Christ engage in continuing intercessory work since He exclaimed on the cross, “It is finished”? Is His work not really complete, after all?

4. Judicial Forgiveness

The first provision - initial judicial forgiveness - is given when a person receives Christ as their Saviour. (Heb. 10:12,14).

The second provision—repetitive judicial forgiveness - is given through Jesus Christ’s continuing work as our Advocate.

Each time believers’ sin, Christ the Advocate _____ their case. Each time we confess our sins. God _____ a believer’s sin on the basis of Jesus’ work as our Advocate (1 John 2:1); this forgiveness is unconditional!

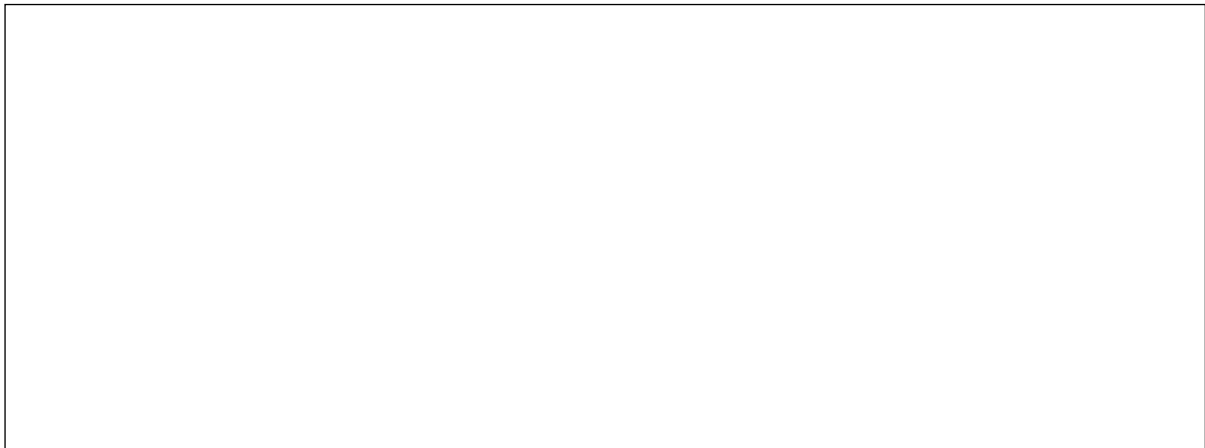


PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. If you're living bold for Christ, you probably have been humiliated, they have probably called you names, "the Christian", "the priest", "the nun" or, if your God is real why are you then struggling like this? How can Isaiah 54:4, and Mark 10:30, help you makes sense out of your humiliation for Christ?



2. Read each of these concepts together with all the Scriptures and discuss them in your group (**Substitution, Redemption, Propitiation, and Reconciliation**).



Introduction to Lesson Five

AMAZING GRACE!

Through the grace of God, His inexhaustible supply of goodness, He does for us what we could never do for ourselves. The power of God's grace is what the sailor John Newton who wrote the famous Christian hymn, Amazing Grace had discovered.

What insight to you take from the story John Newton who was once known as "The Great Blaspheme"? Luke 11:13 was significant in assuring him that God might still hear him.



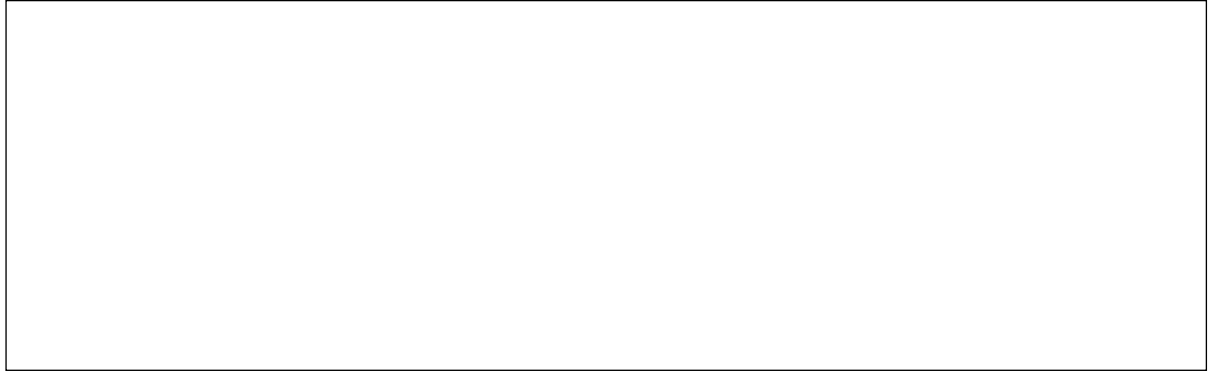
Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and told his friends, "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour". We learned that God has not spared anything from His infinite resources in making provision for our salvation, the work of remission through the Cross is an accomplished fact of this. Now the gracious invitation to salvation is going out worldwide. (Rev 22:17).

LESSON 5 – AMAZING GRACE!

"It is by grace you have been saved" (Eph 2:45).

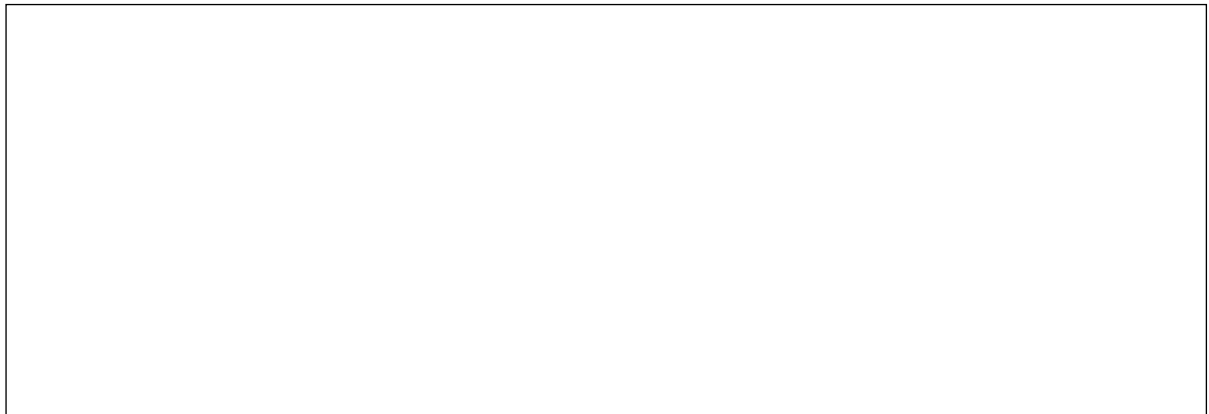
You cannot _____ a Christian, you _____ it. Many Christians today are failing in their Christian life, living _____ lives because they think that to be a Christian, you must "push" or "work" hard to become one. All you have to do to

be Christian is to switch on the key called faith and like an engine, God's grace does the rest.



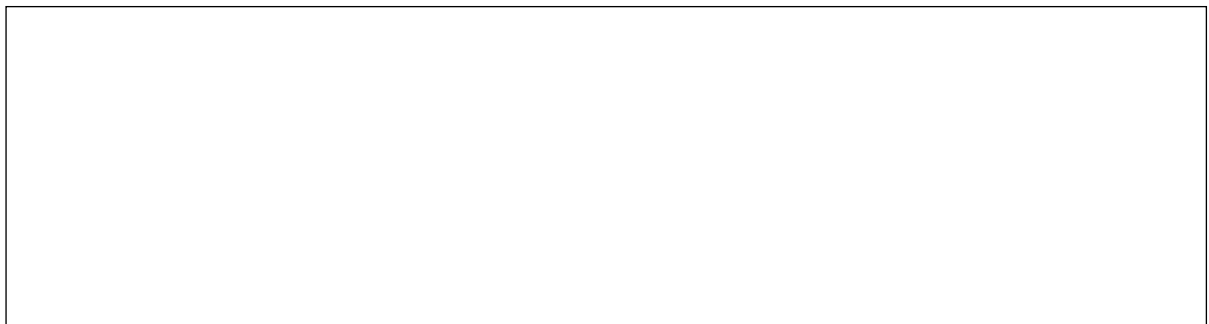
We cannot earn it, we do not deserve it, but He has made it abundantly available. Grace means God does not have to do anything. Grace means that all you are, and all you have comes because He chooses to give it, not because you can demand it or deserve it.

We have to understand that God owes us nothing. Yet in grace, He has given us everything. (2 Corinthians 12:9) is not only a promise of sufficiency in trials, but in all things.



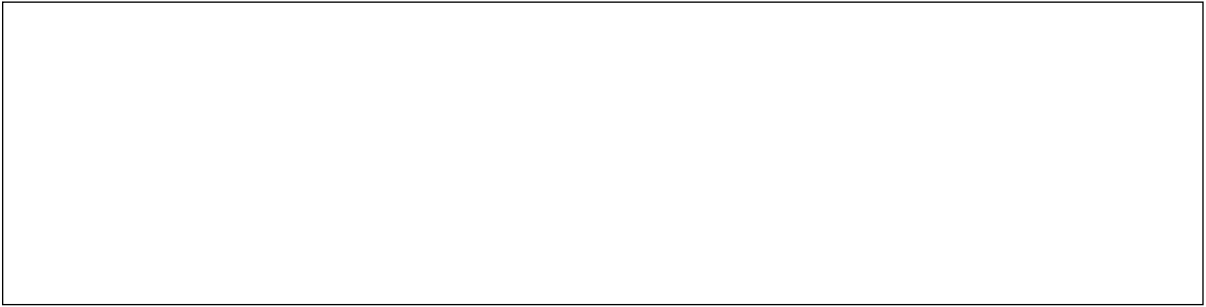
Grace and Salvation Belong Together

Grace and salvation belong together as cause and effect. (Eph 2:5, 8; Tit 2:11).



Saved by Grace

People who truly understand the concept of God's grace beyond mere lip service, will not tire to sing the praises of grace. (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; Zach 13:2; Matt 11:28).

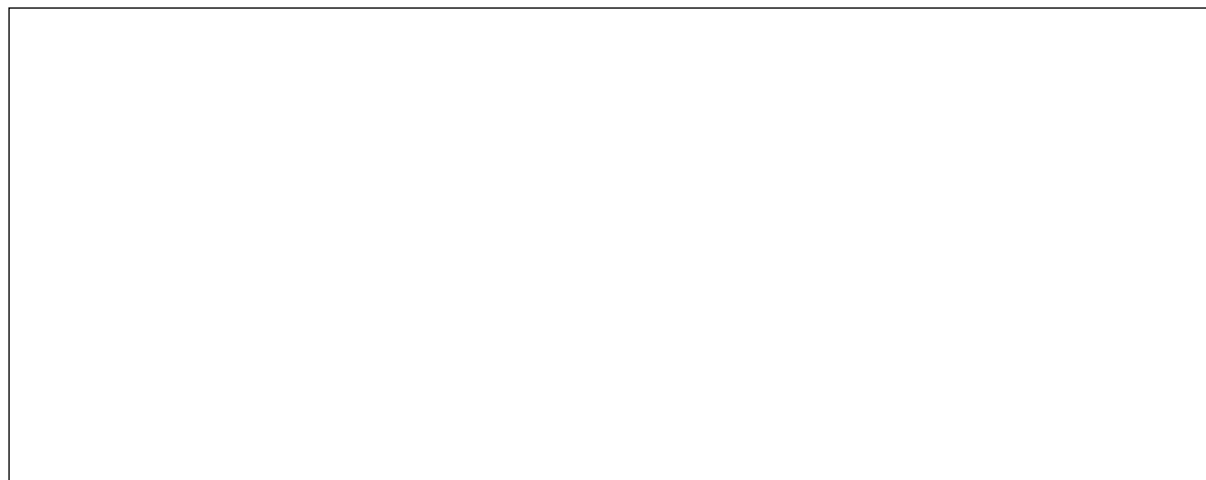


New Covenant Grace

Our response to God's grace is a cornerstone of the believer's life, our Christian community and attitude towards the world. Free _____ sin (not free to sin), we are invited to live out our faith with thankful hearts, eager to share the Gospel with others.


1. Grace as the source of the pardon of sin

Justification is the truly dramatic transition from the status of a condemned criminal awaiting a terrible sentence to that of an heir awaiting a fabulous inheritance. Justification is by faith; it takes place the moment a person puts vital trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Justification is free to us, but it was costly to God, for its price was the sacrificial death of God's Son. Why was it that God "did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all?" (Rom 8:32; Eph 1:7). What should our response be to this?



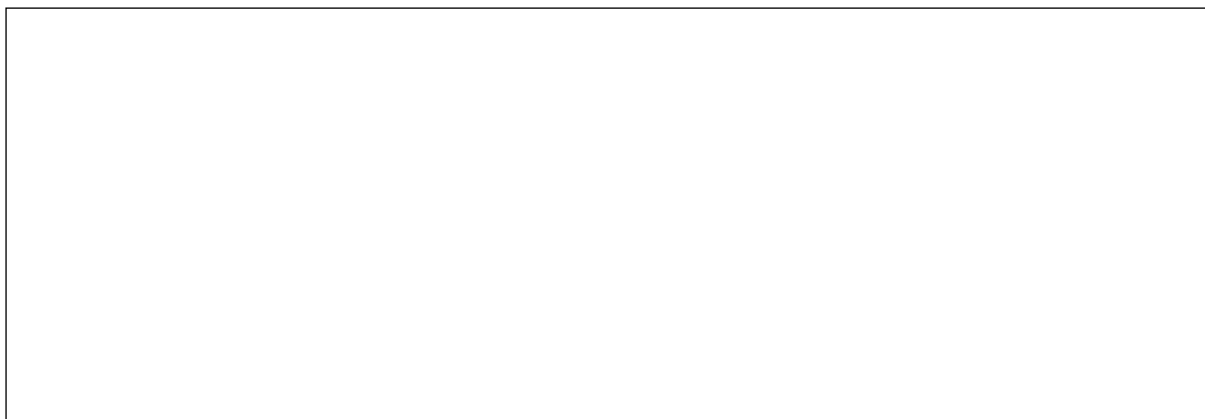
2. *Grace as the motive of the plan of salvation*

Pardon is the heart of the Gospel, but it is not the whole doctrine of grace. For the New Testament, sets God's gift of pardon in the context of a plan of salvation which began with *election* before the world was and will be completed only when the church is perfect in glory. (Rom 8:29-30; 2 Thess 2:12-13; Ephesians 1:3 to 2:10).



3. *Grace as the guarantee of the preservation of the saints*

If the plan of salvation is certain of accomplishment, then the Christian's future is _____. Therefore, we need not be _____ with the fear that our faith may fail; as grace led us to faith in the first place, so grace will keep us believing to the end. (1 Pet 1:5; Phil 1:29).



TWO DIMENSIONS OF GRACE

There are two dimensions of grace; namely common (or general) grace and special (or saving) grace. Common grace is given mainly by God but special Grace is given through Jesus Christ.


“*Common grace*” (Berkhof, 1932), refers to grace that is available to all humanity. (Mathew 5:45). What is your understanding of common grace? Which questions does the theology of common grace address?

“*Saving grace*” refers to the unmerited favour of God that reconciles sinners through Jesus Christ. While God gives common grace to the whole human race (Matt 5:45), the benefits of His special grace come only to His children.

Jesus brought us Saving Grace

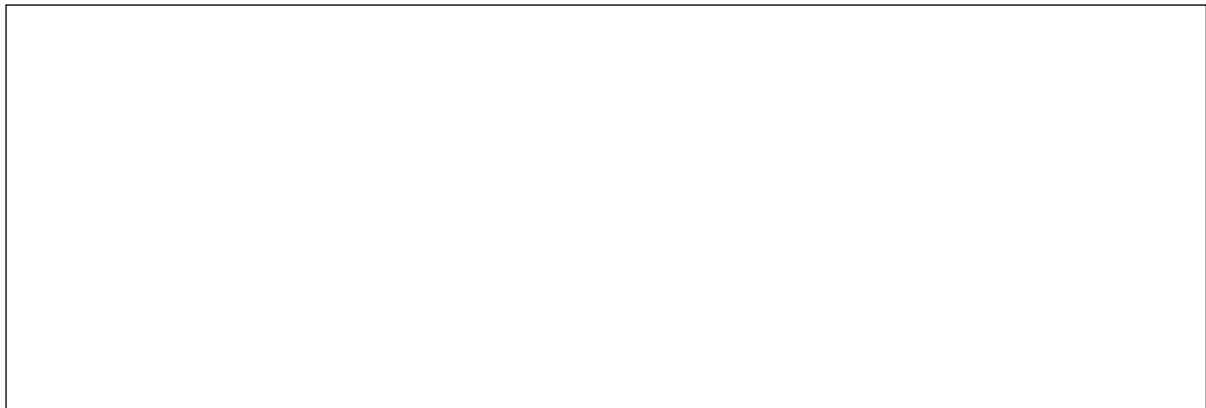
The saving grace of God is possible because of the sacrifice His Son made for the salvation of sinful mankind. We worship Christ because He dealt with the one thing that kept God from extending His grace to us: _____ .

What do you understand in terms of the first and the second Adam (Christ)? (Rom 5:12; 1 Cor 15:22; Romans 3:23, Rom 5:15, 1 Cor 15:51; 2 Cor 5:8)



Saving Grace Brought Us God's Mercy

God's mercy is distinct from His grace in that grace means giving a person something he does not deserve, while mercy is identifying with someone's misery. What is the meaning and differences between mercy and grace? What frees God to show you His mercy? (Eph 2:4-5; 1 John 1:9; Lam 3:23).




The Bible calls Jesus, "our merciful and faithful High Priest... to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:14). Each time we cry to Jesus, "mercy!", Jesus cries on our behalf to the Father, "mercy!" Read and memorise 2 Corinthians 9:8.




God's grace is so _____, so awesome in its _____, it _____ runs out. Do not let anyone stop you from growing in

your understanding of the awesome supply of God's grace. (2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

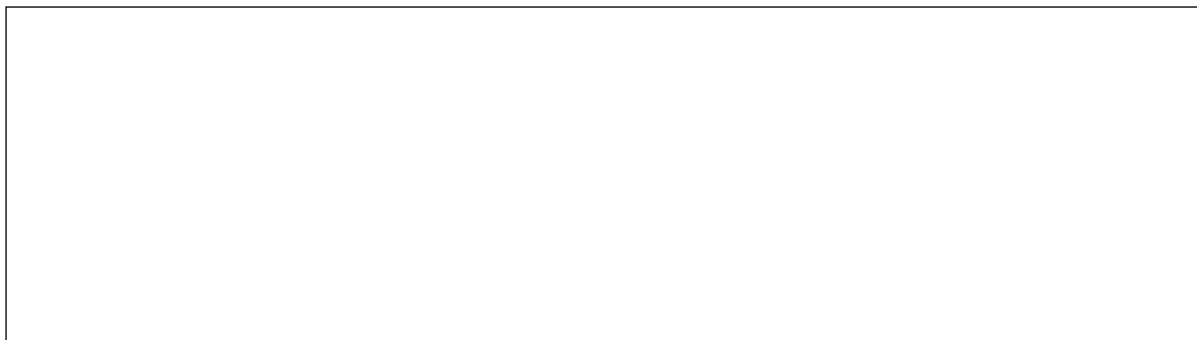


Saving Grace Trains Us for Victorious Living

(Titus 2:11-12). Grace instructs us in how to live. Grace will give you victory where you did not have victory. Grace will give you _____ where you did not have power. Grace will give you the ability to keep on keeping on when you want to give up. Grace teaches us how to _____. It not only gives us the right information, but the right enablement with it. With grace comes power. (Gal 2:20,21, Gal 3:1, Gal 5:1).



As our relationship with Christ is cultivated, we grow in grace. Then the supply of grace, energized by the power of the Holy Spirit, gives us spiritual victory. We give grace because we've got grace. (Gal 5:16; Eph 5:18; Col 4:6).



Saving Grace is on God's Terms

The grace of God is only experienced by those who receive it on _____
_____. God has made grace available to us in the simplest way, why is it hard
for us to receive? When are our motives wrong? Grace is responsive to the requests
stemming from the right motive. What is the wrong motive? What is spiritual adultery?
God resists or gives grace based on what? How do we receive grace? (James 4:1-5;
Heb 4:16).

PERSONAL APPLICATION FOR LIFE

1. Here is a great verse to memorize: "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" (2 Corinthians 9:8). Notice the part that says, "God is able to MAKE..." It is not you; it is God.

2. What have you done in the past week, month, or even year that can only be explained as the power of God working through you? If you have trouble answering

that, it may be time to get alone with God and allow His Spirit to do some heart searching.

3. Anytime is a good time to measure your growth in grace. Before too much longer, take some time to put your life up against a "spiritual growth chart" like Galatians 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit, and mark your progress. For every sign of new growth you see, thank the Lord. For every area of growth needed, humbly ask for His grace.

4. Based on what we have learned from James 4 about asking with the wrong motives, we probably ought to thank God more often for unanswered prayers. Have you prayed any prayers like that lately? Is it possible you are praying for something right now that would not be good for you or glorify God? Those questions are worth thinking seriously about.

Saving Grace is Sovereign

God's grace is 'natural' in response to sin, it is owing entirely to something amazing in God, not in the constraining power of sin or in the guilt of the sinner.

Clearly, the Bible is the record of a God Who repeatedly forgives sinful humans – and even more, a perfect God Who works in and through them, the broken vessels, for their own good and ultimately for His glory. Saving grace is the free and unmerited operation of God's person and presence that initiates the spiritual life of God's people by accepting Jesus Christ substitutionary work by faith. Note key things you have learned about grace and our response to it. (Eph 2:8-10).

Personalising Saving Grace

Grace does not contemplate sinners merely as _____, but as ill-deserving. It is not simply that we do not deserve grace: we (honestly) do deserve Hell. (Eph 2:1–3; Rom 5:10).

While God calls us His _____, we do not make friends with God; God makes friends with us, bringing us to know Him by making His love known to us.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Heb 2:17-18; 4:15-16). Reach out and respond to God's grace each day.





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