

## THE SAVED – THE RECONCILIATION TO GOD

*“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 6:23*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9*

We have understood in the previous two lessons that all men are sinners, and that Christ came to be the Saviour of the world. It is important to understand that all have sinned against a Holy God. It is also vital to understand that Jesus Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world. With these two Scriptural truths in mind we ask ourselves the following questions: How is a person saved? How can a person be reconciled to God?

We find that question asked in **Acts 16**,...

**Acts 16:30-32**, *“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.”*

The immediate response to the question was, *“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,”* and afterwards they expounded unto this soldier and to his house *“the word of the Lord.”* As a result this Roman soldier and all his house believed and were baptized.

The word *“believed”* means *“to have faith, to put your trust in.”*

In another passage in Acts, Paul called the elders of the church of Ephesus and reminded them of his first work among them...

**Acts 20:18-21**, *“And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Paul testified to the Jews and Greeks, *“repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Paul sums up the message of the Gospel with repentance & faith.

**Who preached repentance?**

- John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2)
- Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3)
- Peter (2 Peter 3:9)
- Paul (Acts 20:21)

## A. THE COMMAND OF GOD

The message of salvation is an appeal to all men. Some would have us believe that Christ only died for certain people. Such a thought is contrary to the Word of God.

### 1) God's Work for Man

Consider the following passages of Scripture:

**God commandeth \_\_\_\_\_ men \_\_\_\_\_ to repent.**

**Acts 17:30-34**, *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and other said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman name Damaris, and others with them."*

**The Lord is not willing that \_\_\_\_\_ should perish, but that \_\_\_\_\_ should come to repentance.**

**2 Peter 3:9**, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

**God so loved the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**God sent His Son that the \_\_\_\_\_ through him might be saved.**

**John 3:16-17**, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

**Jesus Christ tasted death for \_\_\_\_\_ man.**

**Hebrews 2:9**, *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for ever man."*

**Jesus Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**, *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*

**Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_ world.**

**1 John 2:2**, *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

## **2) God’s Work in Man**

When a man repents of his sin and places his faith in Christ, it is always the result of God’s work in the soul of man.

The Gospel of John declares Christ to be the light of the world. This light is the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**John 1:4-9**, *“In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*

Every man receives light. However, we understand that man has a responsibility to respond to the light he receives. The reason why a majority of people reject the light is because they love the darkness rather than the light.

**John 3:19-21**, *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”*

The light that man receives demands a response. Man can choose to believe in the light, or he can choose to remain in darkness.

**John 12:36, 46**, *“While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light...I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”*

**Consider the following Scriptures that speak of God’s work in man:**

**The Holy Spirit reproveth the world of \_\_\_\_\_, and righteousness, and of judgment.**

**John 16:7-11**, *“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”*

**The preaching of the cross is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:18**, *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”*

**The faith of the believer stands in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**1 Corinthians 2:4, 5**, *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

**The gospel of Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto salvation.**

**Romans 1:16**, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jews first, and also to the Greek.”*

## B. THE CONVERSION OF MAN

The Apostle Paul described his testifying to the Jews and Greeks in Acts 20. This passage helps us understand how a person is converted.

**Acts 20:21**, *“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ preached this message of repentance and faith.

**Mark 1:15**, *“And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*

It is important to understand that repentance and faith are inseparable. A man can feel bad about his sin, but that is not enough to be saved. A man may believe in his mind that Jesus died on the cross, but that is not enough to be saved.

**Repentance** toward God: Because **we are sinners** before God.

**Faith** toward Christ: Because **Christ alone is the sufficient sacrifice** for our sin.

In order to be saved, a man must repent of sin because he sees himself as exceedingly sinful before a Holy God and responds by placing his faith in Christ Who alone is the sufficient Sacrifice for his sin.

**1 Thessalonians 1:9**, *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols\* to serve the living and true God;”*

**\*Important Note:** Salvation is not turning from idols. Salvation is turning to God from idols. When a man is convicted of sin, he must turn to Christ Who alone can save. Christ declared, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (**John 14:6**)

## 1) Repentance Toward God

The word “repent” means “a change of mind, a reversal, to turn.”

**Christ came to call \_\_\_\_\_ to repentance.**

**Matthew 9:13**, *“...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

Read the text in **Luke 8:10-14**, and answer the following two questions:  
Who went home justified? How was he justified?

---

---

**Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Luke 15:7**, *“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”*

The Great Commission (which was given to the church) must have a clear message of repentance. There is no remission of sins without repentance.

**Luke 24:47**, *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*

## 2) Faith Toward our Lord Jesus Christ

Faith in Christ and His work on the cross is what delivers the sinful man from God's punishment.

**It is by Faith that we receive \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.**

**Acts 10:43**, *"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."*

**It is by Faith that we are \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 5:1**, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

**It is by Faith that we are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Galatians 3:26**, *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*

**It is by Faith that we know we have \_\_\_\_\_ life.**

**1 John 5:13**, *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

**It is Faith that is counted for \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 4:3-5**, *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."*

We must declare plainly that a man cannot be justified before God by good works. It is unmistakable in Scripture that justification before God is only obtained by faith.

**A man cannot be justified by the deeds of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 3:20**, *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."*

**A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 3:28**, *"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."*

**Paul writes and declares that the sacrifice of Christ would have been vain if righteousness came by the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Galatians 2:21**, *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."*

**No man is justified by the \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of God.**

**Galatians 3:11**, *“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”*

**A man is saved by grace through faith, Not of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ephesians 2:8-9**, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

## C. THE CREATION OF GOD

What takes place when a person is born again?

**1) We are partakers of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature.**

**2 Peter 1:4**, *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

**2) We have been \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit**

**1 Peter 3:18**, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”*

**Ephesians 2:1, 5-6** *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ...And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”*

**John 5:21**, *“For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”*

**3) We have been \_\_\_\_\_ into the kingdom of his dear Son.**

**Colossians 1:13**, *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”*

**John 5:24**, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

**4) We are new \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

**Galatians 6:15**, *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*

## IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE AWARE OF COMMON FAULTY SUBSTITUTES TO TRUE SALVATION:

### Salvation is NOT Universalism.

Universalism teaches that all men will be saved eventually. Everyone is on a different road, but we all end up at the same place.

Such teaching is contrary to the Word of God:

**Matthew 7:21**, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

**Luke 13:2-3**, *“And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*

### Salvation is NOT Baptism.

Some erroneously teach that a person must be baptized in order to be saved. There are two passages that shed light on this claim:

We find that Paul did not include ‘*baptism*’ in the preaching of the Gospel. Paul told the believers in Corinth that he was not sent to baptize and thanked the Lord that none were baptized of him.

**1 Corinthians 1:14-17**, *“I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”*

We also find that the indwelling of the Holy Ghost comes before baptism. Often those who teach that baptism saves claim that baptism is necessary to receive the Holy Ghost. The following passage is clear the Holy Ghost is received before baptism.

**Acts 10:44-48**, *“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”*

### Salvation is NOT Reformation.



Some teach that salvation is a decision to change behavior, to follow a certain number of rules and commands.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who practiced strict outward conformity to the law, but Christ went on to communicate to him that outward reformation was completely insufficient. He who desires to see the kingdom of God must be born again!

**John 3:5-7**, *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*

### **Salvation is NOT “Easy-believism.”**

This idea is often manifested in a person trying to get someone to repeat a prayer after them. A shallow appeal is presented with these words, “give your life to Christ,” “ask God to take you to heaven,” “Make a commitment to Christ,” “Accept Jesus into your life.” In this easily-believism there is no mention of sin or judgment.

**Acts 20:21**, *“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Hebrews 6:1**, *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”*

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Paul testified that his message was two-fold. What was that message?

---

---

For whom did Christ die? \_\_\_\_\_

Is anyone to be excluded in the preaching of the Gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_

What work is God performing in the sinner's heart?

---

---

---

Whom does God call to repentance? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the word "repent" mean?

---

---

Why is guilt over sin not enough for salvation?

---

---

Is a change in behavior enough for salvation?

---

---

According to the Bible, can a man be justified by the deeds of the law? \_\_\_\_\_

According to the Bible, how can a man be justified?

---

---

What does the Bible teach happens at the moment of salvation?

---

---

---

---