

# *Gloryland Bible Study*



## Faith Bible Institute

P.O. Box 100  
Ludowici, GA 31316

A Ministry of  
Faith Baptist Church  
Ludowici, GA 31316  
*Terry D. Sellars, Pastor*

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## Lesson One

### Doctrines of Salvation

#### **"Three Things Every Christian Should Know"**

#### **Introduction: Salvation**

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Getting saved is simple. The Bible tells us that we need only:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," - Acts 16:31

The repentant sinner need only have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe in Him as the Saviour to receive eternal life and the free pardon from sin-that is salvation. When he does this, he is born of the Spirit of God and acquires a new home in Heaven. After trusting Christ, it is natural that one become a student of the word of God and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

In his classic work, *The Preacher and His Preaching*, Alfred P. Gibbs says, "It is not enough that a soul has been won for Christ and thus regenerated. That soul must now be led on in ways well pleasing to the Lord and built up in His most holy faith. The preaching and teaching of the word of God is the means by which this is accomplished."

Today many believers are confused about the teaching of scripture, because as new babes in the Lord they were not grounded in the precious doctrines of the word of God. It is vitally important that we study the scriptures if we are to become effective servants of the Lord. Daily devotions are sweet; a program for reading the Bible through in a year is profitable; but nothing can take the place of real study.

I think every believer will agree with J.C. Ryle, who said: "No one ever said at the end of his days, I have read my Bible too much; I have prayed too much; I have been too careful with my soul."

#### Standard Rules for Studying God's Word

The Bible instructs us:

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also being led away with the error of the wicked fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever.." - II Peter 3:17-18

In verse 18, we are given the simple commandment, "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord". It is evident from the warning in the previous verse that obedience to this commandment will keep us from "being led away with the error" that will cause us to "fall from your own steadfastness."

Just as we are commanded to pray, to witness, and to live for the Lord, we are also

commanded to study the word of God. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - II Timothy 2:15 The Bible will be much easier for us to understand if we follow some standard rules of study.

## I. Never Add To Or Take Away From The Text Of The King James Bible

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Never study under a man who is a Bible corrector. When dealing with the Holy Bible, we will let the scriptures correct us, not contrariwise. Even while the Apostle Paul was still alive, men had already begun to correct the word of God.

Paul sets himself apart from such, saying; "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God..."  
-II Cor. 2:17

## II. Never Take A Verse Of Scripture Out Of Context

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It has been well said, "A text without a context, is a pretext." Always study the verse in the light of its own setting.

## III. Never Interpret A Verse Of Scripture You Understand In The Light Of One You Do Not Understand

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Scripture should not be made to conform to a preconceived theology; on the contrary, scripture determines theology. As the light in the candlestick gave "light over against it" (Exodus 25:37), so scripture illuminates and explains scripture. The Bible is the only commentary that is absolutely dependable.

## IV. Never Go To Scholarship For The Definition Of Something The Bible Has Already Defined

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For example, the Bible definition of the words "swine" and "dogs" is found in Matthew 7:6 and II Peter 2:22.

## V. Always Ask Who Is Speaking And To Whom

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Is the verse speaking to the Jew, the Gentile, or the Church?

## VI. Always Take The Plain, Literal Meaning Of Every Verse Of Scripture Except Where It Is Impossible To Do So

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"If the literal sense makes good sense, seek no other sense, lest it result in nonsense." Unless the passage is obviously figurative, it is always to be taken in the plain and literal sense.

## VII. Always Remember That Every Verse In The Bible Has Three Applications

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- A. **The doctrinal application** (often prophetic).
- B. **The historical application**, meaning the event actually occurred in human history.
- C. **The devotional or spiritual application**, which is the practical application of the passage to the life and conduct of the believer.

As we study the Bible these rules should help us make proper application of even the most difficult passages of scripture to our lives.

Some suggested methods of study are

**Association**: The words "like" and "as" are the key words in the Bible for understanding anything that cannot be seen.

**Contrast:** This is called "rightly dividing the word of truth" in II Timothy 2:15. Remember, things that are different are not the same.

**Repetition:** Nothing is learned without constant review of the same material. It must be gone over again and again until it is learned by heart.

These are just a few guidelines that will help keep us from error as we study our Bibles. Keep them in mind as we study, and use them as tools to help search the scriptures. At the end of our study we want to know what the Bible says about the subject, not what man says. Billy Sunday said, "When the Bible says one thing, and scholarship says another, scholarship can go plumb to the devil."

## Here's A Helpful Hint

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While studying these lessons, use a notebook to write down thoughts and questions that come to mind. These notes will be useful for years to come. If possible, get a Bible with a wide margin. Brief personal notes and cross references help us to recall the things we learn today for years to come. As we study the word of God let's ask the Lord for light and understanding-ask Him to help us to grow in grace and knowledge to the stature of a full-grown Christian.

### THOROUGHLY FURNISHED

In his epistle to Timothy, Paul says that:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." - II Timothy 3:16,17

Paul instructs the young pastor, Timothy, and each one of us, that "all scripture" is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Let's examine these three.

## I. The Scriptures Are Profitable For Doctrine

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Of all the things we want to learn from the word of God, doctrine is the most important. ("Doctrine" simply means the things that the Bible teaches about a certain subject.) There are over 5,000 different denominations in the United States today, each one having a different interpretation of the scriptures. Members of these denominations strictly adhere to the teaching of their own peculiar sect; but in our study, we are interested in what the word of God teaches, because it is the only pure source of doctrine we will ever study. We must set our hearts upon learning what the Bible says, and not what a man or a denomination believes. The only way we will ever know the truth is to take the scriptures in the King James Bible at face value. The Final Authority for the believer, above what anyone teaches, the faithful standard by which we may judge all things, is the 1611 Authorized Version.

As we read in the book of Romans:

"Let God be true but every man a liar." - Romans 3:4

The Psalms also warn us:

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." - Psalm 118:8

## II. The Scriptures Are Profitable For Reproof

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In II Timothy 3:15, "reproof" implies the exposing of error and conviction of sin, with a suggestion of shame upon the one convicted. Scripture can be very pointed about our sin, but it is always for our good and in preparation of the remedy. The purpose of pointing out our sin is that we might receive correction and instruction. Some things may be hidden from men; but scripture is the light that uncovers all things, for nothing is hidden from God.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." - Psalm 119:105

"All things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light." -  
Ephesians 5:13

"For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." -  
John 3:20

Having been reprov'd, let us heed the warning of Proverbs 29: "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." - Proverbs 29:1

Let us not be as this man, but accept the reproof of the scriptures as a kindness from the Lord, and the attending correction with joy.

### III. The Scriptures Are Profitable For Correction

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Correction is the remedy that will lead us to the restoration of our relationship with the Lord after we have sinned. In the scriptures, chastening is closely linked to correction. "Behold happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not the chastening of the Almighty." - Job 5:17

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction." - Proverbs 3:11

For we know that: "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby." - Hebrews 12:11

### IV. The Scriptures Are Profitable For Instruction In Righteous-ness.

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The Bible never leads anyone to do wrong; it always instructs us to do right. It is not even necessary that we understand everything in the scriptures in order to profit by them; but it is necessary that we believe them. We know that by and by the Holy Spirit will give understanding to the man who believes what God said.

Paul expressed his desire for all believers in this regard. "For this cause also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" - Colossians 1:9

The Bible teaches us how to live a life pleasing unto the Lord, but we must study the word of God and give attendance to the teaching and preaching of the word of God. Thereby we can learn the great doctrines of the faith. Studying the scriptures will help perfect us and thoroughly furnish us unto all good works.

What Martin Luther said hundreds of years ago still holds true: "In truth, you cannot read the scriptures too much; What you read, you cannot too well read; What you read well, you cannot too well understand; What you understand well, you cannot too well teach, And what you teach well, you cannot too well live."

#### SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

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If not established in the faith through the study of the word of God, we are likely to be deceived by false teachers. As the Apostle Paul warned: "That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive." - Ephesians 4:14

The devil uses many false teachers to confuse young believers, persuading them to believe peculiar doctrines and follow them. Beware, they are thoroughly familiar with their own doctrine and, as the Pharisees, very convincing. But we need not be deceived if we are firmly established in the true doctrines of the word of God. We should know what we believe so we will not be confused by these emissaries of Satan.

Because of ignorance or false beliefs, many believers are unaware that eternal life is a present possession-they do not realize that the salvation of their soul is already complete and secure forever. But, as we study the



doctrine of salvation, we should gain assurance in the finished work of Christ by learning to rightly divide the scriptures. Many today are deceived in believing that only parts of the scripture are inspired, but that isn't what the Bible says (II Timothy 3:16). We who trust the word of God know that every word of the King James Bible is true.

The Bible says: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." - I Thessalonians 2:13  
Paul is saying that if we don't believe the word of God it won't work in us. It only works in those who believe it to be "as it is in truth, the word of God."

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

When we were first born we were merely babies. In like manner, when a man first experiences the new birth, he is a newborn baby (spiritually speaking). From that moment on, he should begin to grow as he studies the word of God (spoken of as "milk" in I Peter 2). "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby." - I Peter 2:2

Paul's letter to the Hebrews also says: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth unto them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." - Hebrews 5:12-14

The Lord is a good dietitian and He gives His children a balanced diet to help them grow strong spiritually. In this respect the word of God is variously spoken of as:

- MILK- in Hebrews 5:13
- MEAT- in Hebrews 5:14
- HONEY- in Psalm 119:103
- APPLES- in Proverbs 25:11
- BREAD- in Luke 4:4

*THAT'S A BALANCED DIET.*

Earlier we read that the Christian is to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord." When he does, he begins to mature.

- As a newborn he is only a "baby" (I Peter 2:2).
- He becomes a "little child"-a toddler (I John 2:1,12).
- Then he becomes "a child" (II Corinthians 6:13; I Peter 1:14).
- Later he becomes a "young man" (John 2:13).
- And he matures into a "man" (Colossians 1:28; I John 2:13).
- He continues until he is an "elder" (II John 1).
- Finally he will become like Paul, spoken of as the "aged" (Philemon 1:9)

Where are we in our present spiritual growth? Some have existed on a meager diet, and although saved for many years, are still babies. Then there are others who have been saved for only five or six months, but have already begun to mature. The difference is a balanced diet. If we are to grow, we must have daily nourishment from the word of God. Studying the New Christian Series Bible course, the student will be exposed to enough Bible truth to equip him with a true knowledge and proper understanding of the basic doctrines of the faith. We will continue until we are feeding on some good strong meat- Porterhouse steak doctrine. Thus, the diligent student will find himself:

- A. Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Better equipped to do the work of the Lord. (We should find ourselves used more and more in His service every day.)
- C. More yielded to the Lord and better able to discern His will.

- D. Growing in the love of the word of God. (The more we study and yield to it, the more we love it.)
- E. Growing in his love for God.

The more the student learns about all the fantastic things that the Lord Jesus Christ has done for him, the more he will love the blessed Saviour. Dr. James McGaughey sums it up thusly: "Many of God's people have never grown in the Lord because they have not appropriated the things essential to Christian growth. A little poem I read illustrates the truth:

*Two forces surge within my breast - The one is foul, the other blest;  
The 'new' I love, the old I hate: The one I feed will dominate."*

## LET'S REVIEW

Simple Commandments: Use the words listed below to answer the questions which follow:

contrast speaking associate like scholarship heart scripture grow context spiritual  
doctrinal error historical fall repetition rightly dividing study take away add to literal

1. II Peter 3:17,18 says that we are to "\_\_\_\_\_ in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord" so that we will not be "led away with the \_\_\_\_\_" that will cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ from our own steadfastness."
2. Never \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ from the text of the King James Bible.
3. II Timothy 2:15 "\_\_\_\_\_ to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, \_\_\_\_\_ the word of truth."
4. Never take a verse of scripture out of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ illuminates and explains scripture.
6. Never go to \_\_\_\_\_ for the definition of something the Bible has already defined.
7. Always ask WHO is \_\_\_\_\_ and to WHOM.
8. Always take the plain, \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of every verse of scripture except where it is impossible to do so.
9. List the three applications that every verse of scripture has:  
(1)\_\_\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_\_\_
10. The words "\_\_\_\_\_" and "as" are the key words in the Bible for \_\_\_\_\_ anything that cannot be seen.
11. Remember, in studying the Bible, things that are \_\_\_\_\_ are not the same.
12. Going over the same material again and again is called \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Nothing is really learned from the Bible without constant review -it must be learned by  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Thoroughly Furnished**

1. II Timothy 3:16,17 "All scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ , for \_\_\_\_\_ , for \_\_\_\_\_ , for \_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness."
2. Which word from II Timothy 3:16,17 means "the things that the Bible teaches about a certain subject?" \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is the only source of PURE doctrine? (see II Timothy 3:16) \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. What is the Final Authority for the believer in all matters of faith and practice? The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Which word from the II Timothy 3:16,17 implies the exposing of error and conviction of sin? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Which word from II Timothy 3:16,17 means "the remedy that will lead us to the restoration of our relationship with the Lord after we have sinned?" \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. Which words from II Timothy 3:16,17 tell us that the Bible always teaches us to do right? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. The devil uses many \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ with deceitful doctrines to confuse young believers.
9. To keep from being deceived we must be firmly established in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the word of God.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ in the King James Bible is true.

## **Spiritual Growth**

1. I Peter 2:2 "As newborn \_\_\_\_\_ , desire the sincere \_\_\_\_\_ of the word that we may grow thereby."
2. Which word in I Peter 2:2 refers to a new believer? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Look up the following scripture texts and write down the word that is used to describe the word of God in each verse.  
Hebrews 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 5:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 119:103 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 25:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. If a Christian is to grow in grace and knowledge he must have daily nourishment from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## **THREE THINGS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW**

The purpose of this lesson is to establish the believer in the true doctrines of Bible salvation. In Lesson 1 we will learn that:

- Every Believer Should Know He Is Saved.
- Every Believer Should Know How He Got Saved.
- Every Believer Should Know How To Lead Others To Christ.

Unless we know these three things, further study will be fruitless. These are the basics-they are essential to our growth. Still, there are church members all over this country who profess to be Christians, but do not have the assurance that they are really saved.

For example, consider a Campbellite preacher teaching his congregation what they must do to get saved. What are his instructions? - repent, believe, confess and be baptized by a Campbellite elder. He teaches this to his people every week. Now, if we asked one of these preachers if he had repented, confessed, and believed, he would say, "Yes!" If we asked him if he had been baptized, he would say without hesitation, "Of course!" But if we asked him, "Are you saved?" He would say something like, "I hope so," "I think so," or "I'm doing the best I can." Can you imagine anything more ridiculous than a preacher telling 400 or 500 people each week how to be saved, when he can't even testify that he knows he himself is saved? In fact, he actually believes that no one can be certain they are going to Heaven. If his church members did get saved by trusting in the blood of Christ, by faith alone (instead of Campbellite doctrine) they would never grow in the word of God. They would be hopelessly confused about their salvation and about most other Bible doctrines as well.

Now let us look more closely at the three things every believer should know.

### **I. Every Believer Should Know that He Is Saved**

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The first thing every Christian needs to get settled in his heart and mind is that he possesses the gift of eternal life now-he must know he is saved. Nowhere does the Bible teach that a born again child of God will probably go to Heaven when he dies. We have a know-so salvation, firmly based upon what God said, not a hope-so salvation.

If we have believed the gospel of the grace of God (I Corinthians 15:1-4), then we are saved and can know for certain we have eternal life now. Still, there are many self-righteous people who believe that if they are good and if they work hard at being a Christian, they will probably go to Heaven. Of course, they have no assurance of their salvation at all, and will try to tell us that no one can know for sure that one has eternal life, but this does not upset us at all. We believe what the word of God says, not what people say.

As we read in the Psalms:

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." - Psalm 118:8

We also read that we are to "[B]e ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." - I Peter 3:15



To do this, we must be prepared to show others, from the Bible, what we believe. Let's see what the word of God says in I John: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son! And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son." - I John 5:10,11

Next is a key verse that we want to mark. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." - I John 5:12

If you have the Son of God, you have eternal life. If you don't have the Son of God, you don't have eternal life-it is just that simple. The Bible is the record God has given to show how we can have eternal life. John continues: "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." - I John 5:13

It is clear from the Bible that believers can know they have eternal life. However, perhaps ninety percent of professing Christians do not have this blessed assurance. In answer to the question, "If you died tonight, do you know for certain that you would go to Heaven?", most would reply: "I hope so"- "I'm working on it"- "I'm trying to be"- "You can't know that until judgment day," or some similar nonsense. Others would reply: "Well, I'm a Catholic"- "I'm a church member"- "I've been baptized," but few would look you straight in the eye and say, "Yes, I know I am saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ." If that seems hard to believe, just go out on the street and distribute a handful of tracts to passers-by, and ask them if they are saved. They will say they attend church, read the Bible, and pray etc.; but few will have any real assurance that they possess eternal salvation now. You will see how little regard they have for the authority of God's word, for while the Bible says we can know that we have eternal life, some still say they cannot. Should a man believe what he thinks, or what the Bible says? Surely we must believe the word of God. The Lord has already told us what to do when men's ideas conflict with His word.

He says: "[L]et God be true, but every man a liar..." - Romans 3:4 That is why so many are in doubt about eternal life-they just refuse to believe what God said. The final authority in their lives is not the word of God, but their school, some radio preacher they follow after, or their own fickle emotions. Folks will put their trust in many things before they will wholly trust in The Book God gave them.

I know a Baptist pastor who, while witnessing to a Roman Catholic priest, showed him God's plan of salvation from the scriptures. The priest confessed his ignorance of the scriptures, saying that he had spent more time studying philosophy than he had the Bible. Then, frustrated at being unable to answer the scriptures shown him, he finally said, "The Bible is just a bunch of baloney."

In another instance, a so-called Charismatic Christian told me that studying doctrine was dangerous, and that we shouldn't talk about doctrine anyway, but just love each other and try to get along. In still another conversation, a member of the Church of Christ sect was shown from the Bible how he could receive eternal life. At the end of our conversation, he still did not believe anyone could know they have eternal life-showing a total disregard for the authority of God's word.

On another occasion, I had an opportunity to present these verses about assurance of salvation to a Calvinist. When he was unable to argue with the plain statement of scripture that "you may know," he broke off the conversation, saying that interpreting the scriptures should be left in the hands of

preachers. He was saying that a Christian couldn't understand the word of God by himself, but had to have a preacher with a college degree to interpret it for him. That's the same thing the Jehovah's Witnesses and Roman Catholics will say. Why, I have even heard folks get mad and say, "I don't care what the Bible says!"

These all had a problem with conflicting authorities. When the Bible did not agree with their church's theology or tradition, they threw the Bible out, accepting the authority of their church, school, or tradition above the word of God itself. If the word of God is the final authority in your life, simply stand on what it says. It can handle every argument and can lead you to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ until you are firmly established in God's word. There are many today who make a profession of faith in Christ, but never become real students of the word of God. Because they fail to do so, they never grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord. If we were to ask them if they are saved, they might say something like, "Yes, I got saved two or three years ago, but I'm not sure just exactly how to tell you about it." This has been so noticeable among some groups that now they repeatedly drill their new converts the steps of salvation until they can repeat it like a computer when questioned about their salvation. These still may have no real assurance, but can give the right answers and put off the soul winner. How foolish to convince a man that he is saved when he does not really know for sure. For example, can you imagine asking a married man, "Are you married?" and receiving the answer, "Well, I hope so; I mean I think so; that is, my marriage license says I am; but I can't tell you for sure how I get married." Listen, he met that woman at a certain time and place, and entered into vows with her. He took her home and made her his wife. In fact, he saw her only about an hour ago at home, where she served dinner and put the kids to bed. How could a married man become so confused?

In like manner, if we are truly saved, we had to come face to face with God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, with all our sin. Stripped of any hope of salvation by our own goodness, we fell upon Christ as our only hope and He saved us and made us His child. We are now born again, forgiven and made clean as a new creature in Christ. We were just at church rejoicing in the Lord over the preaching of the cross and were mightily moved by the Spirit of God. How then, could a believer not know for sure whether or not he is really saved? How is it that he finds himself unable to tell others how they might be saved? Folks, if you don't know for certain that you are saved, then you probably aren't. Now, that does not mean we will never doubt our salvation-Satan loves to bring doubts to our minds. He will tell us how unworthy we are and remind us of our past sins. Later, we might even have to rehearse in our minds our meeting with God to settle the business of our salvation and the forgiveness of sin. But brother, if we do not know whether or not we have ever even been there, then it is very likely that we are just lost.

I like that old hymn, *The Old Account Was Settled*. It reminds me of the time that I met with God to settle accounts. The first verse goes like this:

*"There was a time on earth, When in the book of heav'n  
An old account was standing For sins yet unforgiv'n;  
My name was at the top, And many things below,  
I went unto the keeper, And settled long ago.*

*Chorus: Long ago, long ago, Yes, the old account  
was settled long ago; And the record's clear today,  
for He washed my sins away, When the old account was  
settled long ago."*

Can you remember when and where your account was settled? If not, maybe you need to be saved. One nationally known pastor responded to an inquirer's question about his personal testimony of salvation by saying that he had been raised in a Christian home and really couldn't remember a time when he was not a Christian. That is a mighty shaky testimony with which to face the judgment. While it is possible for one to be saved at an early age, a deep conviction of sin and a repentant heart must have been manifest. How anyone could come before God Almighty, the Creator of the universe-be stripped down to their bare soul and confronted with the blackness of their sin and the desperate wickedness of their heart-and not remember it, is beyond my comprehension. I am sure that anyone truly saved as a child, who doesn't remember the occasion, will of necessity be compelled to go to God again later in life to make sure of his salvation. You need to be able to mark a date and time in your life when you did business with God; you need to make sure you have eternal life and forgiveness of sin.

Let us look at the scriptures now, and see by example how one man was saved. In Acts 16, Paul the Apostle dealt with a Roman jailer, who asked the most important question anyone could ever ask, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). He asked how he could get saved. This is a very important verse to remember when dealing with the unsaved, because it is simple, honest, and straight forward.

The answer Paul and Silas gave was equally simple: "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." - Acts 16:31

The man was told that he and his household would be saved if they would believe on the Lord. The right question is in verse thirty, the right answer in verse thirty-one. We see the clear answer according to the scripture:

- It is NOT, "repent, confess, believe and be baptized."
- It is NOT "join the church."
- It is NOT "keep the commandments."
- It is NOT "take the sacraments."
- And it is NOT "keep the golden rule."

The answer is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." That's right-the very moment a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, He receives the gift of eternal life. It is not a reward we look forward to later on, but a present possession. See what John the Apostle says: "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. He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God." - John 3:16-18. That is the same thing Paul told the Philippian jailer in answer to his searching question in Acts 16. The man who believes on the Lord is "not condemned," but the man that does not believe is "condemned already."

Again John says: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." - John 3:36

- The only sin that will send a man to Hell is unbelief - refusing to believe on Jesus as Saviour.

"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." - John 5:24 In every one of these passages of scripture, condemnation is based on a man's unbelief, and nothing else-it has nothing to do with water baptism. Knowing this, look at Mark 16 (one of the verses often used to teach that water baptism is a necessary element of salvation.) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." - Mark 16:16

- It says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."
- It does **not** say "[H]e that believeth not and is not baptized shall be damned."
- It simply says, "[H]e that believeth not shall be damned."
- It is **unbelief** that condemns a man - water baptism has nothing to do with it.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter of warning to the church at Corinth warning them of subtle manner by which Satan deceives men about the assurance of their salvation. "But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." - II Corinthians 11:3 Salvation is the free gift of God to all who believe! To receive this gift you must simply believe in His Son, yet many remain unsaved because of their unbelief and blindness. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, In whom the god of this world [the devil] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them." - II Corinthians 4:3,4

## II. Every Believer Should Know How He Got Saved

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When we speak of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not mean simply believing that there is a God. But, that is a starting place. As the book of Hebrews says: "[H]e that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." - Hebrews 11:6

We must believe on Christ as Saviour in order to be saved: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." - John 3:14,15

In Acts chapter 10, we see an example of this progression from believing in God, to believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. The Roman centurion, said to be; "A devout man, and one that feared God with all His house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." - Acts 10:2 "And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews..." - Acts 10:22

Paul said this man was just and devout, but though he prayed, gave generously to the poor, feared God, and had a good report among the whole nation, he was lost. In Acts 10:4, the angel tells him that his prayers and alms had come up for a "memorial before God," but this didn't cleanse the centurion from his sins. Acts 10:35 says that any man who fears God and works righteousness is even "accepted" with God, but not saved. Rather, he is accepted as ready to receive the gospel. What happened to the Roman centurion? God rewarded him for seeking God (Hebrews 11:6) by sending Peter to preach the gospel to him. When the centurion heard it, he believed, and then he was born of the Spirit of God. (He received eternal life.) No doubt he was an unusual man (better than many Christians I know), but being good, and even believing there was a God could not save him. The Roman centurion had to believe the gospel of

the grace of God. Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth makes it clear that this is the way all men are saved in the Church Age.

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved..." - I Corinthians 15:1,2

***Saved by what? By the gospel!***

Now, let's read the rest of this passage of scripture and learn exactly what "the gospel" is. "[I]f ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" - I Corinthians 15:2-4. This is the gospel that Paul received and preached-the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nothing about water baptism can be found anywhere near this passage. Plainly, water baptism is not an essential part of salvation, and it is heresy to teach that it is. The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A man can believe in his mind that the gospel is true, yet remain unsaved. It is only when one comes to God with a repentant heart, believing upon Jesus as his Saviour: crucified for his sins, buried and resurrected, that he becomes a child of God. Believing the gospel in one's mind does no good; it must be coupled with a recognition of personal and individual need. Many believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, but that is not good enough. They must believe that He died for each one of them as an individual.

To better understand how a man gets saved, let's take a look at three things that lead to his conversion.

- A. He Must Realize His Condition.**
- B. He Must Respect God's Provision.**
- C. He Must Receive God's Appropriation.**

Now, let's examine these three steps in detail.

***A. He Must Realize His Condition.***

1. He is a Christ rejecting sinner

Man must see, from the Bible, that he is a sinner and he must understand that without the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, he is without hope and on his way to Hell. Some good Bible verses to use are: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." - Romans 3:23

Paul says that "all" have sinned-without exception! (That is not my interpretation of the verse; it is simply what the Bible says.) "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." - Romans 3:10 Quite simply, "all" means "all" and "none" means "none." "Wherefore as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world and death by sin and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." - Romans 5:12 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 6:23

Romans 6:23 shows that the reward of sin is death, but it also makes it clear that the singular remedy is "life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Because of Adam's sin, everyone since then has been under the curse

of death. Each of us must also suffer physical death if the Lord tarries, but the death that "passed upon all men" is that spiritual death that has cut us off from God. This leads to "the second death" of Revelation 20:11-15 (the wrath of God poured out upon the lost in Hell), where the lost man is cast into a Lake of Fire, and eternally separated from God. The contrast is "eternal life," passed on to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. When we believe, we experience the new birth by which we are quickened. Some other Old Testament verses useful for convincing a man of his lost, sinful condition are given below.

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." - Ecclesiastes 7:20

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?" - Jeremiah 17:9

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags and we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away." - Isaiah 64:6

God does not give anyone eternal life because they deserve it. No, Jesus came to save ungodly sinners- that is why one must realize he is lost before he can get saved. Counting his own works as nothing, one must trust in Christ's work. The following verses make this plain.

"I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." - Matthew 9:13

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." - Romans 4:5

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." - Romans 5:6

Man is not in this lost, ungodly state because of the bad things he does. On the contrary, he does bad things because of his lost condition. This condition is common to all men because of Adam's sin. In the following passage of scripture from Luke's gospel we have an example of two unsaved men with very different backgrounds and lifestyles. One is a self-righteous man, while the other, by his own confession, is a unsaved sinner. "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." - Luke 18:10-12. That is the proclamation of the self-righteous man, who believes that his works would justify him before God.

Now, read the confession of the poor lost publican: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." - Luke 18:13

Then Jesus said: "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." - Luke 18:14

To which prayer does God give attention?-to that of the publican. Broken in spirit because of his sins, he confessed to God that he was a lost sinner, and cried out for mercy. Therefore, it was also he who "went away justified, rather than the other." There are still people like the Pharisee today, who try to justify themselves before the Lord. They usually say things like: "I never harmed anyone; God would not send me to hell." "I never killed anybody or stole anything; I love my neighbor."

2. He is hopelessly lost and on his way to a burning Hell, under the wrath of God.

Many so-called good, clean, moral people will be in Hell because they were unwilling to come to the Lord Jesus Christ with their sin. But, no matter how good a man thinks himself to be, he must realize he is a lost Hell-bound sinner before he can get saved. An honest man will see from the Bible that without Christ, he has no hope. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:" - Ephesians 2:12

Furthermore he is a child of wrath: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." - Ephesians 2:1,3

## ***B. He Must Respect God's Provision.***

1. He must see that God's only provision for the cleansing of sin is the blood of His Son. So many think they have to do something to get saved, but we can do nothing. God is the only one who can help us: He is our only hope. As Paul says in Ephesians: "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

And again in Romans he says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 6:23

Every Christian should memorize Romans 6:23. It shows clearly that salvation is a gift, and not of works. Romans 5:15-18 also deals with this, comparing Christ and Adam. Using a colored marker, highlight in your Bible the word "gift" each time it occurs in these verses. (This will emphasize that salvation is indeed the free gift of God to all who believe.)

"But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification. For if by one man's offense death reigned by one, much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus

Christ. Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men by justification of life." - Romans 5:15-18

If good works could save us, God would owe us our salvation as a debt. It would no longer be a "free gift," but a reward. Grace, however, is the free unmerited favor of God (Romans 4:4,5). "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." - Romans 4:4,5

According to these verses, when one receives Jesus Christ by faith he has "obeyed the gospel." The Bible does not say that obeying the gospel means "repent, confess, believe and be baptized," no matter what anyone says. The Bible definition of obeying the gospel is found in Romans chapter 10.

"That they have not all obeyed the gospel, for Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report," - Romans 10:16 We obey the gospel by believing in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Bible says, it is a free gift, not an earned reward. Regarding salvation, all religions say **do**, while God says **done**. When Jesus died on the cross, the work of salvation was completed.

These were Jesus' last words from the cross: "It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." - John 19:30

God's only plan of salvation in this Church Age is by grace alone, through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. "For by grace are ye saved by faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." - Ephesians 2:8,9

If man's works contributed in any way to his salvation, God would be saving sinners to pay a debt He owed them. But God is indebted to no one, because we are saved by His work on the cross. Here is a good practical illustration to help explain that salvation is absolutely free. Holding a pencil or a coin (or any small item that is handy) in the palm of your hand, offer it as a free gift to the person you are dealing with. When he accepts it, tell him that's all he has to do to receive eternal life - just simply take the free gift.

"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." - John 3:36

### ***C. He Must Receive God's Appropriation.***

#### 1. He Holy Spirit Draws Men To Christ

We cannot lead people to Christ unless the Holy Spirit is convicting them of sin, and drawing them to Christ. The Bible plainly says, "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." - John 6:44

Furthermore we read in the Gospel of John: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me." - John 12:32

Those called *Calvinists* teach that Christ died for only a select few, not for all. That is a lie straight out of Hell! The Lord Jesus promised that He would "draw all men" to himself. Again we read in the scriptures, that: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." - II Pet. 3:9

Still, not everyone will be saved. The Holy Spirit will convict a man of sin and give him faith to believe, but if the sinner hardens his heart toward the gospel, there is nothing more we can do with him. We can show him the scriptures and pray for him, but we cannot give him the desire to be saved. In the last chapter of the book of Revelation the Holy Spirit gives this invitation for all to be saved.

"And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." - Revelation 22:16

#### 2. Repentance

You may be wondering, "What about repentance-don't I have to repent?" Yes, that is clear from the word of God. "God...now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:" - Acts 17:30



But what is repentance? Well, it is not merely sorrow for sin. There are many who weep over sin, but without repentance, immediately return to their wicked ways. Judas Iscariot and Esau showed great sorrow for their sin, but they did not repent (cf. Matthew 27:3-5; Genesis 27:34-38).

The Bible tells us that Esau: "[F]ound no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." - Hebrews 12:17. Remorse and tears often accompany repentance, but they are not repentance in themselves. Charles H. Spurgeon wrote: *"A man may hate sin just as a murderer hates the gallows, but this does not prove repentance. If I hate sin because of the punishment, I have not repented of sin. I merely regret that God is just. But if I can see sin as an offence against Jesus Christ, and loathe myself because I have wounded Him, then I have true brokenness of heart."*

Doing penance is not repentance either; for that would give the sinner some works by which he might think himself to merit salvation. In reality, this unscriptural teaching actually hinders true repentance, which is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct.

### ***As touching the intellect:***

In Matthew 21, we read a story of a lad called to work. "He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went." - Matthew 21:29 At first the boy refused to work in the vineyard, but later he repented, changed his mind and actually went to work in the vineyard.

### ***As touching the emotions***

While sorrow is not itself repentance, it can't be separated from it. "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance. For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." - II Corinthians 7:9,10

The publican in Luke 18:13 smote upon his breast, indicating sorrow of heart and seeking of repentance. In Luke 7:38, the woman who anointed Jesus with ointment literally washed His feet with her tears. She demonstrated her sorrow for sin and repented unto salvation. Just how much emotion is necessary in true repentance no one can say. But it is evident from the use of the word in the scriptures that it involves an emotional upheaval. And even though it be not it be not accompanied by a flood of tears, or even a single tear, there should be a certain amount of heart movement. About this Spurgeon says: *"A sinner has a heart as well as a head; a sinner has emotions as well as thoughts, and we must appeal to both. A sinner will never be converted until his emotions are stirred."*

### ***As touching the will***

One of the Hebrew words for repent means "to turn." The prodigal son of Luke 15:18 said, "I will arise and he arose." He not only thought upon his ways, and felt sorry because of them, but he also turned his steps in the direction of home. So in a very real sense, repentance comes through crisis, that brings the hope of a changed life ahead. Repentance is not only the result of a heart broken for sin, but extends to the turning from sin as well. In Paul's epistles, repentance is more of an experience (as the "rising" and "going" of the prodigal son) than a single act. We may say it is a twofold act of turning from sin, to God.

a. The confessing of sin to God.

"For I will declare mine iniquity: I will be sorry for my sin."

- Psalm 38:18

"But if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
-Romans 10:9-13

The "confession...made unto salvation" in verse 9 is our confession to God. It is made when we "call upon the name of the Lord." It is the confession of our sin and our belief in the Lord Jesus as Saviour. This naturally leads us to confess Him before men, because, as verse 11 says, "whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." True believers aren't ashamed of their Lord, and He is not ashamed of them. Not once has He ever turned away a repentant sinner coming to Him for salvation. Hear the words of the Lord Jesus:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." - John 6:37-39

The publican said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The prodigal cried, "I have sinned against heaven."

b. The forsaking of sin.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord."  
- Isaiah 55:7

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."  
- Proverbs 28:13

c. A turning unto God.

Turning from sin without turning to God is reformation without regeneration. As Paul shows in his letter to the Thessalonians, the part of the will and disposition is shown in these verses.

"[H]ow ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." - I Thessalonians 1:9

"And rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful," - Joel 2:13

Repentance is not something we can pump up within ourselves-it is granted of the Lord to all who seek Him through brokenness of spirit and godly sorrow for sin.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as are of a contrite spirit." - Psalm 34:18

"Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." - Acts 11:18

"[I]f God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" - II Timothy 2:25

Repentance is a prominent subject in the scriptures, being mentioned over one hundred times. The burden of God's heart is for all to repent.

"The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." - II Peter 3:9

Failure to obey results in eternal damnation. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." - Luke 13:3

In actual experience, confession, repentance, and belief all take place at practically the same time.

### 3. Believing God.

The key to salvation in any age is believing what God said. The foundation and assurance of our salvation lies in the word of God. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." - Romans 10:17

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe." - I Thessalonians 2:13

"But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." - John 20:31. We know that preaching from the Bible is God's primary means of making His word known unto the lost. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." - I Corinthians 1:21

We must not base our salvation on an emotional experience, but on the word of God. Some people cry when they get saved, and some shout when they get saved. Others quietly believe the word of God and yield to His will. However, if they have truly believed the gospel, all of them are saved, whether they cry or shout or say nothing at all. Different people have different kinds of emotions. We cannot see, feel, or touch Jesus.

Our salvation rests solely upon what the Bible says.

Suppose we awaken one day feeling terrible, as if the whole world were falling apart and landing on us. Because we don't feel well or feel like praising God, does that mean we're no longer saved? Not at all! We will never have assurance of our salvation if we rely upon our feelings to prove it. The Bible says we must have a single mind about things-the mind of Christ. We must believe what He said, not what we think or feel. Otherwise we will always be on the roller coaster of our emotions; first up, then down, never settled and stable.

The Bible says:

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." - James 1:8

In contrast, the scriptures also say of the Lord, that:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." - Isaiah 26:3

We must set our hearts upon the Lord and fill our minds with the word of God. Thereby we shall find peace, because we can trust in Him and we can believe His word. Now, we are going to find out what the Bible says about being saved, and what it means to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible verses we are going to look at actually have the word saved in them and talk about being saved. When we trust in the word of God and do what it says, we can have all confidence that God will do what he says He will do. The next passage is in the Gospel of John.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." - John 1:12

To "believe on his name" (John 1:12) is to receive Christ as Saviour, and become a son of God. In the verse following that we see the new birth spoken of.

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." - John 1:13

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." - John 3:3

To be born again, we must trust Christ as our personal Saviour. In Ephesians chapter 1, Paul tells those who have already trusted Christ. "That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ, In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." - Ephesians 1:12,13

We must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Saviour. Let me emphasize that we get saved by receiving a person. The Roman Catholic church teaches that salvation is centered around the sacrifice of the mass (eating a little wafer and drinking liquor). But no one gets saved by receiving a thing: we must receive a person. We acknowledge our trust in Christ by simply asking Him to save us.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." - Romans 10:13

### III. Every Believer Should Know How To Lead Others To Christ

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The third thing every Christian should know is how to lead others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we understand the first two points we have looked at, we won't have any problem leading someone else to the Lord. Now we are going to see how to take the word of God and lead others to the Lord.

To build their congregations, preachers will run everyone they can through some sort of soul winning course to get them to appear to be evangelistic. They are trying to get them to do what should come naturally to one who is saved and walking with the Lord.

R.C. Halverson once said: "*Evangelism never seemed to be an 'issue' in the New Testament. That is to say, one does not find the apostles urging, exhorting, scolding, planning and organizing for the evangelistic programs Evangelism happened! Issuing effortlessly from the community of believers as light from the sun, it was automatic, spontaneous, continuous, contagious.*"

There is more to winning souls than memorizing the steps of a soul winning course and marking a few verses in our Bibles. If we really want to win souls we must fill our heart with God and His word, and always maintain a good testimony before God and man. We might be surprised how God will use us to bring men to Christ. It is useless to promote a program to get folks out witnessing, when they have a wretched personal testimony and no assurance of their own salvation.

The method used in witnessing is going to depend on the person we are dealing with. Different people must be dealt with in different ways. This is something we will learn only by experience. We must also use wisdom from the Holy Spirit. We will have to give some people more than just the Romans Road to reach them. It may depend on the amount of time that we have to talk to that person. On some occasions we may have plenty of time to search the scriptures together, while with others we may have only a few minutes. If necessary, we must be ready to quickly point them to the right scriptures to show them how and why they must be born again. Always be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit. The most important thing is to be ready to sow or to reap, as the situation dictates.

## *The Romans Road Map To Heaven*

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We can easily lead a lost sinner to the Lord using only the book of Romans. Dr. Jack Hyles says, "*You can be a soul winner even if you don't know a single verse of scripture, if you can draw a map in your Bible to tell yourself where to go.*" The road map he is speaking of is a chain of scripture references appropriately called the Romans Road Map to Heaven. Many Christian workers use this. It is a good way to build confidence in the use of the scriptures in soul winning. (While this is a good way to begin, we emphasize the importance of knowing and memorizing the scriptures so that we might become intimately acquainted with our Bible.)

First: You will need a Bible or New Testament, preferably one with large print. This will enable the person you are dealing with to easily read the scripture for themselves.

Second: It would be helpful to use a felt tip marker to highlight verses you will be using. This will cause them to be more easily read by those to whom you are witnessing.

Third: Write down a chain of scripture references in your Bible.

1. To begin the first chain of references on the subject of salvation, write the word Salvation on a blank page in the front or back of your Bible. Beneath the word Salvation write Romans 3:10. Turn to that verse in your Bible and in the margin of the page next to verse 10 write 3:23. So, after reading Romans 3:10 we will know what verse to turn to next. We are making a sort of road map with signs to tell us how to get to where we want to go.

2. Now turn to Romans 3:23. Mark that verse and beside it write 5:12.
3. Turn to Romans 5:12; write in the margin beside it, 6:23.
4. Find and mark Romans 6:23, and beside it write 5:8.
5. Turn there to mark Romans 5:8 and write in the margin 10:9-13; Romans 10:9-13 is the last verse in the chain.

Romans 3:10 and 3:23 show that man is a sinner.

Romans 5:12 and 6:23 show the terrible cost of sin.

Romans 5:8 shows that Jesus paid the price.

Romans 10:13 shows that anyone can be saved if they will believe in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and call upon Him for mercy.

There are hundreds of verses we can use to show lost people these things, but it is best to take five or six that clearly show these points and learn to use them well. Do not use too many verses, as that tends to confuse a lost person. Always remember, the simpler we can be, the easier it is for them to understand and be saved. However, here are some other verses that may also be helpful.

I Corinthians 5:21 shows that Christ was sinless and that He took our sins upon Himself so that we might have His righteousness, by faith.

Ephesians 2:8,9 is the best passage of scripture in the Bible to show clearly that salvation is not of works, but by grace through faith.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 defines the word "gospel."

John 1:12 shows that we must receive Christ to be born again.

If there is room on the page, you may also want to write comments that will be a reminder to say certain things about certain verses. Now, after leading them through the scripture references in the Romans Road Map to show God's plan of salvation, go back to the beginning and:

Review the main points to be sure he understands.

Dr. Jack Hyles always uses something like the following:

"Now, Mr. Doe, there are only four things you must know to be saved.

First, you must know that you are a sinner. For example, Romans 3:10 says, 'As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.' Let me illustrate. If there is none righteous, that means I'm not righteous, doesn't it? (Notice, I didn't get him unrighteous first; I got me unrighteous. Never put the sinner below yourself. Always let him know, that but for the grace of God, you would be in the fix he is in-get yourself lost first.) So if there is none righteous, I am not righteous. If there is none righteous, then Mr. Doe, you are not righteous. Also, it says, 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.' Now if all have sinned, that means I've sinned-right? That means your wife has sinned, and that means you have sinned.

If he still acts like he is not a sinner, just list a few sins and you will catch him. A lot of times I say this: 'You do realize that you are a sinner? For example, the Bible mentions some sins such as evil thinking, bad literature, ugly disposition, etc.' Somewhere along that line there will be something that he does. Show him he is a sinner.

Second, show him the price on sin. Romans 5:12: 'Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin...' What kind of death? All death, both spiritual and physical death, the sum total of death; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.' And Romans 6:23, 'For the wages of sin is death...' So there is a price on sin. What is that price? Death! What kind of death? That includes the second death of Revelation 20:14, and that second death is the Lake of Fire. So ultimately a person who is a sinner must pay for it by going to Hell. That's the basic price on sin.

Third, the next thing we must do is show that Jesus paid the price. So I say this: 'Mr. Doe, God looked down from Heaven and saw that you were a sinner. He saw that you were in debt. He saw that you and I deserved to go to Hell. He wanted to save us and made a plan to do it. He came to the world Himself. His name was Jesus. He was God in a human body. For thirty-three years He lived here in this world. He did not commit one single sin. This is important. Mr. Doe, suppose that Jesus Christ had sinned one time only. The price on sin being death or Hell, where would Jesus have had to go when He died? The answer is Hell, but He did not sin. He did not commit one sin, but He went to the cross, and on the cross He suffered spiritual death when He said, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' He suffered the same thing that a lost person will have to suffer in Hell. I'll go farther than that. I believe that He suffered as much in that moment on Calvary as the sum total eternal suffering of all the lost people who will ever go to Hell to stay forever. Actually He was paying our price for our sins. He was becoming our substitute.'

Fourth, 'If we will receive that price as our hope for Heaven and receive Him as our Saviour from sin, He will make us His children and take us to Heaven when we die.'

That's the review. You explain it to them first, then you review. Let me review it with you now. 'Let me ask you a question, Mr. Doe. Do you realize that you are a sinner?'

'Yes, sir.'

Do you realize that people who die in their sins must go to Hell? (Now be as severe with that as you can. If a sinner knows he is going to Hell, say, 'Do you realize that if you died right now, you would go to Hell?' If he is a little sensitive about it, then you can say, 'Do you realize that a man who dies in his sins goes to Hell?' (Be as severe as you can but don't make your patient so sick you will kill him before you heal him. You have to stay with him.) 'Do you realize that Jesus Christ has suffered your Hell already for you? If we knelt here together and had prayer and you sincerely received Christ as your Saviour, do you believe God would make you His child?'

That is the review. I have explained to him how to get saved, then I have reviewed and ask these questions.

Ask if you may pray

There are several ways to do this, but you must try to get them to pray. If he is really ready, say, 'Could I pray for you, and while I pray, would you pray and ask God to save you today?' Maybe he is not quite

that ready. Maybe you don't know. You could say, 'Could I pray that you will get saved?' Maybe you don't think he will let you pray for him to get saved. Then you say, 'Could I have a word of prayer with you before I go?' Anyway, to get your head bowed is good. If you are talking to him, he might interrupt, but if you are talking to the Lord, he won't. You can preach him a little sermon in the prayer. If you can't win a fellow to Christ, and if he won't let you present the plan to him, the best way to tell him how to be saved is to tell the Lord and let the sinner hear you.

I stop abruptly in my prayer. I pray a simple prayer. Never pray a big prayer. You must pray a prayer so simple that he won't mind his prayer following yours. If you pray, 'Jesus Thou God of Jacob; oh, Thou God of Rehoboam and Jeroboam and Jehoshaphat; oh, Thou great God of the universe, the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient God, would you save this man?' After that, he won't pray. But you can pray this, 'Dear Lord, here is a fellow who needs to get converted. I pray You will help him get saved. May he receive Christ. You love him, dear Lord...' 'Now fellow, will you pray?' You pray like that, and he can pray his little prayer in a minute.

I always stop in the middle of my prayer. I say, 'Dear Lord, lead this man to be saved. You led me here and I pray that he will be saved today. May his wife have a Christian husband and the little children a Christian daddy. Make this be the day of his salvation. Now while our heads are bowed in prayer, Mr. Doe, would you be willing today to ask God to forgive you and tell Him you want to get saved?'

Let me say this: By the time you get there, the forces of Hell will be fighting you. By the time you get this far talking to a sinner, you will feel like everything you own depends on what you do right now. Realize the seriousness of it all."

See, you stop in the middle of your prayer and lead him to pray. Let me say this: Fifty percent of the time when you get this far, the lost person is going to pray. Now, I would suggest you tell him what to pray but not the words. Like this: 'Would you ask God to forgive you and tell Him you want to receive Jesus today?' Fifty percent of the time he will make up a prayer. I've heard some of the sweetest prayers. A lot of times he won't pray. He does not know how to pray. He says, 'I have never prayed before.' In that case I say, 'Mr. Doe would you just say these words and mean them in your heart, Lord, be merciful to me a sinner- forgive my sins and save my soul- I now receive Jesus as my Saviour?'

Do not be disappointed by failures. There may even be some who will make a profession of faith but then won't come to church to make it known publicly. Keep crying and keep trying; always keep praying. God has promised to reward your labors with souls won for Jesus.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." - Psalm 126:5,6

After someone receives Jesus Christ as their Saviour, there are at least three things we should show them to help give them assurance.

First: Show them that they are born again and have become a new creature in Christ. (John 1:12,13; 3:3,7; II Corinth-ians 5:17)



Second: Show them they are sealed by the Holy Spirit until Christ returns to take them to Heaven. (Ephesians 1:12,13;4:30)

Third: Show the new Christian he can know he has eternal life as a present possession. (I John 5:11-13; John 3:18; 3:36; 5:24)

After that we should proceed to tell them the importance of attending a Bible-believing Baptist church where the word of God is faithfully taught. If at all possible follow up on your own converts yourself. Get their phone number, check up on them a few weeks later. Get additional Bible study material into their hands. Try to get them into church and help them with their problems. They will appreciate this demonstration of love and always remember you for it.

### **THIS CONCLUDES THE FIRST LESSON**

I know you may still have some questions, but as the late Mark Twain said, *"It's not the things in the Bible I don't understand that bothers me, it's the things I do understand."* If you thoroughly understand the things you have studied, you need never doubt your salvation again. Review this lesson, pray about it, confirm it in the word of God and you'll be ready to take Lesson number two. There, we will continue to study the doctrine of salvation and learn what happened to us when we got saved. These are things that will affect every area of our life and give us a greater appreciation of His love.

We should pray for the Lord to give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the word of God to enable us to lead others to Christ.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." - James 1:5

This promise from God's word says that if we will ask, He will give us wisdom.

One of the most important things a new Christian can do is tell others how to get saved. The Holy Spirit will always give power to those who do this.

Jesus told His apostles: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me." - Acts 1:8

The Lord wants all of us to witness for Him and to be His ambassadors. That is what Paul taught the believers at Corinth.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ as though God did beseech ye by us we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." -II Corinthians 5:20

We are to go out and try to reconcile people to God; telling them about the gospel. We need to carry gospel tracts wherever we go. Always have some in your car. Ladies can put them in their purse or carry them in their pocket. At the grocery store, give the cashier a gospel tract; on the street, just pass out gospel tracts here and there; in phone booths and different places. These are like seed we are planting, that may find root in some lost person's heart and bring forth fruit unto eternal life. What a blessing it will be to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and learn we had a part in someone's salvation. The

Bible teaches that there is a soul winner's crown for those who witness and try to win souls to Christ. I pray that you will study the word of God and be a faithful witness for the Lord Jesus.

I will close with this illustration from a sermon on the "*Judgment Seat Of Christ*."

"Years ago, a liberal, modernistic preacher came down from a very restless night and sat down in the breakfast nook at the table. His wife fixed him a cup of coffee as he sat there pale and shaken. She asked, 'What's wrong.' He said, 'I had a terrible dream last night. I dreamed I died and came up to a cloud. There was someone on that cloud who pointed his finger at me, and it looked like he had a hole in his hand. This one who was standing on the cloud pointed his finger at me and said, 'Preacher, where are the souls of your wife and children?' I said, 'Souls? What souls?' He pointed his finger at me and said, 'Preacher, where are the souls of your mailman and your TV repairman and your newspaper boy?' I said, 'I don't understand what you mean by souls. I don't know where they are.' Then I dreamed that the bottom dropped out of the cloud and it felt like I fell a million miles down into a lake of fire. In that fire was you, the children, the TV repairman, the grocer, the mailman, and the newspaper boy; and all of you were pointing your fingers at me and cursing me.' His wife said, 'Well, honey, you probably just had something bad to eat last night.' He stirred his coffee, picked up the cup, and dropped dead of a heart attack.

Now, don't you go that way. If you are saved, don't go home empty-handed. Win someone to Christ."

## Let's Review

### Three Things Every Christian Should Know

(Section I)

Circle the correct answer for each question:

1. Every Christian can \_\_\_\_\_ that he is saved. **hope know think pray(choose one)**
2. A Christian can have a know-so salvation firmly based on \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**church membership water baptism God's word right living**
3. Christians who don't have assurance of salvation can find it only in \_\_\_\_\_ . **the church the Bible much prayer good works**
4. Those who don't believe one can know for sure that he is saved put \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of God's word. (circle all that apply). **tradition their own reasoning their church's teachings**
5. According to Acts 16:31 what is the one thing a person must do to be saved? **Hope believe pray join a church be baptized**
6. According to John 3:16-18, 36 what condemns a person to hell? (circle all that apply) **mortal sins breaking the golden rule unbelief not confessing breaking the commandments sin**
7. Fill in the blanks from II Corinthians 4:3,4. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world (the devil) hath \_\_\_\_\_ the minds of them which \_\_\_\_\_, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them."

Section II

Choose the best answer from the list at the bottom of the page and fill in the blank with the appropriate letter.

1. \_\_\_ On whom you must believe to be saved?
2. \_\_\_ The devout man who was lost.
3. \_\_\_ Scripture verse for today's gospel.
4. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ The three elements of the gospel.
5. \_\_\_ Element NOT found in the gospel.

6. \_\_\_ To be saved a man must first realize he is this.
7. \_\_\_ How many people are sinners.
8. \_\_\_ The Pharisee in Luke 18 was this.
9. \_\_\_ Because of his confession, the Publican in Luke 18 was this.
10. The unsaved have no \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ are the children of \_\_\_ .

- a. Lord Jesus Christ
- b. Baptism
- c. Hope
- d. All
- e. Christ's resurrection
- f. Cornelius
- g. Justified
- h. I Corinthians 15:1-4
- i. Wrath
- j. Christ's death
- k. Self-righteousness
- l. Sinful
- m. Christ's burial

Instructions:

Read each statement below paying special attention to the words in bold print. If the statement is correct as written, write the word "True" in the blank. If the statement is not correct, cross out the incorrect word(s) and write the correct word(s) in the blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:23 says eternal life is a **work** of God.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ The blood of Jesus can wash away **some** of our sins.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Eternal life is a **free** gift.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Justification** is the free, unmerited favor of God.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Romans 10:16 to "obey" the gospel means to be **baptized**.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Romans 4:4,5, after you believe on Jesus your **works** are counted for righteousness.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit convicts the lost of their **sin**.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ According to John 12:32 only **some** men are drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ God doesn't want anyone to go to **hell**.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **Anyone** can trust Jesus to be his Savior.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Repent means to be **sorry** for your sins.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Repentance means turning from **sin** to God.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Romans 10:10 a man believes unto righteousness with his **mind**.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **heard**."
15. \_\_\_\_\_ True believers are not **ashamed** of Jesus and will confess him before men.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ God **occasionally** turns away a repentant sinner who comes to him for salvation.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:37 "**All** that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."
18. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Luke 13:3 failure to **repent** results in eternal damnation.

**Instructions: Answer the questions below in your own words.**

1. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. What does this verse mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to I Corinthians 1:21 the "foolishness of preaching" saves many people. What are some different ways a person might act at the time he is saved? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Since we can't base our salvation on how we felt when we got saved, what should we base it on?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some Bible phrases that mean the same thing as 'to be saved'?

\_\_\_\_\_

1. A good soul winner must fill his heart with \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_, and always maintain a good testimony before God and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Different people must be dealt with in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.

3. We must also use wisdom from the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. From page 33 list three things that soul winners should have: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Rearrange the following references in the correct order for the proper presentation of the 'Romans Road Map to Heaven.'

Romans 5:8 (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:10 (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:23 (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10:13 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:23 (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 5:12 (6) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Of I Corinthians 15:1-4; John 1:12; and Ephesians 2:8,9

a. Which one of these verses shows that salvation is not of works? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Which verse defines the word "gospel"? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Which verse says that a man must be "born again"? \_\_\_\_\_

7. You may want to write \_\_\_\_\_ that will help you remember what you want to say to your prospect.

Do you have the "Romans Road Map to Heaven" written in your Bible? If not, then you should do it now.

8. List the four things a person must know to be saved:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Even knowing the things above, a person still must receive Jesus as his Saviour. If you bow your head to \_\_\_\_\_, you may get him to pray for his own salvation. Review pp. 38-39.

10. What scripture verses should be used to show a new convert how he can know he has been born again and a new creature in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What verses of scripture show the new convert that he has eternal life as a present possession?  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. New converts should be urged to attend a \_\_\_\_\_-believing Church.

13. If at all possible you should \_\_\_\_\_ up on your own converts yourself and get additional \_\_\_\_\_ study materials into their hands.

**Original Lesson By Vernon Hanson, Bible teacher, Gloryland Baptist Church. Edited and expanded by Linton M. Smith Jr. ThM., DD., Missionary and Founder/Director, Chinese Baptist Mission. Copyright 1994 L.M. Smith Jr.**

# *Gloryland Bible Study*

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## **Lesson Two**

### Doctrines of Salvation

#### **"What Happens When A Person Gets Saved?"**

This is Lesson #2 in the New Christian Series. The first part of this lesson is a study of Twelve Important Things That Happen When A Man Gets Saved. The second part is the beginning of a three part study of Nine Basic Doctrines Associated With Salvation.

When a man believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, many wonderful things take place as a new relationship is established between him and God. Of course, the new believer is unaware of all these things until he studies Bible doctrine and grows in the word of God.

To illustrate, consider the automobile. The average automobile driver knows little or nothing about what goes on inside the engine and transmission to make the car move. He does know he can turn the ignition on, step on the gas and drive away, but has no idea of all the mechanical functions that must take place for that automobile to even move. The average Christian has a similar experience regarding the salvation of his soul. As it is unnecessary for the automobile driver to understand all of the workings of the automobile in order to drive it, so it is unnecessary for the believer to understand all the workings of God in his life in order to be saved: it is only necessary that he believe. Although unaware of all that transpired when he believed, or the many blessings that would accompany salvation, he still received the benefit of them.

While it is not necessary for all automobile drivers to study auto mechanics to become better drivers, it is necessary for all believers to study the Bible in order to enjoy their salvation fully and become better Christians. We got saved, even though our enemy the devil did not want us to. Now, he has another strategy to defeat us as believers. Satan wants to keep us ignorant of our new position and power in Christ. [In other words, while the devil cannot stop the believer's car (his life), he can get it going in the wrong direction, or get it off in a ditch somewhere.] We should learn all we can about our relationship with God so that we can keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ and follow a straight path. It should be our desire to equip ourselves to be used by Him to minister to others and win the lost to Christ.

To begin with, we will look at twelve important things that happen to the believer when he gets saved. I think you will find these very simple and self-explanatory when we look at the scriptures.

When we finish our study of these twelve things, we will go on to a more in-depth study of nine other very important doctrines pertaining to the new believer's relationship with God.



# Twelve Important Things That Happen When A Man Gets Saved

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## I. His Sins Are Forgiven

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin:" - Colossians 1:13,14

This verse should be a great comfort to all believers, especially those who lived like the devil all their unsaved lives. But by the grace of God, all our sins have been forgiven and will never be brought up again by the Lord. The realization that we have been redeemed by His blood is cause for great rejoicing; never cease to offer the sacrifice of praise for the wonderful work accomplished at Calvary in the offering of the precious Son of God for our vile sins!

## II. He No Longer Has To Die In His Sins

Every man must die in one of two ways. He will die at peace with God, looking forward to a heavenly home with eternal rest from sin and the cares of the world, or he will die in his sin. Unfortunately, most people die in their sins, because most people die unsaved. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." - John 8:24

All the unsaved die in their sins, and must stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. Without the blood of Christ to take away their sin, there will be no mercy and no one to plead their case. Those who die in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will be punished for ever and ever. The horror of the Auschwitz prison camps in Germany, the Bataan death march in the Philippines, and the torture of millions of Christians in Europe by Roman Catholics in the Dark Ages will seem mild in comparison with the horrors of eternal damnation in Hell.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." - Hebrews 10:31

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." - Matthew 13:49,50

Hell is a place of unimaginable suffering. One of the greatest torments for those condemned to Hell will be the knowledge that they could have escaped. Having rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the unsaved will perish without the Saviour, and in Hell memories of the past will haunt them forever: they will remember how they mocked the Saviour when they rejected the gospel of the grace of God, and they will remember their friends and loved ones who received God's free gift of salvation. At the White Throne Judgment the lost will be doomed by their own confession of guilt even as the thief on the cross, who said of how the two suffered on the cross:

"And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds..." - Luke 23:40,41

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light for their deeds are evil." - John 3:19

Rejoice, dear believer, in the knowledge that there is NO MORE CONDEMNATION for those washed in the blood of the Lamb! Furthermore, believers need fear death no more, for when we die, we will die in Christ. Our hearts should be filled with joy at the expectation of His soon return; when all those in Christ will be raptured, and taken to Heaven where we will be with Him forever in glory. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" - I Thessalonians 4:16 This verse refers to the rapture of the body of Christ, when the Lord will return to carry us away to be with Him forever in Heaven.

### III. He Passes From Death Unto Life and From Darkness Unto Light.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." - I John 3:14

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Rom. 6:23

For the unsaved sinner, life offers no more than a few sinful pleasures, worldly gain, and passing fame. At death, he will lose everything he ever treasured: his family, friends, fortune, and fame. Worst of all, he will lose his eternal soul to Satan, and be punished forever in Hell. Later, he will be raised up at the Great White Throne Judgment to be judged by the perfect measure of a sinless Saviour. He will then be cast into the Lake of Fire, called "the second death" (Revelation 21:8). By the grace of God, believers are no longer subject to the second death, for we have eternal life instead: we have passed from death unto life. In the scriptures, that life is the light. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." - John 1:4 Having therefore passed from death unto life, the believer has also passed from darkness unto light, because Jesus is the light. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." - John 8:12 "[Y]e should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you forth out of darkness into his marvellous light:" - I Peter 2:9 As Christ is the light, so Satan is darkness: "But if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." - II Corinthians 4:3,4 The lost are in darkness because "the god of this world" (Satan) has blinded their minds so they cannot see (II Corinthians 4). When they get saved, however, the Holy Spirit illuminates their darkened minds by the scriptures.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." - Psalm 119:105

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." - Psalm 119:130

"[T]he Holy Ghost shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." - John 14:26

Many years ago Charles Wesley penned the words to that immortal hymn 'Arise My Soul, Arise.' One verse says:

"Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night:  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,

I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth and followed thee!  
Thank God for the LIGHT that set us free  
and brought us out of darkness and death!

#### IV. His Name Is Recorded In Heaven

The Bible clearly teaches that there are BOOKS in Heaven. A liberal might say, "God knows everything; he doesn't need any books." To which we would reply, "But the Bible says 'BOOKS'." "Well, it says that, but it does not mean literal books; it is just figurative," he might continue. "Then maybe He just wrote your name down 'figuratively,'" we would suggest. Believe what you will, brethren, but I am sure that my name is written in the Book of Life, and nothing can ever remove it. The Bible says: "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." - Luke 10:20 "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown... whose names are written in the book of life." - Philippians 4:1,3 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire." - Revelation 20:15. True believers need not be concerned about being punished in the Lake of Fire, for our name is written in the Book of Life.

#### V. He Is Given Eternal Life

The Bible says we do not have to wait until we die to know if we are going to Heaven. Eternal life begins the moment our sins are washed away. At that very moment our names are written in the Book of Life. That's right, all believers have eternal life now. It began the day of our rebirth in Christ, and will never end. Since the believer's salvation is eternally secure in Christ, we use the term "eternal security." "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." - John 10:28 "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." - John 3:16 "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." - John 5:24 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." - John 3:36 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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." - I John 5:11-13

#### VI. He Receives An Inheritance.

As believers we are God's children: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together." - Romans 8:17 How wonderful to be "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Because we are born into the family of God by faith, we not only receive forgiveness of sin, but an inheritance as well. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." - Acts 26:18 Our inheritance from the Lord as individual believers is not the same as Israel's inheritance, which the Old Testament identifies as being the land of Palestine. "[A]nd all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and

they shall inherit it for ever." - Exodus 32:13 The Christian's inheritance is found "in Christ" and "in light." "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance..." - Ephesians 1:11 "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:" - Colossians 1:12 We are made fit for it by God the Father. The earnest (our guarantee that we shall receive it) is the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the moment we are saved, He seals us unto the day of redemption. "Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." - Ephesians 1:14 This inheritance is described in brief but astonishing terms by the apostle Peter. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." - I Peter 1:3-5

- It is incorruptible (it is beyond decay and ruin).
- It is undefiled (it is beyond the reach of sin).
- It will not fade away (it is beyond the reach of time and change).
- It is reserved for us in Heaven (it is beyond the reach of loss).

This part of our inheritance (including our new nature, our new body, and our home in Heaven) is kept safe for us until we receive it in the last day. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." - John 14:2-3 That mansion is also ours by inheritance, because we are his children. What wonderful things await those children whose God and Father has made such great provision for their homecoming! As the scripture says: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." - I Corinthians 2:9

## VII. He Receives The Blessed Hope

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our saviour Jesus Christ;" - Titus 2:13

When things go wrong in this life and the future looks tough, Christians can still look forward to this blessed hope.

## VIII. The Wrath Of God Is Removed

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." - John 3:36

When we believed, the wrath of God was removed off us. This can be likened unto the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington state in 1980. It spewed out a river of fiery, molten lava that destroyed everything in its path. Can you imagine someone walking up to that volcano and saying, "Peace be still," and having it stop and cool off; and maybe even developing a little frost over it? Of course that sounds ridiculous, because it is utterly impossible for any man to do. But it is not impossible for God, for He is the One who created the volcano. Certainly the Creator is more powerful than anything He creates. Can you picture Hell then, and how much more terrible the wrath of God will be in that place? Just think, all are

condemned to suffer God's wrath in a burning Lake of Fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. But one day the Saviour found us, gave the invitation, "Come unto me," and took all our sin away the moment we placed our faith in the precious blood of Christ - is it not marvelous?

## IX. He Has Peace With God.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" - Romans 5:1  
Now that we have "peace with God," we no longer have to worry about going to Hell, and we can really begin to enjoy life. The following story offers a good illustration of what peace really is. Once, there was a contest offering a prize to the artist best able to portray the state of true peace. Generally the entries portrayed a serene lake scene, beautiful majestic mountains, etc; but the prize- winning picture showed a rocky cliff, dropping off sharply into the sea. There was a great storm upon the sea, with waves rolling high and crashing upon the isolated coastline. The judges did not understand how this could possibly portray the subject, "Peace." So the artist explained. About halfway down the side of the cliff on a frail limb a small bird's nest was suspended over the turbulent sea. Inside was a mother bird and her chicks sitting quietly. "Peace," he said, "isn't the absence of turmoil. Rather, it is found only in the midst of turmoil."

## X. He Is Equipped By God For Service

God equips believers to serve Him by making them:

### A. Ambassadors for Christ.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." - II Corinthians 5:20

An ambassador is an authorized representative who carries a message to the nations, and every Christian, whether faithful or not, is an ambassador for Christ. As His ambassadors we should carry the gospel message to all the world.

### B. Recipients of certain spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts from the Lord enable us to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. (We will study these in a future lesson.)

## XI. Spiritual Priests

Every believer is made to be a priest unto God.

"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." - Revelation 1:6

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." - I Peter 2:5

As "priests unto God," every believer can go to God himself without any religious rites or carnal priesthood (as that of the OT). As spiritual priests, we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto the Lord. Some of these sacrifices are named in Hebrews chapter 13. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." - Hebrews 13:15,16

**Three sacrifices are found in the preceding verse:**

1. *The sacrifice of praise*
2. *The sacrifice of prayer*
3. *The sacrifice of giving (to communicate)*

## XII. His Saviour Becomes His Advocate

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." - I John 2:1,2

This verse tells us that Christ is our Advocate before God the Father. The Greek word for "advocate" is *parakletos*, which means intercessor. In the Roman legal system, the Paraclete was one called to the aid of a defendant in a trial. His job was to plead the case of the accused before the court in an attempt to obtain mercy. In the same way, Christ now pleads with the Father for mercy and pardon for those He has redeemed. Never another pled so fervently as our Lord, whose plea is based on His own blood sacrifice at Calvary. His plea is always just, always merciful and it is always granted. Praise God! "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - I John 1:9

When believers sin, fellowship with the Father is broken. The remedy for this situation is confession of that sin to God. The Lord prescribed this way for us to receive cleansing of our sins and maintain our walk with Him. As His children "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" Furthermore, I Timothy 2 says: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" - I Timothy 2:5 If Jesus Christ is the one Mediator between God and man, then no earthly priest or heavenly saint is mediator. Any religious system that would place another in the position of advocate or mediator is nothing but a thief who steals Gods glory. Remember, He said He would not share His glory with anyone. "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." - Isaiah 42:8

## Let's Review

### Twelve Important Things That Happen When A Man Gets Saved

Fill in the blanks.

1. Colossians 1:13,14 "Who hath delivered us from the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In  
whom we have \_\_\_\_\_ through his \_\_\_\_\_ even the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."
2. John 8:24 "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_: For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die  
in your sins."
3. People who have not trusted Jesus' blood to wash away their sins will die in their  
sins and stand before the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Judgment.
4. After this last and final judgment, all the lost will be cast into the  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. According to John 3:19 lost people are said to love \_\_\_\_\_  
rather than light.
6. While lost people die "in their sins," saved people are said to die "  
\_\_\_\_\_."
7. Saved people who are alive "in Christ" as well as Christians who have died "in  
Christ" will be \_\_\_\_\_ and taken to heaven at the Lord's return.
8. Being cast into the Lake of Fire is also called the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ according to Revelation 21:8.
9. I John 3:14 says that Christians "Have passed from death unto  
\_\_\_\_\_."
10. In the scriptures that life is the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. In John 8:12 who is the "light of the world?" \_\_\_\_\_.
12. As Christ is the Light, so Satan is \_\_\_\_\_.
13. II Corinthians 4:3,4 "But if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost: In whom  
the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the  
glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

What is Satan called in this verse? He is called the "\_\_\_\_\_ ."

According to this verse, what has he done with his power?  
"\_\_\_\_\_ of them that believe not."

14. When a lost person gets saved, who illuminates his darkened mind? The \_\_\_\_\_ .

15. Psalm 119:130 "The entrances of thy \_\_\_\_\_ giveth \_\_\_\_\_ :it giveth understanding unto the simple."

16. John 14:26, "The \_\_\_\_\_ shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

17. Luke 10:20 "Rejoice, because your \_\_\_\_\_ are written in heaven."

18. Philippians 4:1,3 "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown... whose \_\_\_\_\_ are written in the \_\_\_\_\_ ."

19. Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the \_\_\_\_\_ was cast into the \_\_\_\_\_ ."

20. Is your name in the book of life? (Circle one) Yes No

21. The moment a person's sins are washed away, \_\_\_\_\_ begins.

22. John 10:28 "And I give unto them \_\_\_\_\_ life; and they shall perish, neither shall \_\_\_\_\_ any man pluck them out of my hand."

23. John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath \_\_\_\_\_ : and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him."

24. Can a born again believer ever lose his salvation? \_\_\_\_\_ .

25. Having been born into the family of God by faith, we not only receive forgiveness of sins, but an \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

26. Write Acts 26:18 here. \_\_\_\_\_

27. Is our inheritance today the same as Israel's inheritance? \_\_\_\_\_ .



28. What is Israel's inheritance? The land of \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Who "seals" a person that moment he is saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
30. Ephesians 1:14 "Which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
31. According to I Peter 1:3-5 the believer's inheritance is  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
32. What other inheritance will we receive according to John 14:2-3? A \_\_\_\_\_ is also ours.
33. Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of the great God and our Saviour \_\_\_\_\_."
34. When things go wrong, Christians can take comfort that the Lord Jesus Christ will return soon. He could come \_\_\_\_\_!!
35. According to John 3:36 what was removed from us the day we got saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
36. Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by \_\_\_\_\_, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
37. II Corinthians 5:20 "Now then we are \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."
38. An ambassador is someone who carries a \_\_\_\_\_.
39. \_\_\_\_\_ Christian is an ambassador, whether he is faithful or not.
40. Christians should carry the \_\_\_\_\_ message to all the world.
41. The Lord enables believers to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit by giving them \_\_\_\_\_.
42. According to Revelation 1:6 every believer is made a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ unto God.

43. As priests, every believer can \_\_\_\_\_ to God himself without religious rites or a carnal priesthood.

44. As priests, Christians offer up \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

45. List three spiritual sacrifices found in Hebrews 13:15,16.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

46. In I John 2:1,2 the Bible says that if we sin, Jesus Christ is an \_\_\_\_\_.

47. As such, Christ's job now is to \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father for mercy and pardon for those he has redeemed.

48. When believers sin, \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father is broken.

49. To restore our fellowship with God, I John 1:19 says that we must \_\_\_\_\_ our sins.

50. I Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

51. If Jesus is the Christian's mediator, does he also need a heavenly saint, earthly priest, or religious system to help him go to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# An In-Depth Study of Nine Basic Doctrines Associated with Salvation

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## PART 1

Here, we begin an in-depth study of nine basic doctrines associated with salvation. These are chosen because they are the ones with which we need to be most familiar. A knowledge of these subjects should not only strengthen us in our daily life, but also prepare us to combat false teaching. We will study the first three doctrines in this lesson, the next four will be covered in lesson three, and the last two will be covered in lesson 4.

Paul says: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ:" - Ephesians 4:14,15

The Lord desires for us to be established in the scriptures so we will not be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. Because there are so many false teachers today, it is vital that every Christian know the truth about what the Bible teaches. There is no excuse for being confused or deceived by these false teachers, because the Spirit will guide us into all truth if we will follow Him.

### The New Birth

Our first subject is the new birth. We see in the Bible that when a man gets saved, he is born again. Christ likens and contrasts this spiritual birth to our physical birth whereby our mothers brought us into this world. Jesus spoke to Nicodemus: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 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." - John 3:3-7 When a man gets saved, his spirit (small letter "s") experiences rebirth by the Spirit of God (capital letter "S").

## I. Spiritual Death

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden by eating the forbidden fruit, they died spiritually. They had been forewarned of this by the Lord in Genesis 2, when God said: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." - Genesis 2:17 God told Adam and Eve they would die "the day" they ate the forbidden fruit. But we know that Adam did not die physically until 930 years later (Genesis 5:5). Since there are no mistakes in God's word, we know that the Lord was not speaking of physical death, but spiritual death. Because of Adam's disobedience, all born into this world thereafter, except for Christ, have been born with a dead spirit. "Wherefore, as by one man (ADAM) sin entered into the world, and death by sin and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." - Romans 5:12 In Romans chapter 6, the word death has a dual application. It refers not only to the death of our physical bodies, but to the second death in the Lake of Fire as well (Revelation 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8). This second death is the opposite of eternal life, which we receive by the new birth. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is

eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 6:23 Except for those who will go up at the rapture of the Church, all men must die physically. Only the believer, having God's gift of eternal life, will escape the second death. Our own spirit was dead, but being born again we are now made alive unto God by His Spirit. In Ephesians chapter 2, Paul says: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" - Ephesians 2:1 The word "quickened" means "made alive" (I Peter 3:18). Spiritually, every man is born the same - "dead in trespasses and sins." Paul continues: "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past and the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of our flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." - Ephesians 2:2,3 By nature (that is by our natural physical birth) we were all born as "children of wrath." Having been born again, however, believers are no longer under the wrath of God. That is why John says: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." - John 3:36

Now, listen to this. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where- with He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." - Ephesians 2:4-7 Oh, what glorious and precious words these are to the saint of God! When the Lord Jesus died on Calvary's cross, we died to sin. When He came alive again and rose bodily from the grave, we were made alive in Him. When He ascended to the Father and was seated at the throne of glory, we were also seated in heavenly places with Him. Should we not, therefore, glory in his great love and the exceeding riches of his grace, knowing that He went to Heaven to prepare a place for us? And, He is coming again to gather us unto Himself, that we might partake of all His riches in glory. Hallelujah!

## II. Every Man Is Born In Sin

Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden every man has been born with a flaw. He is unclean before God because of sin. The imperfection of man may be noted below.

- 1.They are born with a fallen nature
- 2.They are born the children of wrath
- 3.They are born with a dead spirit

David says:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." - Psalm 51:5

Job also knew that man is born with a spiritual defect.

"How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?" - Job 25:4

The answer to Job's question is that man cannot be justified with God until he is born again.

### III. The Two Births

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (FIRST BIRTH) and of the Spirit (SECOND BIRTH), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." - John 3:5

Notice, that a man must be "born of water and of the Spirit." Catholics, Campbellites and other heretics say "born of water" means water baptism. What they mean is that one must be baptized to get saved. But in this verse the expression "born of water" has nothing to do with water baptism. In fact, the word "baptism" is not found anywhere in chapter 3. Look more closely at the context of John 3:6. Jesus had just told Nicodemus (verse 3) that he must be born again. Not understanding, Nicodemus thought Jesus could only be speaking of a second physical birth. That is why he asked Jesus if it was possible for a man to enter into his mother's womb and be born a second time (verse 4). Look at the answer Jesus gives him. "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." - John 3:4 Then verse 6 explains the passage perfectly: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." - John 3:6 You can see how "born of the Spirit" in verse 4 matches "born of the Spirit" in verse 6? Then, obviously "born of water" in verse 4 matches "the flesh," (natural physical birth) in verse 6. After examining the context, it is plain to see that only a man trying to justify a preconceived doctrine would make it to be anything else. Moreover, we know that babies are suspended in a sac of water inside their mother before birth. When the water breaks, as they say, the baby is about to be born. (Note in the book of Genesis that new life comes forth out of water.) "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." - Genesis 1:20

- Physical birth is always connected with water,
- But spiritual birth has nothing to do with water: it is by the Spirit of God.

### IV. Born Twice, Die Once - Born Once, Die Twice

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." - Revelation 20:14,15

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." - Revelation 21:8 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 6:23 These verses in Revelation apply to a lost man coming before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment, where he will be judged and condemned for his sin without an advocate. Because he rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and was not "born of the Spirit," he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, to be eternally separated from God. This is called "the second death." Every lost man is born only once ("born of water,") but he will die twice. He will die a physical death at the end of his life here on Earth, and a second death on the day of his judgment. In contrast, every saved man is born twice. Like all men he is "born of water" (physical birth), but he is also "born of the Spirit" (spiritual birth). Therefore, a saved man will only die once, at the end of his earthly physical life. Of course, he may not die at all, if he is still alive when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to rapture the body of Christ. Those who have been to Calvary and confessed their sin need never again fear judgment for sin, because it has already fallen upon the Saviour. Understand this clearly: if you

have not received forgiveness of sin by faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be judged by Him in your sin and you will go to Hell.

So, when a person trusts Christ as his Saviour:

- His *spirit* is born again (John 3:6.)
- His *soul* is saved from Hell (Matthew 10:28; 16:26.)
- His *body* remains unchanged until Christ returns.

## V. Body, Soul, and Spirit

Man is a trichotomy (having three parts), being made in the image of God. We learn from the scriptures that man has a spirit, he has a soul, and he has a body. This is like unto our God who has a spirit - the Holy Spirit, God has a soul - the heavenly Father, and God has body - Jesus Christ. Paul the apostle tells us this: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." -I Thessalonians 5:23 Look back in Genesis 2: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." - Genesis 2:7 God made man out of the dust of the ground (that's his body). He breathed into him the breath of life (that's the spirit). And man became a living soul. Watchman Nee gives us more light on this, "Formed man of the dust of the ground' refers to man's body; 'breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,' refers to man's spirit as it came from God; and 'man became a living soul,' refers to man's soul when the body was quickened by the spirit and brought into being a living and self-conscious man. A complete man is a trinity - the composite of spirit, soul and body. According to Genesis 2:7, man was made up of only two independent elements, the corporeal and the spiritual; but when God placed the spirit within the casing of the earth, the soul was produced. The spirit of man touching the dead body produced the soul. The body apart from the spirit was dead, but with the spirit man was made alive. The organ thus animated was called the soul.

'Man became a living soul' expresses not merely the fact that the combination of spirit and body produced the soul; it also suggests that spirit and body were completely merged in this soul. In other words, soul and body were combined with the spirit, and spirit and body were merged in the soul. Adam 'in his unfallen state knew nothing of these ceaseless strivings of spirit and flesh which are matters of daily experience to us. There was a perfect blending of his three natures into one and the soul as the uniting medium became the cause of his individuality, of his existence as a distinct being' (see Pember's Earth's Earliest Ages). Man was designated a living soul, for it was there that the spirit and body met and through which his individuality was known. God treated man's soul as something unique. As the angels were created living spirits, so man was created predominantly as a living soul. Man not only had a body, a body with the breath of life; he became a living soul as well. Thus we find later in the Scriptures that God often referred to men as 'souls.' Why? Because what man is depends on how his soul is. His soul represents him and expresses his individuality. It is the organ of man's will, the organ in which spirit and body are completely merged. If man's (the believer's) soul wills to obey God, it will allow the spirit to rule over the man as ordered by God. The soul, if it chooses, also can suppress the spirit and take some other delight as lord of the man.

## Respective Functions of Spirit, Soul and Body

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It is through the corporeal body that man comes into contact with the material world. Hence we may label the body as that part which gives us world-consciousness. The soul comprises the intellect which aids us in the present state of existence and the emotions which proceed from the senses. Since the soul belongs to man's own self and reveals his personality, it is termed the part of self-consciousness. The spirit is that part by which we commune with God and by which alone we are able to apprehend and worship Him. Because it tells us of our relationship with God, the spirit is called the element of God-consciousness. God dwells in the spirit, self dwells in the soul, while senses dwell in the body.

The power of the soul is most substantial, since the spirit and the body are merged there and make it the site of man's personality and influence. Before man committed sin the power of the soul was completely under the dominion of the spirit. Its strength was therefore the spirit's strength. The spirit cannot itself act upon the body; it can only do so through the medium of the soul. This we can see in Luke 1:46-47: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.' "Here the change in tense shows that the spirit first conceived joy in God, and then, communicating with the soul, caused it to give expression to the feeling by means of the bodily organ.' (Pember's Earth's Earliest Age).

To repeat, the soul is the site of personality. The will, intellect and emotions of man are there. As the spirit is used to communicate with the spiritual world and the body with the natural world, so the soul stands between and exercises the power to discern and decide whether the spiritual or the natural world should reign. Sometimes too the soul itself takes control over man through its intellect, thus creating an ideational world which reigns. In order for the spirit to govern, the soul must give its consent; otherwise the spirit is helpless to regulate the soul and the body. But this decision is up to the soul, for therein resides the personality of the man.

Actually the soul is the pivot of the entire being, because man's volition belongs to it. It is only when the soul is willing to assume a humble position that the spirit can ever manage the whole man. If the soul rebels against taking such a position the spirit will be powerless to rule. This explains the meaning of the free will of man (the believer). Man is not an automaton that turns according to God's will. Rather, man has full power to decide for himself. He possesses the organ of his own volition and can choose either to follow God's will or to resist Him and follow Satan's will instead. God desires that the spirit, being the noblest part of man, should control the whole being. Yet, the will - the crucial part of individuality - belongs to the soul. It is the will which determines whether the spirit, the body, or even itself is to rule.

### A. The Spirit

The spirit of man is associated with the mind. A comparison of scripture with scripture clearly shows these words are used inter- changeably in the Bible. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" - I Corinthians 2:11 Notice again that "spirit," (small "s") is man's spirit and "Spirit", (capital "S") is the Holy Spirit. Paul says that man's spirit is the part of the man that knows things, the things of man. The mind is a function of the brain associated with the spirit. We see this relationship of the spirit and the mind expressed again in the following scriptures: "[B]e renewed in the spirit of your mind." - Ephesians 4:23 "For God is my witness whom I serve with my spirit." - Romans 1:9 "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh, the law of sin." - Romans

7:25 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." - John 4:24 We cannot see God - He is a spirit. We must worship Him in our minds and in our hearts. One of the evidences of the new birth is that a saved man begins to think differently because the Holy Spirit becomes one with his spirit. We then become conscious of God's presence and will because the Holy Spirit has entered us and we have been renewed in our spirits. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which is shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our saviour." - Titus 3:5,6 That "renewing of the Holy Ghost;" is what happens when the Lord comes inside us. He renews our spirit and gives us a new birth. This is called "regeneration." That is the "washing of regeneration" we just read about in Titus 3 - it means a re-creation.

## B. The Soul

The soul is the seat of the emotions, affections, desires, will, self- the "heart" in Scripture (Matthew 26:38; John 12:27). Soul and spirit, then, are divisible, as is shown in everyday life; the emotions being often contrary to what the mind knows to be the facts. Apparently, the soul is shaped like the body (Revelation 6:9-11; Luke 16:23-24) and fits in it like a hand in a glove. It is attached to the body in a lost man, but detached in a saved man, as we shall see in Chapter I. The soul gives us self- consciousness.

## C. The Body

Now, when a man gets saved, his spirit is born again, and his soul is saved from Hell, but nothing happens to his body until Christ returns. As we read in the book of Romans: "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption, to wit the redemption of our body.

For we are saved by hope..." - Romans 8:23,24

While our souls are not "saved by hope," the scriptures teach that our bodies are. While we still await the redemption of our bodies, we know that one day soon the Lord Jesus Christ will return. Then He will change our vile, sinful bodies into glorified bodies like His own, and our bodies will also be literally saved.

As Paul speaks of Christ: "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." - Philippians 3:21

## VI. When A Man Is Born Again

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." - II Corinthians 5:17 This verse refers to the regeneration of our spirit when the Holy Spirit comes in and creates the new man within us.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." - John 1:12,13



We cannot, of ourselves, will the new birth. God must move first and draw us to himself. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." - John 6:44 When faith is received by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), this "gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8,9) enables us to see the truth. Then we have power to exercise our will and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ or to reject him as Saviour. When we believe, we receive Him, and by the operation of God we are born again by the Holy Spirit. In the book of Revelation the apostle John records the invitation by the revelation of God. Here is the invitation. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come, and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." -Revelation 22:17

## VII. Believing Is Not A Work

Once again we see that salvation is not of works: "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 Some say, "If you believe on Christ, you are working." But the Bible tells us plainly that believing on Christ is not a work. "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." - Romans 4:4,5 We will ignore what man says and simply believe the holy scriptures which tell us that: "[T]o him that worketh not. His faith is counted for righteousness." While others trust their works, we will trust in His finished work at Calvary. In the end, only His work will stand.

## Let's Review

### An In-Depth Study of Nine Basic Doctrines Associated With Salvation (Part 1)

#### The New Birth

1. In John 3:7 Jesus said that a man must be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. This new birth is not physical but \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A saved person is said to be born of the \_\_\_\_\_ according to John 3:5.

From the verses below choose the correct reference to answer the question. It may be necessary to use some of the references more than once.

Ephesians 2:4 Romans 5:12 Revelation 21:8 John 3:36 Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:5 Genesis 5:5 I Peter 3:18  
Ephesians 2:6 Ephesians 2:2 Ephesians 2:7 Genesis 2:17 Ephesians 2:1 Ephesians 2:3

1. \_\_\_\_\_ In which verse did God warn Adam and Eve that they would die if they ate the forbidden fruit?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse shows that the death they experienced at that time could NOT have been a physical death?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse tells us that because of Adam's sin all men are born sinners?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that man earns death because of his sin?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ In which verse do we see the word death used in reference to both spiritual death and physical death?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that physical "death passed upon ALL MEN" whether they are saved or lost?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that "eternal life is the gift of God through Jesus Christ."
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse tells us that Christ's flesh was once dead but was quickened (made alive) by the Spirit?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that every person is born "dead in trespasses and sins?"
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that believers are "made alive" spiritually when they are saved?

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that before you were saved you were a child of disobedience?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that before a Christian is saved he was a child of wrath?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that people are born sinners "by nature" (that the natural birth is no good)?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that believers have life but unbelievers have wrath?
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that as unbelievers we were dead in our sins but now we have been saved by grace?
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse says that Christians already sit in heavenly places with Christ?

*Choose an answer from the words below and fill in the blank.*

water baptism water fallen nature born of water

dead spirit Job 25:4 Psalm 51:5 born again

children of wrath born of the spirit born of the flesh

1. At the time of their physical birth every person is born has three characteristics. They are born:

a. With a \_\_\_\_\_

b. The \_\_\_\_\_

c. With a \_\_\_\_\_

2. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." \_\_\_\_\_.

3. "How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?" \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The Bible term for the natural birth. \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The Bible term for the second birth. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What 'born of water' is NOT. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What 'born of water' is. \_\_\_\_\_.

8. What 'born of the Spirit' means. \_\_\_\_\_

9. The physical birth is always connected with this. \_\_\_\_\_

Read each statement below paying special attention to the italicized words in bold print. If the statement is correct as written, write the word "True" in the blank. If the statement is not correct, cross out the incorrect word(s) and write the correct word(s) in the blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ "And death and hell were cast into the Lake of fire. This is the **first** death." Revelation 20:14

2. \_\_\_\_\_ "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into **hell**." Revelation 20:15

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Lost** people stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ At the judgment of the lost, men will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the **second** death.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Every lost man is born **once**.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Every lost man dies **once**.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ A lost man's **second** death is his physical death.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ A lost man's second death is being cast into the **Lake of Fire**.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians **alive** at the rapture will never experience physical death.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Every true Christian today has had **one** birth.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ The **soul** of the Christian is born again (John 3:6).

12. \_\_\_\_\_ The soul of the Christian is saved from **hell**.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ The **body** of a Christian stays the same until the rapture.

Fill in the blanks.

1. Man is made up of three parts.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. At the rapture our bodies will be \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Our newly reborn spirit is associated with our \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Three ways we must worship God:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

5. The 'renewing of the Holy Ghost' is called \_\_\_\_\_.

6. According to II Corinthians 5:17 a saved person is a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. To get saved a person must exercise his own will and believe

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Believing on Christ is NOT a \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Circumcision

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The second doctrine we will study is the doctrine of the spiritual circumcision of the soul.

### I. The Operation Of God

At the moment of salvation, a surgical operation takes place inside the believer called "the operation of God," or the "circumcision not made with hands." Paul says: "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power. In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses." - Colossians 2:10-13

Circumcision is a surgical operation, but here, it is not a physical operation performed with hands; it is a spiritual operation performed by God. What happens in this operation? The sins of our flesh are put off by the circumcision of Christ. We well know a man's spiritual condition in his unregenerate state: he is dead in his sins and his soul is uncircumcised. On the other hand, his spiritual condition after the new birth is quite different, because of this circumcision made without hands. This circumcision miraculously separates our soul from the sins of our flesh.

In the Old Testament, God commanded the Jews to circumcise every male at birth. That physical circumcision was a type of the spiritual circumcision God performs on every born again believer. "Therefore, if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." - Romans 2:26-29 This is the inner, spiritual circumcision. "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." - Galatians 3:8 "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." - Galatians 3:29 We learn from these verses that the New Testament Christian is now the seed of Abraham, in a spiritual sense. (Still, Christians have not displaced Israel, nor will we receive the physical promises made to the nation of Israel.) So, while an Old Testament Jew received physical circumcision (done outwardly in the flesh) a New Testament Christian receives spiritual circumcision (performed by God inside our bodies). It is interesting to note that the Old Testament circumcision was done on the eighth day after birth. If you have ever studied the meaning of numbers in the Bible, you know that the number "8 " represents a new beginning.

So naturally the Bible says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." - II Corinthians 5:17 Every man is born with a dead spirit and with his soul joined to his body. But when he is born again, he is spiritually circumcised and he becomes a new creature. Then, alive unto God spiritually, his soul is separated from his sinful body of flesh forever. Let me give an illustration of spiritual circumcision. Have you ever eaten Jell-O? Have you ever taken a spoon and just played around with it, watching it wiggle and jiggle while you are eat? Well, then you

know that you can take a knife, or spoon and, going around the inside of the bowl, you can loosen the Jell-O from the bowl. Soon you can have the whole thing loose in the bowl. That is like spiritual circumcision. That Jell-O was stuck to the bowl. You can turn it upside down and it will not even fall out; it is like they are one. But, cutting the Jell-O loose from the bowl, you actually separate the two. Notice that the Jell-O is still in the bowl, retaining the shape of the vessel that it was formerly stuck to. So also our souls retain a bodily shape.

Our sins are part of our flesh, and although our souls have now been saved, our bodies have not. We are still waiting for the redemption of our bodies, which will take place at the rapture. For now, we are trapped inside these sinful bodies of flesh. Before salvation, we were spiritually dead and in our sins, but read Ephesians 2. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" - Ephesians 2:1 We have been "quickened" (made alive) unto God by the new birth. Why are we said to be "in our sins" before salvation? Because we are in these sinful bodies. Our sins are part of us, and we are part of them, because the two are joined together. So God performs this operation on us when we get saved, to separate us from our sinful bodies. "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." - Romans 6:18,22 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." - Romans 8:2 While we are free from sin, it is still present in our bodies. Paul discusses this dilemma in Romans chapter 7. Though this passage of scripture may appear difficult, it can be easily understood. "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." - Romans 7:17,18,24,25 How was Paul to be delivered? - "through Jesus Christ our Lord." Paul saw that he would finally escape that old sinful body at his death. How did he explain his sin? It was his old flesh serving the law, but never able to fulfill it. Nevertheless, Paul served God in his spirit, and struggled to bring his fleshly desires under control. Now, this is no excuse for sin, and we are held accountable for the things we do while still in our bodies.

Let me give an illustration.

Suppose a man is bitten by his neighbor's dog and the bitten man sues for damages. The dog's owner testifies that he should not be held responsible since he did not bite his neighbor: it was the dog. While that is true, the owner is still responsible for not putting the dog on a leash. In the same way, the believer has the power to rule over his body, to resist the Devil, and keep from sinning (I Corinthians 10:13). When our flesh does sin, we are held responsible. At the same time, we know there has only been one who was perfect in all his ways. The secret to living the Christian life is for us to reckon our flesh to be dead and set our hearts to desire upon the things of God. We will still sin, but our soul is no longer defiled by those sins because it is saved and separated from our bodies.

Let's go over it once more. Every man is born with their soul stuck to their body. Our sins are part of our flesh, and as unsaved sinners we are spiritually dead in our sins. We are in our sins because our sins are in our flesh. They are part of us and we are part of them. If we do not get saved, we die in our sins. After salvation, we are free from sin, but according to Romans 7:17,18 and 24, sin is still present in our mortal body. This is why the Holy Spirit cuts our souls loose from our bodies when we get saved, otherwise we would still be in our sins, because of our flesh. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed

from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:" - Romans 6:6-8 Here, "destroy" does not mean to annihilate, but to make powerless. In God's sight our flesh is dead and no longer has power to rule over us. God sees us alive unto Himself and dead to the flesh. But, still dwelling in these sinful bodies and in this wicked world, we tend to give in to the desires of our flesh when tempted. When we do, we give it power over us once again. This is like committing spiritual adultery; and even though our soul is still saved, this condition will cause us to become unstable in our mind and life. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." - James 1:8 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." - Romans 6:11,12 Here, the word "mortal" means "dead." When we get saved, the Holy Spirit cuts our soul loose from our body and kills (renders powerless) our flesh. But though it is dead in relation to God, we still have to put up with our flesh until the day that we leave it. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." - Romans 8:9,10 So when the Holy Spirit comes in:

- He regenerates our spirit,
- He kills our flesh, and
- He severs our souls from our flesh.

In reality, the Christian is dragging a corpse around. A lost man has a live body and a dead spirit, but a saved man has just the opposite: a dead body and a live spirit. No one could be born again until after Christ's death on the cross. Afterward, according to His promise, He sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to permanently indwell those who received Him as their Saviour. No Old Testament saint ever received the spiritual circumcision, and none were ever born again. That is why we find the words "body" and "soul" used synonymously through- out the Old Testament. Man is referred to as a "soul" instead of a "person," because in the Old Testament, their soul was still stuck to their body. There was no way it could be cut loose. (Genesis 12:13, 46:26; Psalms 59:3; Proverbs 13:25; 25:25.)

There are many more verses like these in the Old Testament, but not once in the New Testament is the word "soul" used synonymously with "body." In the New Testament, Christ has died and the Holy Spirit begins to spiritually circumcise believers, cutting their souls loose from their bodies. The Holy Spirit has a sharp knife He uses to perform this operation, even as men used a physical knife to perform that physical operation called circum- cision in the Old Testament. He uses "the sword of the Spirit;" the living Word of God you can hold in your hand. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" - Ephesians 6:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." - Romans 10:17 We are saved by grace, through faith, which comes by hearing the word of God. Without the word of God, no one could get saved, because they would not know how. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." - I Peter 1:23 It is "by the word of God" that a person is saved. Furthermore, it is alive, eternal, and incorruptible. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth Wherefore, lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." - James 1:18,21 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." - Hebrews 4:12,13 The word of God pierces and divides asunder our soul and spirit, cutting them loose from our joints and



marrow (our body.) He is talking about the Bible; saying that the word of God knows all of our thoughts and the intent of our hearts. There is nothing hidden from Him (the word of God). He sees and knows everything we do.

Remember the Jell-O illustration? The bowl is like an unsaved man's body: before it is cut loose, the soul is stuck to it. In that body "dwelleth no good thing," because it is sinful. If a man dies in his lost condition, his body goes to the grave, but his soul will go to Hell because it has no power to go to Heaven. However, when a man gets saved, the Holy Spirit cuts his soul loose from his body. So when he dies, his soul goes to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. For now, the believer is trapped in a sinful body of flesh which wants to rule over him, but the believer is no longer part of that body, nor need he be subject to it, if he yields himself to God.

## Let's Review

### Spiritual Circumcision

Fill in the blanks.

1. Spiritual "circumcision not made with hands" is called the "\_\_\_\_\_ of God."
2. Physical circumcision is a type of \_\_\_\_\_ circumcision.
3. Spiritual circumcision separates the soul from the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God performs spiritual circumcision on \_\_\_\_\_ born again believer.
5. Every Christian today is the seed of \_\_\_\_\_ (spiritually).
6. According to II Corinthians 5:17, every Christian is a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. According to Romans 6:18 Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.
8. Even though a Christian is free from sin, sin still dwells in his \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In order to keep from sinning in the flesh, a Christian is to reckon himself to be " \_\_\_\_\_ unto sin."
10. The sword of the Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
11. I Peter 1:23 "Being \_\_\_\_\_, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

## THE SEALING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### I. Sealed Until The Day Of Redemption

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." - Ephesians 1:13,14 The "purchased possession" (verse 14) is our body, and we are "sealed... until the day of redemption" of that body. That's what Paul is talking about in Romans 8:23, when he says, "[W]e groan within ourselves waiting for... the redemption of our body." The Holy Spirit has sealed us until that day of redemption. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." - Ephesians 4:30 "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." - II Corinthians 1:21,22

### II. The Two Natures

When spiritual circumcision takes place, a new creature is formed inside the believer. From then on, he has two natures. See the following scriptures. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..." - II Corinthians 5:17 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish yet the inward man is renewed day by day." - II Corinthians 4:16 "But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." - Ephesians 4:20-24

Before salvation, there is only the "outward man." Our soul takes on all the characteristics of that "old man" and its old nature because they are stuck to each other and are virtually one. When we get saved, a new man is created inside us; now we have the old man and the new man. This refers to our old Adamic nature that is part of our body, and our new spiritual nature, which is the "new creature" formed inside of us by the Spirit of God. The old nature is sinful and corrupt (Ephesians 4:22), but the new nature (cut loose from the old nature) is perfect and sinless. Ephesians 4:24 says it is created in righteousness and true holiness. Now, see how terribly confusing the next two verses are to those who do not know about the believer's two natures. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." - I John 3:6 If we are saved, we know we are abiding in Him in the inner man. Yet, if we have any sense at all, we also know that we have sinned. Regrettably, we sin every day (and we know when we sin), but we are told in I John 3:6 that anybody abiding in Him does not sin, and anybody that sins has not seen him and doesn't even know Him. How contradictory then, I John 3:9 seems to be. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." - I John 3:9 I John 3:9 says we cannot sin, but we know we can sin; anyone who says they don't is lying. It is shameful, but true, that we sin every day. See how I John 1:8-10 also seems to contradict I John 3:6,9. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." - I John 1:8-10

How about that? These verses tell us quite clearly that if we say we have no sin, we have deceived ourselves, and we make God to be a liar. But the verses in I John 3 say that no one who is born of God

still sins. How do we explain that? The only way we can explain those verses is by the doctrine of the two natures of the believer. The old nature is sinful - it is in the body. Furthermore, we are held accountable for the sins of our body. When we obey our flesh and do wrong, I John 1 says we should confess those sins. But because our new nature is created in righteousness and holiness, it is sinless. So, you see, I John 1:8-10 is a reference to the old nature, while I John 3:6 and 9 is a reference to the new nature. The old nature is destined to go to the grave, but the new nature is destined to go to Heaven. That is eternal security!

### **Once again:**

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." - I John 3:9 The believer's spirit is born again - perfect and sinless. "His" refers to the Holy Spirit; and the "seed" is the word of God. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." - I Peter 1:23 These verses that say we cannot sin, are used by some to teach a doctrine of sinless perfection. It is true that the believer's soul no longer sins after experiencing the new birth, because it no longer touches the flesh nor is defiled by the sins of the flesh. But our body is not redeemed and it does sin. Believers are living sinless and perfect on the inside of their sinful bodies. Looking out through the eyeholes in our heads, our souls are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of our redemption. That is the reason Jesus bore all our filthy, rotten sins in His own body at Calvary. Then He took them down to Hell and left them there so that we would not have to pay the penalty for them. The problem is, that as long as we are alive we still have the old nature that wants to do wrong, while the new nature wants to do right. Paul spoke of this same problem in Romans 7. The old nature gave him fits. He was certainly one of the greatest Christians that ever lived, and he despised walking around in that body of sinful flesh, but he knew that only at death would be delivered from it. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." - Romans 7:18-20 The believer's two natures can be plainly seen here. Our bodies desire to sin (and sometimes we follow those desires), but the new man does not want to sin. We find a spiritual warfare going on inside of us, even as Paul experienced. "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." - Romans 7:21-25 All Christians have the same problem as Paul. But, the power is available to us as it was to Paul, that will enable us to put off that old man and put on the new man. The Holy Spirit has given us power over our flesh by putting it to death. The secret is for us to reckon that body to be dead also (Romans 6:6,11,12). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." - Romans 12:1,2

Furthermore, Paul instructs us:

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." - Romans 13:14 So, when we make provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh and conform to this world, we are not putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. We are quenching the Spirit and breaking fellowship with our

heavenly Father. Paul also said that when he sinned, it really was not him doing it, but sin dwelling in him. So the doctrine of the believer's two natures explains Galatians 2:20. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20 One time Paul says that he is crucified, and the next time he says that, nevertheless, he lives. The explanation is that every Christian has a split personality-he is two people in one. We must consider the old man crucified and let the new man live and be renewed day by day. The Holy Spirit's work is to cut our souls and spirits loose from our bodies, and seal that soul and spirit until the day of redemption. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is one of the strongest arguments in the Bible for the doctrine of eternal security. This could be illustrated by sealing a letter in an envelope, putting a stamp on it, and sending it away. That envelope will not be opened until the letter gets where it is going. It is the same way with the child of God. The Christian is like a fruit jar full of preserves with the top sealed. Those preserves will remain intact in the fruit jar until the top is removed. So, one day God will remove our soul from its container. The contents of the jar are protected even though you may take the jar and drag it through all manner of filth. It is the same way with the child of God. He can turn his back on the Lord Jesus Christ and follow after the lusts of the flesh. But if he does he will not get away with it, he will pay dearly. He will reap what he has sown in this life and he will suffer loss of eternal heavenly rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. But, by the grace of God, he can never lose his soul because it is sealed and undefiled. That is eternal security! These are three of the things we have begun to study in-depth, regarding salvation. There will be six more in the next lesson. Please study these lessons with an open Bible. Read the scriptures, study the verses and take notes. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and show you the truth. It is impossible for any man to make you understand the scriptures; the Holy Spirit is the only one that can do that. If He does not enable you to understand the word of God, you will never understand it. If you will believe and love God's word, then you may ask God for understanding, and He will give it to you. He will not turn you away. He will teach you His word and equip you to serve Him. One day at the Judgment Seat of Christ you will receive rewards for your service unto Him. May the Lord bless you as you grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Let's Review

### The Sealing of the Holy Spirit

Fill in the blanks.

1. The 'purchased possession' of Ephesians 1:13,14 is "our \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Every believer is " \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_" until the day of redemption.
3. Every believer has \_\_\_\_\_ natures.
4. Each Christian has an \_\_\_\_\_ man and a \_\_\_\_\_ man inside him.
5. The old man does still \_\_\_\_\_ while the new man cannot \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A Christian's born again spirit is perfect and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The part of a Christian that sins is his \_\_\_\_\_.
8. We are accountable for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I John 1:8-10 is a reference of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature.
10. I John 3:6,9 is a reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ nature.
11. Romans 7:21-25 explains the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ going on between the two natures in a Christian's body.
12. All Christians have a \_\_\_\_\_ personality and are actually \_\_\_\_\_ people in one.
13. A Christian who follows the lust of the flesh will lose his rewards at \_\_\_\_\_, but we know he cannot lose his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Original Lesson By Vernon Hanson, Bible teacher, Gloryland Baptist Church. Edited and expanded by Linton M. Smith Jr. ThM., DD., Missionary and Founder/Director, Chinese Baptist Mission. Copyright 1994 L.M. Smith Jr.**