

BIBLICAL SALVATION

Lesson One

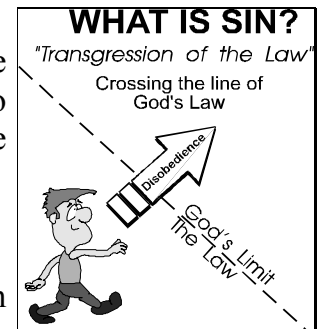
Memory Verse: *Matthew 4:4*

Lesson Verses: *1 John 5:11,12*

"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."
1 John 5:11,12

I. Introduction

The decision to trust Jesus Christ as the Saviour of your soul is the greatest decision you could ever make! The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what happens when a person gets *saved*, and how the decision to trust Christ forever affects their relationship with God.



II. Is Anyone “Good?”

- A. The *spiritual* condition of **everyone** is described as what? Look in **Romans 3:10**, and **23**, where we are described as _____.
- B. What does the Bible say “**sin**” is? (**1 John 3:4**) _____
 To “*trans-gress*” is to “cross a line” that God laid-out showing what is right and wrong. When we cross **His** laws (break through them), we sin. We call it “breaking God’s laws.” Everybody could be doing something, but if God said NOT to do it, and we go ahead anyway, then we have sinned.
- C. God says, “*There is _____ good; no not one*” (**Romans 3:10**).

III. God’s Absolute Laws of Right and Wrong

- A. Most everyone agrees we all break a few of God’s laws here and there, but almost nobody believes they are enough to keep us out of heaven. The Bible says otherwise!
- B. God laid out the requirements for entrance into His heaven in a simple list and that requirement is perfection - having NO sin in us at all
- C. If you think you don’t sin, then God says you are _____ (**1 John 1:8**)
- D. To be classified as a sinner does not only mean being a *murderer*, or a *thief*, but it means when a person does ANY sin (**James 2:9,10**; like stealing, cursing, rebelling, hating, dishonouring, coveting, etc.). Therefore, anyone who sins at all, is a **sinner** in God’s eyes, and needs to be saved.
- E. Compare this truth to a tree – a small tree can be known for what it is, even when it has no fruit. The fruit (let’s say, apples) comes later, but it produces apples because it is an APPLE tree. A sinner *sins* because he is a *sinner*.



F. If you want to try and prove that you don't sin, take the following test:

The Big Ten		Never	Occasionally	All the Time
1	I have made something in my life more important than loving and obeying God			
2	I have <i>bowed down</i> to a statue, or an idol			
3	I have used Gods' (or Jesus') name flippantly			
4	I have worked on the Sabbath			
5	I have dishonoured or disobeyed my parents			
6	I have killed somebody			
7	I have committed adultery			
8	I have stolen ANYTHING, EVER			
9	I have told a lie			
10	I have coveted something			

- G. The above list is not anything new. What do we call this list? Not the Ten Suggestions, but God's Ten _____. You find this list in every Bible in **Exodus chapter 20, from verses 1 through 17.**
- H. Note that if you ticked NEVER in number 6 above, remember that God says "*Whosoever _____ his brother is a _____: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*" (**1John 3:15**)
- I. If you ticked NEVER in number 7 above, remember that Jesus said, "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to _____ after her hath committed _____ with her already in his heart.*" (Matthew 5:28).
- J. Even if you only ticked a few of the above **NEVERS**, then you are a pretty good person in man's eyes, but in God's eyes, you still are a **SINNER** (a law breaker) and you have proven God to be correct, and ought to now realise the truth that you need something to save you from the coming penalty on sin..

IV. The Need for Salvation

- A. Ok, so we are sinners – we break God's laws. So what? Well, there is a **BIG** penalty for all our sins. What is that **penalty**? _____ (**Romans 6:23**).
- B. "Wages" are what we earn - they are the result of our actions. Every sin we commit, we earn **DEATH**. Not what we want is it?
- C. Death may be the end of life, but not the end of a person's existence. What lies ahead of every person is **eternity**. If a person dies in their sins, they are condemned to an **eternity** in hell.
 - 1. The Bible says *hell* is a place where Satan, his angels, and all unbelieving people will spend **eternity** suffering eternal punishment and separation from God.
 - 2. It is no joking matter: There are 162 references to hell in the New Testament alone, and 70 of these were made by Jesus himself! They include: **Matthew 13:41,42; 5:29,30; 10:28; 11:23,24; 16:18; James 3:6; Revelation 20:13,14.**

D. **But WHY did God create Hell?** God created hell because He is a righteous and holy God and cannot allow *sin* in His Heaven. Since all men are sinners, **Jesus** came into the world to save man from hell's punishment by living a perfect sinless life, die a substitutionary death, be buried and then raised again by God. All this so sinners could receive the free gift of eternal _____ (Rom 6:23) and thus have free access to heaven. It is by Jesus' *finished work* on the cross that sinners such as you and I are allowed into Heaven. But those who do not accept Christ's gift and trust only in Him are destined to go to hell because they are still in their sins (John 3:18,36; 1 Cor 15:16,17).

V. The Way of Salvation is found in a Person, Not a Religion

A. What did God provide for us when His Son died?

1. “_____ *life*” (John 3:16,17), instead of an eternity in hell!
2. But to get it, we must be “*born* _____” (John 3:3,7).
3. Read **Romans 6:23** again. Thankfully, God doesn't just show us our condition, and abandon us – He offers us a free “_____.” The “_____ *of God*” (which cannot be earned) is the opposite of the wages of our sin!
4. Specifically, that free GIFT is called, “_____ *life*.”

B. It is given to us freely, requiring a *committed choice* on our part **to accept it**.

C. It is provided FREE to you through the willingness of Jesus Christ to take your and my place in death and judgment on the cross! There is no other way to heaven than *through Jesus alone* (John 14:6)!

D. **Ephesians 2:8,9**, says it is **impossible** for a sinner to save themselves from the penalty of their sin through *good works*!

1. Notice it is “*not of* _____, *lest any man should boast*.”
2. Notice also that it is “*not by works of* _____...” (Titus 3:5)
3. It is only obtained by surrender - allow Jesus to do all the saving of your soul - no longer trying to do all the right things to earn heaven. Stop working at being good, and accept what Jesus did for you in your place.

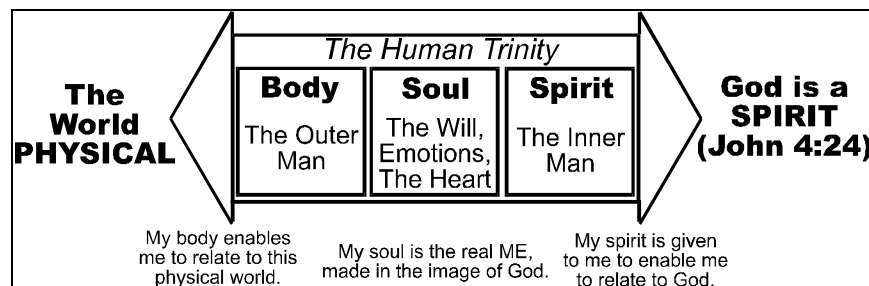
E. **One great truth to appreciate** - The theme of the Bible from start to finish is all about “*the* _____ *of God which taketh away the* _____ *of the world*” (John 1:29). **Jesus** is our sin-substitute so that we can be saved!

VI. Let's explore the *two births* the Bible talks about

A. Our first birth is our **PHYSICAL** birth (read all of **John 3:1-7**):

1. The first birth is a **water** birth (John 3:5). It is not baptism. We start in water. Every human is born out of a *water sack* in the womb.
2. Your first birth comes from your physical parents. Their “flesh” produced your _____ (John 3:6). It is only a human life – not eternal.
3. Take a look at the chart below. You are the box in the middle, between the physical world around us, and God.
 - a. Your body is what God gave you to interact with this world
 - b. Your spirit is what God gave you to interact with Him
 - c. Your soul is the real you – the part that feels, and wishes, and dreams, and chooses

4. The real you (your soul) is in the centre – using your body to interact with, and relate to this world. Your soul uses your spirit to interact with God.
5. We are spiritual beings as much as we are physical beings.



6. What is the Soul?
 - a. The soul is part of the trinity of man (1Thes 5:23). Each part is vital, but Jesus said the soul is the most important (Mt 16:26)
 - b. It is called the *hidden* or the *inner man* (1Pet 3:3,4; 2Cor 4:16-18)
 - c. The soul is the source of your emotions, your will, the ability to reason, and understand. It is your awareness of yourself.
 - d. In other words, your soul is **the real you** – what you really are, what you think, how you feel, and why you feel that way.
 - e. It is separate from the body – an immaterial, invisible part of you (2Cor 4:18).
7. Everything would be fine, except the part of you that is supposed to be able to communicate with God (your spirit) is DEAD. Sin by our first parents killed that part of us on the inside (Gen 2:17). The only way to *regenerate* the spirit is by being born again, but this time, on the inside!

B. The second birth is your **SPIRITUAL** birth (John 3:5,6):

1. This birth can only come from God. John 4:24 says that “God is a _____.” He is not *flesh* like we humans are. According to John 3:6, His Spirit will produce _____ in the life of a sinner if they would just fully believe on His Son, Jesus Christ (John 7:37-39)!
2. The second birth involves trusting God’s _____ to be **true** (1Peter 1:23). You *can* fully and completely trust the death of Jesus Christ to be your payment for your sin, **because** God said in His word you could, and that He would give you as a free gift, eternal salvation - eternal life!
3. If you didn’t have God’s perfect word to trust, how could you know what to believe at all? Everyone’s guess would be as good as another’s.

C. Therefore, there are only two “births” that a person can experience.

1. The first birth gives only temporary life - it came from temporary parents. It ends in death because of sin (Rom 5:12).
2. The second birth is only experienced by a person who turns to Christ for **salvation from sin**. It *never ends* because it came from an eternal Parent.
3. The first birth makes you physically a child of your parents. The second birth makes you spiritually and eternally a child of _____ (John 1:11,12).

- D. A person desperately needs Jesus Christ, because without Him, there is **no other** _____ to God (**John 14:6**). Can't look to Allah, or Buddha, etc!
1. It is SIN that _____ all of humanity from God (**Isaiah 59:2**).
 2. If a person dies without having their sin paid-off by faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross, there is only one destiny for them (**John 3:36; Matthew 23:33; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15**).
 - a. What is that destiny? _____
 - b. That's why God calls upon everyone everywhere to _____ (**Acts 17:30**) and be saved when? _____ (**2 Corinthians 6:2**)
- E. Salvation is NOT a "process" - it is **instantly** given (**Luke 18:9-14**). There is always a process to the humbling of a person, but when they know they are lost, and in need of forgiveness, once salvation is asked for, it is instantly, and totally given as a free gift by God – because of Christ (**Romans 6:23**)!!!
- F. What must a person do in order to be saved from hell (born again)?
1. _____ (**Acts 20:20,21; 2 Peter 3:9**). Repentance is a determined **choice** to turn away FROM sin, and turn TO Jesus Christ for salvation. It is being *very sorry* for your sin, and hating it! This is different from “*penance*” which is you trying to PAY for your sinfulness. You cannot do anything to pay for sins - **only Jesus can!**
 2. _____ (**John 1:11,12; John 5:24; Acts 16:30,31**).
 - a. What does it mean to “*believe on Jesus?*”
 - 1) Not just agree with the Bible with our head (even “*the devils also _____, and tremble*”; **James 2:19**)
 - 2) But to understand from the heart that the only payment that God will accept for your sins is the death of Jesus Christ in your place (**1 John 2:1,2; 5:4,5**).
 - 3) To accept His payment for your sins is when you allow Him to come into your heart and save you FROM your sins!
 - b. The word “**propitiation**” in **1 John 2:2**, means “*full payment*.” God had to do more than just “forgive” sins, He had to completely pay-off all the broken laws that had mounted up against us, and that is what Jesus’ death did - it paid *in full* all our sin debt!
- G. Read carefully **Romans 10:13,17**. Can you be **sure** Christ will save you if you ask Him to do so? **Yes**, or **No**
1. Would you agree that if **God said it - that should settle it?** Then believe it! That is all Jesus asks of us – just believe with all our heart!
 2. Faith is “*confidence*” in God’s promise, that He will never lie to you! He promises in His word over and over that He can and will save you!

Have you ever asked the Lord Jesus to **save** you from your sin and make you a child of God? _____ . *When* was that? _____. **If you have not, will you ask Him, even now?** (**Revelation 3:20**) **Yes**, or **No**. He stands at the door of your heart, knocking, and waiting. The handle is on YOUR side of the door. Open it, and let Him in! THAT’s when you become BORN AGAIN.

VII. The Four 'R's of Salvation - Learn these well!

- A. **Realize** you are a sinner, and without the necessary righteousness to earn your entrance into heaven (**Romans 3:23**). None of us are good enough to go as we are! We have to be **changed** from condemned to forgiven. Again, remember that God's law proves that we sin, and proves that we are in eternal trouble with God because of our sin!
- B. **Recognize** that you cannot save yourself, and that you need God's specific intervention (**Titus 3:5**). None of us have the ability to pay off our sins, no matter how much we try! No one can ever be "good enough!"
- C. **Repent** of your old life, and all the sin that filled it (become disgusted with your sin and flee from it to God), and give all that you are to the One who loves you and gave Himself for you on the cross (**2 Corinthians 7:10**). You can't truly repent unless you see yourself as a sinner separated from God by your own sin, and realize the only eternity for you is in hell (**John 3:36**).
Once you have repented, you are then empty, and ready to...
- D. **Receive the free gift** of eternal life from God by *faith*, asking in prayer for God to save you because of Jesus (**Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 10:13**)! You need to ask *specifically* to be saved - don't be vague or shy with God! And remember: you can ask simply because Jesus Christ paid for it, for you!

Nothing could be simpler, and yet eternity hangs in the balance!

VIII. The Completion of A Person's Salvation

- A. Is salvation ever dependent upon our ability to live *perfect* and *holy* lives? (see **Galatians 3:11**) **Yes** or **No**? Remember, salvation is NOT a "continual" process, but rather **a one-time event**, that changes your destiny forever! Just like your first birth was a one time event, so also is your second birth!
- B. Who is it that *intercedes* (helps us) with God on behalf of a Christian who yields to temptation in a time of weakness? (**1 John 2:1,2**) _____. Even a Christian can sin. A Christian is not perfect, only forgiven.
- C. We therefore can **never lose** our salvation once we have been born again! (**Romans 8:37-39; John 10:27-29; Jude 24**).
- D. Let's examine why not!
 1. Because we have been **Adopted** into God's family - taken from being condemned sinners, and made into *children of God*, and heirs of everything that God has (**Romans 8:15-17**)! We are in God's *family* now!
 2. Because we are **Forgiven** - **all** our sins (past, present and future) were paid-for completely at the cross by Jesus Christ! There is NO further payment necessary for us to pay (**Ephesians 1:7; Acts 26:18**)!
 3. Because we have been **Justified** - we *exchange* our sinfulness for the righteousness of Jesus Christ (**Acts 13:38,39; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)!!!

IX. Dealing With Sin Once You Are Already Saved

- A. Can a Christian be happy while *disobeying* God? **Yes** or **No**?
 1. Notice how it will affect us (**Psalm 32:2-5**) When you keep silent about your sin (**Iniquity** is another word for sin):

- a. You will age faster.
 - b. God's _____ will be hard against you, not blessing you.
 - c. You will basically "dry up" like a desert.
2. See in **Hebrews 12:5-11** where God always endeavours to make us mature, and holy in our lives by _____ us when we sin.
- a. Chastening means "correcting" NOT punishing. God brings trouble into your life to get you back "*on the strait (hard path) and narrow*"
 - b. God chastens His children because He _____ them.
 - c. If a person never experiences God's **chastisement**, it is evident that person never became a Christian at all and is a _____ (**Heb 12:8**) – God calls them *illegitimate* – not the real thing – a faker).
- B. What should a believer do when they sin? (**1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13**)
 _____ and _____. To "confess" means to **agree** with God about the sinfulness of your life, and especially specific acts where you broke His direct commandments!

X. Concluding Questions - Fill in these questions from memory.

- A. The Bible was written for us to know that we are _____, and that as sinners we needed God to reach down to us (not for us to reach up), and to save us from _____.
- B. God has revealed truth through the _____ alone.
- C. The theme of the Bible from start to finish is all about "*the _____ of God which taketh away the _____ of the world*" (**John 1:29**).
- D. What has separated all of humanity from God? _____
- E. Our salvation depends only upon whether we are willing by faith to let the _____ of Jesus Christ be sufficient to pay off all our sin-debt to God, instead of trying to pay it off ourselves with our own good works.
- F. The term "*born again*" refers to what? An **external** birth, or an **internal** birth? (Circle one).
- G. When Jesus died, whose place was He taking? _____
- H. When a person repents of their sins, and calls upon Jesus Christ to save them from hell, how long does it take before they are forgiven of all sins, past, present, and future?

- I. Have you **let Him** take *your* place, and been born again yourself? **Yes** or **No**
- J. Is Jesus Christ worthy of your life being lived for His glory from now on? **Yes** or **No** (Circle one).

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