



# DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN LIVING

## **DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Written by: Frank Hamrick with Champ Thornton

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# PREFACE

Each of us began life with so many needs—nutrition, love, and care. It’s easy to see why so many New Testament scriptures compare our spiritual growth with the physical. As Christians, we depend entirely on God to flourish and serve:

- In John 3, Christ describes the baptism of the Spirit as a second birth.
- In 1 Peter 2:2, the apostle encourages believers to seek God’s grace and truth like a newborn seeks a mother’s milk.
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:16–19, Paul challenges believers to abide continually in God’s grace, praying and giving thanks without ceasing.
- In Mark 16:15, Christ commands His disciples to share His truth and love with others.
- And in 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul notes that God’s grace should inform everything that we do. Even as we eat and drink, we can choose to reflect or reject God’s light.

As you work through this study with your students, we pray that God would work in each of your hearts. Our faith does not rest on our ability to find facts or to do good works—however helpful that can be—but rather, we seek a close relationship with God. Through His grace, and His grace alone, we can explore and enjoy the new life we have in Him.

## FEATURES OF THIS STUDY

As an academic curriculum and a devotional study, *Dynamic Christian Living* presents both factual content and personal application material. Students should complete this course with an introductory understanding of doctrine concerning salvation, the scriptures, prayer, sharing the faith, and Spirit-filled living. Each topic will include discussions of higher theology, as well as a challenge to better reflect God’s character.

## TEACHER’S LECTURES

The lesson content in the Teacher’s Manual can help you prepare and present the truths of this study to your students.

### Target Truths

These serve as learning objectives for each lesson.

### Teaching Strategy

Each lesson includes a short explanatory note for you, the teacher.

## Teacher’s Lesson

The lecture material is presented verbatim—though formatted with headings and bullets in case you prefer to teach from limited notes.

## Teacher’s Lesson Notes

Each lesson in the Student Manual contains a fill-in-the-blank outline of the corresponding teacher’s lesson. Students can use this outline as a foundation for their lecture notes, which will help them study for quizzes.

You can find digital presentations with these outlines on the *Dynamic Christian Living* product page at [positiveaction.org](http://positiveaction.org).

## Word Power

Most lessons also feature a “Word Power” section, which defines key terms within the context of each lesson. Review these definitions with your students, but note that some terms may be defined differently in different lessons.

Each teacher’s lesson includes Scripture references to support the content framework, along with relevant explanations of the passages cited. You’ll also find illustrations and discussion questions throughout the core material—though you can greatly enhance your presentation by adding your own perspective and experience.

We encourage teachers to approach lessons not so much as a fact-finding process, but as a way to strengthen the students’ relationship with God. Perfect truth includes love, and perfect love includes truth, so please take care to present this material in a way that both encourages and challenges your students. Make time for discussion, and encourage your students to share their questions with the class.

## STUDENT EXERCISES

Almost every lesson in the Student Manual includes exercises that students should complete outside of class. These exercises encourage students to seek God’s truth and love on their own, while also reviewing some of the principles from the teacher’s lesson.

## TESTING AND EVALUATION

For classes that require a score or grade, the Teacher’s Manual includes a weekly quiz for each lesson, to be taken after students have heard the teacher’s lecture and completed the corresponding exercises. Quizzes cover essential themes from both the Teacher’s Manual and Student Manual, but emphasize content from the Teacher’s Manual. Question types include short answer, multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short essays.

Quizzes and answer keys are both at the back of this Teacher’s Manual. You can find editable versions of this testing material on the *Dynamic Christian Living* product page at [positiveaction.org](http://positiveaction.org).

Some teachers also grade weekly Scripture memorization, as well as the completion of student exercises and extra activities.

Note that these materials can help you evaluate students’ mastery of factual content—not, of course, their spiritual growth.

## COMPLETED PAGES FROM THE STUDENT MANUAL

This Teacher’s Manual contains a complete copy of the Student Manual. In each lesson, you can find facsimiles of the Student Manual pages with suggested answers filled in.

A digital version of these facsimiles is available on the *Dynamic Christian Living* product page at [positiveaction.org](http://positiveaction.org). If presented via projector or screen, these pages can help you review exercises with your students.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

At the end of this introduction, you’ll find a Scripture memory program with an assignment for each lesson. In the past, teachers have used this optional component in the following ways:

1. Assign verses to be recited or written in a graded quiz, whether weekly, monthly, or once a semester.
2. Assign verses to be written on the back of regular lesson quizzes, perhaps as extra credit.
3. Evaluate the students’ understanding of the verses by offering a fill-in-the-blank verse test, or one that requires students to match the text of each passage with its reference.

You can find a reproducible verse list on page 9. Note that some weeks are marked “Review.” On these weeks, we suggest that you review or evaluate all of the verses in the latest unit.

You can find printable verse cards on the *Dynamic Christian Living* product page at [positiveaction.org](http://positiveaction.org).

## FORMAT AND GRADE LEVEL

Though teachers have successfully adapted and taught this study in grades seven through twelve, we recommend this content for the eighth and ninth grade.

As with any other Bible study, your students’ background, Scriptural literacy, and reading level will greatly impact their ability to approach this material. Some students may require additional teacher or parent involvement to understand and complete the exercises in the Student Manual.

# SUGGESTED WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This study includes 35 lessons—one for each week in an average academic year. In general, teachers should present the lecture content from the Teacher’s Manual first, after which students can complete the exercises in the Student Manual, then take the appropriate quiz. Any optional Scripture memory or application activities can expand the students’ individual or group study.

Note that this study likely contains more content than you could cover in depth, especially in a three- or four-day-a-week class. Depending on the needs of your students—and depending on the time you spend in discussion or review—you may need to cover some minor points quickly or not at all.

## FIVE-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher’s lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Continue the teacher’s lesson. Review Scripture memory.	Finish the teacher’s lesson. Review Scripture memory.	Review the student exercises. Review Scripture memory.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Review the target truths. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

## FOUR-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher’s lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Finish the teacher’s lesson. Review Scripture memory.	Review the student exercises. Review Scripture memory.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Review the target truths. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

## THREE-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher's lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Finish the teacher's lesson. Review the student exercises. Review Scripture memory.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Review the target truths. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

## FEEDBACK

As a non-profit publishing ministry, we consider teachers our co-laborers in the faith. Each of our curricula remains a work in progress, and the people who teach these studies have a great impact on the scope and format of each new edition. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us—we'd love to hear from you.

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## A FINAL WORD

It's our prayer that this study helps you and your students know God's glory, grow in that knowledge, and share it with others. To see the most from this study, we'd encourage you to do the following:

- Spend time each day in the Word. Use the material in this study to guide your devotional reading so that you can present God's truth and love from the heart. Spend time also marking and adjusting the lecture content to suit your students' needs. Note especially the comments in the Teaching Strategy section for each lesson.
- Pray for your students, and ask God to grow you, as well.
- Be vulnerable to your students, expressing questions and confidence in equal measure. Encourage them to explore Scripture with you.
- Be the love and truth you want to see from your students.
- Depend on God's strength and grace, even in your weakness.

# DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN LIVING

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION REPORT SHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>PARENT'S SIGNATURE</b>
1	John 3:18		
2	Ephesians 2:8-9		
3	Acts 16:30-31		
4	<b>REVIEW</b>		
5	2 Timothy 3:16-17		
6	2 Peter 1:21		
7	Hebrews 1:1-2		
8	<b>REVIEW</b>		
9	Psalms 119:9, 11		
10	Psalms 1:2		
11	Psalms 19:9-10		
12	<b>REVIEW</b>		
13	John 14:13		
14	1 John 1:9		
15	Matthew 6:6		
16	<b>REVIEW</b>		
17	2 Chronicles 7:14		
18	Matthew 6:9-11		
19	Matthew 6:12-13		
20	<b>REVIEW</b>		
21	Romans 3:10-12, 23		
22	Romans 5:8; 6:23		
23	Revelation 20:14-15		
24	John 3:16		
25	Romans 10:9		
26	1 Corinthians 15:3-4		
27	<b>REVIEW</b>		
28	Psalms 16:11		
29	Isaiah 55:2		
30	2 Corinthians 3:18		
31	Galatians 2:20		
32	1 Timothy 4:7		
33	Hebrews 12:1-2		
34	Acts 2:42		
35	<b>REVIEW</b>		



# B I R T H

## SALVATION



**S**alvation is like birth. In fact, the Bible refers to salvation as the “new birth.” When a man is saved, he is reunited with the source of spiritual life (John 10:10). He passes from a non-living state to life eternal (1 John 3:14). His new life in Christ gives him new desires for the things of God (Col. 3:1–2). This precious spiritual life begins to manifest itself in deeds of righteousness (1 John 3:7).

A new baby soon begins to desire all the things that other humans desire. His increasing activity attests to the fact that he is a living human being. So it is with the Christian. This “new birth” gives the believer new life, new desires, and new actions.

# WHAT'S SALVATION ALL ABOUT? (PART 1)

## TARGET TRUTHS

- “Salvation” means to save, liberate, deliver, heal, or set free.
- Salvation exists because God cares about man’s need, and God cares about His glory.
- Salvation is provided by God’s initiative but demands man’s response.
- Salvation results in freedom from sin and power to live righteously.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

John 3:18

Part of the reason why we need to be saved in the first place is that we are “condemned.” Have you ever heard of men being “condemned” to “death row”? What does that mean? It means that they have been found guilty of a terrible crime and have been sentenced to pay for that crime with their lives.

John 3:16 tells us that God loves the world, and John 3:17 adds that it was not God’s purpose in sending His Son to condemn the world. In other words, even though we are sinful creatures, God’s attitude toward us is not one of anger and condemnation only but also of love, mercy, and forgiveness.

John 3:18 uses the language of “condemnation” and applies it to those who do not believe in Jesus Christ. Thus salvation from sin is given to all who believe. And if we believe in Christ, God will not condemn us. He will not declare us “guilty” but “innocent.” After all, that was His plan: to save the world through Christ.

However, if we choose not to believe in Christ, God does not have to condemn us for our unbelief because, according to John 3:18, we are already under condemnation. Why are we already in a state of being condemned? Because we have not put our faith in God’s only begotten Son. This only begotten Son is the One God gave so that all who believe may be saved (John 3:16). God the Father gave the best He had to give—His one and only, most beloved Son. If we reject Him and refuse to believe Him, we remain condemned in our sins and cannot be saved. Jesus Christ is the only way for us to know God’s forgiveness and salvation.

## TEACHING STRATEGY

This first lesson is meant as a general introduction to the subject of salvation. You will find that the first four lessons of this study all contain basic facts about the gospel and can be used to challenge your students to trust Christ as their Savior.

This lesson answers some basic questions about salvation: (1) What is it? (2) Why do we need it? (3) How do we have it? (4) What does it do for us? You could begin the lesson by posing these simple questions to your students and getting their responses before you begin presenting the material in the teacher's lesson. This would serve the twofold purpose of encouraging your students to think through this topic for themselves and giving you insights into what their understanding of salvation really is.

The student's lesson begins a study of seven terms associated with salvation. The first three are presented in this lesson, and the other four are dealt with in the next student's lesson. Don't assume that your students already understand what the Bible teaches about these basic terms. (You may be unsure of a few yourself!) Just because we frequently use certain terms does not necessarily indicate that we really understand what they mean and how they apply to our lives. Take time to discuss these terms and clear up any misunderstandings your students may have about them.

## TEACHER'S LESSON

With this lesson we begin our study of the basics of the Christian life by beginning with the "most basic" basic—birth. Birth is the first step in life. And in the Christian life, the first step is salvation.

### WHAT IS SALVATION?

The word "salvation" literally means to save, to liberate, to deliver, to heal, or to set free. Since salvation is a spiritual matter, it goes beyond physical appearances to the deepest needs of men and women.

**Ask:** If this is what salvation means, then who is salvation for? Discuss. It means that salvation is for people who are either (1) captives, (2) dead or condemned to die, or (3) sick, wounded, and weak.

### WHY DOES SALVATION EXIST?

**Ask:** Why do you think God made salvation possible? Discuss. Most answers will probably have something to do with the fact that God loves people and wanted to make a way to pay for their sins so they would not spend eternity in hell. These answers are true, but they are not the whole answer. The Bible reveals two reasons God provided for our salvation.

### God Cares About Man's Need

Salvation exists because all people need to be saved. God loves the world in such a way that He sent His Son to die for them in order to make salvation available to anyone who would believe (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). Whether people realize it or not, they have three types of needs that place them in the condition of needing spiritual deliverance. What are people's needs?

### *Captive to Sin*

First, people are in slavery to sin and the desires of their sinful flesh. Notice Christ's words to the men of His day. Read John 8:31–34. (Note that Christ maintained that their captivity to sin was a spiritual fact whether they recognized it or not.)

### *Dead and Condemned*

The second reason people stand in need of salvation is that they are born spiritually dead. That leaves them condemned to experience the second death in the future—eternity without God. People have no innate spiritual life and no righteous desires that are pleasing to the Lord. As long as people remain in this condition, they cannot expect to enter heaven and experience its glories for eternity. They need to be saved! Notice how this truth is revealed in John 3:18 and Ephesians 2:1, where we see that God gives us a new birth and brings us to life. Read John 3:18 and Ephesians 2:1.

### *Sick, Blind, and Weak*

Read Matthew 9:11–12, Romans 5:6, and 2 Corinthians 4:3–4. As with the other points, this point is speaking only of man's spiritual condition.

**Ask:** What is wrong with man's spiritual condition according to these verses? Discuss. The trouble is that man cannot see his own spiritual condition and therefore does not realize how desperate his need of salvation is. As the above verses teach, man is spiritually sick—and at the same time, he is blind to his true spiritual needs.

## God Cares About His Glory

The second major reason why salvation exists is perhaps the most important of all. Salvation exists for God's glory! Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 3:8–10, 17–21 reveal that everything God does in the provision of salvation is “to the praise of His glory.”

Many people tend to think that providing salvation was something that God did simply for people. Although this is a part of the reason, it is not the whole truth. Everything God does is primarily for Himself, including the creation of all things (Rev. 4:11), particularly the people He caused to inhabit the earth (Isa. 43:6–7).

Salvation is a pivotal part of God's plan to magnify His majesty and bring glory to Himself.

### *Christ Came to Earth to Reveal God's Glory*

**Ask:** Read John 1:14, 18, and 2 Corinthians 4:6. What do these verses tell us about why Christ came to earth? Discuss. These passages tell us that Christ came to the earth that we might see the Glory of the Father.

## *Christ Died on the Cross to Reveal God's Glory*

**Ask:** Read John 12:27–28 & 32. What do these verses teach about why Christ died on the cross? Discuss. In John 12:27–28, Christ speaks of His coming death and cries out to the Father asking Him to glorify His (the Father's) name. And in John 12:32, Christ again speaks of the cross and says that through it He will draw all men to Himself—that is, that the cross would be the means of bringing men to see Him.

The night before His crucifixion, Christ prays to the Father on His way to the Garden of Gethsemane (John 17). In verses 1, 5, and 24, Christ speaks of this being a means of bringing glory to the Father and to Himself. In verse 24, He asks the Father to use His death that those who had been given Him would be with Him so that they might see Christ's glory.

**Ask:** Read Romans 9:23. Can you identify what this verse gives as God's own motive for saving those who believe? Discuss. This verse specifically describes how God has planned to magnify His glory by showing mercy on those who believe.

Salvation is not about us—it's about Him! He saves men that they might bask in the sunlight of His glory. Remember, Christ is not man-centered—He is God-centered. Everything about salvation was designed to bring glory to Him.

## *What the Cross of Christ Reveals About God's Glory*

**Ask:** What does the cross reveal about the glory of God? Discuss.

Paul, in writing to the Ephesian Christians notes at least three things about our God that are revealed through Christ's death on the cross. Read each of the following verses and have the students help supply the missing words in the student book.

- Ephesians 1:17–20. It reveals the power of God that surpasses greatness. This is especially true of the power revealed in the resurrection of Christ.
- Ephesians 3:16–19. It reveals the love of God that surpasses knowledge. Paul calls on the believer to spend much time thinking on the love of God. He says that this love is so extensive that it goes beyond our human knowledge.
- Read Ephesians 2:4–9. It reveals the grace of God that surpasses riches. Verse 8 say God intends the cross to reveal the fact that salvation is based on simple faith and not works. This reveals the grace of God that surpasses riches because He has given us something we could never purchase for ourselves.

## HOW IS SALVATION PROVIDED?

As we have seen, people were helpless to do anything for themselves to change their spiritual condition, or even to make themselves better so that God would favor them. Therefore, people were totally dependent upon God and His choice as to whether or not He would provide salvation for man.

## God's Provision

God took the initiative to provide salvation for unworthy man. He did what He alone could do to meet each of the three spiritual needs of people. And He did all of this, not simply to save mankind, but ultimately to bring Himself the glory that He deserves.

### *A Deliverer for the Captives*

Read Hebrews 2:14–15. Jesus Christ came to this earth and became a man—that is, actual flesh and blood—and then died as a man. Why would God do such a thing? Because He wanted to use death itself to destroy the hold that Satan had over men. Through this, man could be delivered from his bondage to sin and Satan and thus be “saved.” This salvation ultimately accomplishes a restoration to mankind of the free and liberated plan God intended for them in the Garden.

### *A Substitute for the Condemned*

Read 1 Peter 2:24. Christ came as a substitute for those who were already condemned. He took their place by taking their sins upon Himself and accepting their punishment though He was perfectly innocent. By taking the place of the dead and condemned, He provided salvation from death and condemnation so that those who were dead could now be alive in Him.

### *A Healer for the Sick*

Read Luke 4:18–19, 21. When Christ was called upon to explain His mission on earth, He quoted from Isaiah and explained that He had been sent to provide spiritual healing for those with an incurable spiritual disease called sin.

## Man's Response

In the light of all that we have seen so far—realizing that man has great spiritual needs about which he can do nothing and that God in His love has provided the solution to all of man's needs—God now commands man to accept the provision He has made and to receive His Son Jesus Christ as the One who is. . .

- The Deliverer from the captivity of sin
- The Substitute for the condemned sinner
- The Healer of the sin-sick soul

**Ask:** What must you do to receive this provision for all of your spiritual needs? Discuss. Read Acts 16:31. Christ made it simple so that “no man could boast” before God (1 Cor. 1:29). When God saves a man, it is because of a gracious work of God. God does it all; man simply and humbly receives it!

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SALVATION?

Our lesson would not be complete without taking a glimpse at the glorious results of receiving the provision of God for people's salvation.

## Freedom Instead of Bondage

Once man is saved, he is free from the following three aspects of sin:

- He is free from sin's penalty. There is no more fear of death and condemnation.
- He is free from sin's power. Though we will still sin, we no longer have to sin. Christ gives us the power to keep us from sin.
- He is free from sin's presence. Though we live on a sin-cursed earth, we have the hope that one day we will be completely free from sin's presence, never having to see sin rear its ugly head again! (Phil. 1:3–6; Col. 1:24–29).

## Power Instead of Weakness

- Christ gives us power to live righteously, where previously we were helpless (2 Pet. 1:3).
- Christ gives us power to see other lives transformed through the preaching of the gospel (2 Cor. 3:1–6; Phil. 1:3–11; Col. 1:3–6).
- Christ gives us power over death and the grave (1 Cor. 15:51–57).

This lesson presents an excellent opportunity to challenge your students concerning salvation. Perhaps many have heard the facts of this lesson a hundred times, but are they really saved? Do they really know the Lord? Pray that the Holy Spirit will use this lesson to set some captives free, raise some spiritual corpses, and heal some sin-sick souls. As you teach this lesson, do not assume that all of your students are saved; instead, tell them about salvation as if they have never heard it before. Perhaps some will really “hear” it (that is, truly listen instead of letting it go in one ear and out the other) for the first time as you teach this lesson.

## L E S S O N 1

# WHAT'S SALVATION ALL ABOUT? (PART 1)

## TEACHER'S LESSON

- ***What Is Salvation?***

- Salvation literally means to save, to liberate, to deliver, to heal or to set free.

- ***Why Does Salvation Exist?***

- God cares about man's need
  - Captive to sin
  - Dead and condemned
  - Sick, blind, and weak
- God cares about His glory
  - Christ came to earth to reveal God's glory
  - Christ died on the cross to reveal God's glory
  - The cross of Christ reveals
    - The power of God that surpasses greatness
    - The love of God that surpasses knowledge
    - The grace of God that surpasses riches

- ***How Is Salvation Provided?***

- God's provision
  - A Deliverer for the captives (Heb. 2:14-15)
  - A Substitute for the condemned (1 Pet. 2:24)
  - A Healer for the sick (Luke 4:18-19, 21)
- Man's response

- **What Are the Results of Salvation?**

- Freedom instead of bondage
  - Freedom from sin's penalty
  - Freedom from sin's power
  - Freedom from sin's presence
- Power instead of weakness

## WORD POWER

- **Repentance**—changing one's mind and actions
- **Faith**—complete reliance upon someone or something
- **Regeneration**—new and divine life given by God to those who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ
- **Salvation**—deliverance from sin's penalty and power
- **Condemnation**—guilt and punishment for a crime committed
- **Substitute**—someone who stands in the place of another

## STUDENT'S LESSON

To help us understand what salvation is all about, we will spend the first two student's lessons studying seven major terms that are associated with salvation—three in this lesson and four in the next lesson.

### **Repentance**

The word “repent” means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, and views regarding a matter. It has the idea of turning away from going in one direction so that you can begin moving in the opposite direction.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9 and answer the following questions.

- To whom did the Thessalonians turn? God
- From what did they turn? idols
- Why did they turn? to serve the living and true God
- Which came first—turning to or turning from? turning to

The order in which we find “turning to” and “turning from” is significant. Consider these three observations regarding the order in which we find the phrases “turning to” and “turning from” in this passage:

- A person may turn “from” sin without turning “to” the Lord. That is not repentance, but reformation. Many unsaved people do this in their lifetime.
- If a person turns “to” Christ, he will automatically turn “from” his sin.
- Thus, the emphasis in repentance is not so much on turning “from” sin as it is in turning “to” Christ. When a person is appropriately attracted to Christ, he will turn to Him in dazzled delight and will at the same time see his sin as odorous and repulsive! As the song writer said it,

*“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in His wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
in the light of His glory and grace.”*

Read the following passages that teach us truths about repentance and answer the questions.

- Acts 20:17-21: What was the message Paul testified both to the Jews and also to the Greeks? repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- 2 Peter 3:9: What is God’s one desire for all men? that everyone should repent
- 2 Timothy 2:25: How does one gain repentance? God gives it
- Luke 13:1-5: What will happen to all those who do not repent? They will all perish.
- Acts 17:30: What is God’s command to all men everywhere? repent
- Romans 2:4: What can lead a man to repentance? the goodness of God

## **Faith**

According to Acts 20:21, faith is a counterpart to repentance. Though one must repent, he cannot do so apart from faith. Faith may be defined as “acceptance and complete reliance upon.” If one does not exercise faith in Christ as Savior, he will not repent. Read the following verses and record the results of exercising faith.

- Acts 26:18, Romans 6:22 sanctification
- Romans 5:1 justification
- Galatians 3:26 becoming children of God
- 1 Peter 1:5 salvation

## **Regeneration**

Regeneration is God’s giving us a new and divine life. Regeneration is given a special definition in John 3:3.

- What is it? born again

How is regeneration described in the following verses?

- John 5:24 passed from death to life
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 the old life has passed, the new life has come

How are we “born again” or regenerated according to the following verses?

- John 1:12-13 not by man’s will or strength, but by God’s
- John 3:6-7 by the Holy Spirit
- James 1:18 by God’s will through the Word of God
- 1 Peter 1:23 of incorruptible seed, by the Word of God

# WHAT'S SALVATION ALL ABOUT? (PART 2)

## TARGET TRUTHS

- Salvation is necessary because of who God is and who man is.
- Salvation includes regeneration, redemption, remission, justification, and reconciliation.
- Regeneration is the new birth and means “being born again.”
- Redemption means “to be set free by the payment of a ransom.”
- Remission means “the act by which something is laid aside or put away.”
- Justification means “to declare righteous.”
- Reconciliation means “to restore to friendship or harmony.”

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Ephesians 2:8–9

These verses can be divided into three parts: (1) how God saves us: by His grace and as a free gift; (2) the channel through which this grace of God comes to us: through faith; (3) how God does **not** save us: **not** of yourself, **not** of works (so no one can boast).

First, how does God save us? Is it by our being kind to others and what we do to serve Him? No, that can't be true because of what we have learned about our condition as sinners before a holy God. If we are going to be saved, it's going to have to be by God's gracious initiative and intervention. That's why salvation is called His gift. It's not something we work up for ourselves but something God freely gives to us.

Second, how does this grace come to us? According to these verses, it comes through the channel of faith. Faith is not a work we do for our salvation; it is merely the channel through which we receive God's grace.

Third, what are the ways by which we cannot be saved? This was already implied by our answer to the first question, but still Paul spells it out clearly for us so that there is no misunderstanding. Salvation is not of us, not of our works, and not by our goodness. Why can our “good” works not save us? One reason is that if salvation were based on what we do, then we would have a reason to boast or have confidence in ourselves. We could walk the streets of heaven, bragging about all the good things we had done to get us there. That's not the way it will be. Instead, the only thing we can “brag” about in heaven will be to brag on God's grace in giving us the free gift of salvation. As Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 1:26–29, God chose

to save the foolish, weak, and despised people of this world (the “nothings” of the world), so that no man could boast before God.

## TEACHING STRATEGY

This lesson continues our study of the basics of salvation by looking at two main questions: (1) Why is salvation necessary? and (2) What does salvation mean?

Salvation is necessary because of who God is (a holy God who lives in heaven but still loves man) and because of who man is (a sinner who hates God and must go to hell). A person must understand these basic facts about the nature of God and man before he can appreciate how important salvation really is.

We further define salvation by looking at five terms that are often used synonymously with it. The first of these terms (regeneration) was briefly introduced in the last student’s lesson. The other four terms will be examined further in this week’s student’s lesson.

Once again make sure that your students understand the differences between these important terms. They all have to do with God’s work of salvation, but each has a different shade of meaning—and each shade is important if we are to have a complete understanding of all the beautiful colors that come together in making the gospel story “the greatest story ever told.”

## TEACHER’S LESSON

In this lesson we continue to look at what salvation is all about by discussing the following two main points: the necessity of salvation and the definition of salvation.

### THE NECESSITY OF SALVATION

The following three facts about God and man give us some understanding of the necessity of salvation.

#### God Is Holy, but Man Is a Sinner

##### *God Is Holy*

By this we mean that God is absolutely separated from evil and sin. Read Habakkuk 1:13. The first half of the verse tells us that God is so holy that He cannot even look upon sin.

##### *Man Is a Sinner*

**Ask:** Read Romans 5:12. Why is man a sinner? Man is a sinner because he is a descendant of the first sinner—Adam.

The Book of Isaiah expresses the same truth. Read Isaiah 64:6. God is holy, but man is a sinner. God’s holiness separates Him from sinners. If all men are sinful, then God is separated from all men because of sin. How can we be reunited? This is possible only through salvation.

# God Lives in Heaven, but Man Must Go to Hell

## *God Lives in Heaven*

Jesus Christ was teaching His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9 when He spoke the now-famous words: “Our Father which art in heaven.” He recognized this as the place where God the Father dwells. Psalm 11:4 also teaches this. Numerous other passages refer to God as “the God of heaven” (see Ezra 1:2; Neh. 1:4; Dan. 2:37; Rev. 11:13).

## *Man Must Go to Hell*

**Ask:** Read Ephesians 2:2–3. What do these verses teach about man’s destiny? Discuss. The fact that man is a sinner condemns him to judgment in hell. Hell is the final abiding place of all sinners.

John 3:18 teaches that sinners are born already condemned to this place called hell. Because of man’s sin, he is condemned to exist eternally in hell, separated from the holy and spectacular God of heaven. But this doom is not God’s ultimate purpose for His people! On the night before Christ’s death, He prays to the Father and reveals His heart and what really drove Him to the cross. In verse 24 He states that He desires His followers to be where Christ will be (in heaven) in order to gaze on His glory! Read John 17:24. Christ wants men to go to heaven for one deep reason—that we would see His glory! Thus, salvation is necessary if God’s ultimate purposes for man’s existence are to be realized.

# God Loves Man, but Man Hates God

## *God Loves Man*

Although people are separated from God by sin, God still shows His love. Read Romans 5:8. It is incomprehensible that although we have sinned against God, He still loves us! The familiar verse, John 3:16, teaches that God loves the world even with all its wickedness.

## *Man Hates God*

**Ask:** Can you think of any scenarios that would be comparable to how people treat God? How do people sometimes show hatred for someone who has shown sacrificial love to them? Discuss. Read John 3:19–20. Even when God sends the light of truth into the world, people reject it because it reveals the wickedness in their lives.

Because people are sinners, they hate God. Even though God demonstrated His love by offering His Son as a sacrifice, people still hate God. What a terrible condition mankind is in! People are separated from God by their sin. Their sinful nature has already condemned them to hell. But even worse, because people are sinners, they cannot see the awesome glory of the Savior. They are blind to His beauty, His love, His grace, and His majesty.

God is holy and separated from sin. God dwells in heaven, and man must be eternally separated from God in hell. God burns with holy anger against man and his sin, yet God loves man. He loves us enough to present the plan of salvation in His Word.

**Ask:** In salvation, from what things is God saving sinful man? Discuss. There are many good answers. Some that the students may mention are sin, guilt, hell, shame, and the wrath of God (His holy anger).

## THE DEFINITION OF SALVATION

Perhaps the best way for us to define salvation and to understand God's plan for our salvation is to study five basic words that describe what salvation is all about.

### Regeneration (John 3:3) – “Born Again” or the New Birth Whereby We Pass from Death unto Life

You studied this term as part of the student's lesson for Lesson 1. It refers to the new birth and means to be “born again,” a phrase we find in John 3.

#### *It Is for the Sinner*

Read John 3:1–8. Because He cared so much for Nicodemus, and for all sinners, Jesus said that the only way a person could ever see God's kingdom is to be “born again.” Here is a sad fact. Even worse than the fact that man will go to hell, is the fact that he will never “see” the glory of God in His kingdom! Man cannot enter heaven because he is dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). This same truth is reflected in the Psalms. Read Psalm 53:2–3. The beauty of God's kingdom is hidden from man due to his sin. He doesn't see what life is all about. He doesn't know how glorious God is and how awesome heaven is because he is dead in his sin.

But there is hope! Jesus Christ didn't say that no sinner could ever see the kingdom of God. He said that seeing heaven was impossible, unless that sinner was born again. That is what sinners need! Regeneration is a “new birth” for sinful men.

#### *It Is Spiritual*

Nicodemus was a teacher, but he did not understand what it meant to be “born again.” So he asked a good question in his conversation with Jesus. Read John 3:4. Nicodemus was speaking of physical birth, but Christ was speaking of something different. Read John 3:5. Being “born of water” refers to physical birth. When you were a baby in your mother's womb, you were surrounded by a sac of amniotic fluid. But a man must be “born of the Spirit” in order to go to heaven. This is regeneration, and it is a spiritual birth.

## Redemption (1 Pet. 1:18–19) – Christ Paid the Price of His Blood to Purchase Us from the Slave Market of Sin

Redemption means “to purchase.” To purchase something, a price must be paid. The word “redeemed” in 1 Peter 1:18–19 means “to set free by the payment of a ransom.” This verse pictures a first-century slave in a slave market whose ransom is paid so that he might be set free. This is a picture of the Christian’s redemption in salvation. Christ paid the price in order that you might be set free.

### *The Price of Redemption*

In salvation, Christ buys the Christian. Did Christ have to pay a high price in order to redeem you? The answer to this question is in 1 Peter 1:18–19.

**Ask:** What price did Christ have to pay for your salvation? Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross of Calvary to purchase sinful men.

### *The Result of Redemption*

The result of redemption is that we are no longer in bondage to sin. Read Galatians 5:1. We are free to live a life “to the praise of His glory.” We are now free to fulfill God’s plan for all men—that they might enjoy Him forever as they bask in the sunlight of His glory!

## Remission (Heb. 9:22) – Our Sins were Put Away Through the Shedding of Christ’s Blood

Remission means “the act by which something is laid aside or put away.” When we speak of remission in the biblical sense, we are referring to the putting away of our sins. (Since sin separates a holy God from a sinful man, God’s first act is to eliminate the barrier: sin.)

**Ask:** Read Hebrews 9:22. How can God do away with our sin? By sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for us, our sin was dealt a death blow. Our sins were literally “nailed to the cross.” Jesus Christ took your penalty for you. Therefore, sin and its penalty are laid aside if you trust Christ as your Lord and Savior.

## Justification (Acts 13:38–39) – Through Christ, God Declares Sinners to Be Righteous

Justification means “to declare righteous.” By this we mean that, in salvation, God declares the sinner righteous (right with God). How can God do this? Can He change the fact that man has sinned? Does God have to rewrite history in order to declare a sinner righteous? To answer these questions, let’s examine this word “justification.” It actually has two aspects.

## *The Forgiveness of Sin*

Remission is very close to this aspect of justification. As a matter of fact, “the laying aside of sin and its penalty” (the definition of remission) is involved in the forgiveness of sin. Because Christ took your sin upon Himself and literally died in your place, now your penalty is “laid aside” (remission) and your sins are forgiven.

This is illustrated in Acts 13:38–39. Through Christ, our sins can be forgiven. Only the death of Christ made the forgiveness of sins possible. That is because all our sins were laid on Christ, and He was punished for them in our place.

Suppose a defendant stood before a judge and entered a plea of guilty. He is guilty as charged and says so. The judge asks him one simple question: “Are you sorry?”

“Yes, I am!” replies the defendant.

“Then, you are forgiven and free to go!” the judge proclaims.

**Ask:** What would you say about a situation such as this? Is this justice? Discuss. No. It is not just unless there are some legal grounds for forgiveness.

**Ask:** What grounds does God have for forgiving sins? Discuss. He sent His Son to die to take our sins away. Since this has been done, the righteous Judge can forgive us and set us free. All sin must be punished, and in Christ’s death, our sin was fully punished. Justice had been done. So we can justly be declared righteous because our sins are forgiven.

## *The Imputation of Righteousness*

To understand this phrase, we must understand the word “imputation.” The word impute means “to credit to a person.” When we talk about the imputation of righteousness, we understand this to mean “to credit a person with righteousness.”

Are you righteous? No. Every man is a sinner. Men have no righteousness of their own. What we often view as righteousnesses (good deeds) are just like filthy, bloody rags in the sight of God (Isa. 64:6).

The amazing thing is that in spite of how sinful we are, God still justifies us when we believe. That is, He forgives us of our sins and credits us with righteousness. God loves man so much that He sent Christ to take our death penalty and give us His own righteousness.

Read Romans 5:19. As part of our justification, God declares us righteous in His sight. The punishment for our sin was placed upon Christ so His righteousness might be imputed to us.

## Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18) – Through Christ, Sinners Are Restored to Friendship or Harmony with God

This word means “to restore to friendship or harmony.” This definition implies that two persons or groups are at odds with each other. Do you remember the third point under “The Necessity of Salvation”? It was that God loves man, but man hates God. The need of reconciliation is seen here. Man hates God and needs

to be “restored to friendship or harmony with God.” Since man hates God, he refuses the payment for sin: Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18. Only when a man accepts Jesus Christ as Savior can he be restored to friendship or harmony with God. Until a man decides to trust Christ as Lord, he hates God and must bear the penalty of sin upon himself. This is a key truth to grasp. Salvation is more than “fire insurance” (escaping hell). Going to heaven (through being saved) is simply the gateway to a bigger prize—being reconciled with the One who created you—the One you were made to fellowship with.

**Ask:** Would you want to go to heaven if God were not there? Discuss. This is a challenging question. Heaven is not the goal of salvation; God is. The doctrine of reconciliation brings this wonderful reality to our hearts.

## L E S S O N 2

# WHAT'S SALVATION ALL ABOUT? (PART 2)

## TEACHER'S LESSON

- ***The Necessity of Salvation***

- God is holy, but man is a sinner
- God lives in heaven, but man must go to hell
- God loves man, but man hates God

- ***The Definition of Salvation***

- Regeneration (John 3:3)—“born again” or the new birth whereby we pass from death unto life
- Redemption (1 Pet. 1:18-19)—Christ paid the price of His blood to purchase us from the slave market of sin
- Remission (Heb. 9:22)—Our sins were put away through the shedding of Christ's blood
- Justification (Acts 13:38-39)—Through Christ, God declares sinners to be righteous
- Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18)—Through Christ, sinners are restored to friendship or harmony with God

## WORD POWER

- **Righteousness**—conformity to God’s holy standard
- **Remission**—the act by which something is laid aside or put away
- **Justification**—the act of being declared righteous
- **Redemption**—set free by the payment of a ransom
- **Forgiveness**—having one’s sins cleansed and fellowship with God (or others) restored
- **Reconciliation**—restoration to friendship or harmony
- **Imputation**—giving the benefits or penalties of one’s actions to another
- **Regeneration**—new and divine life given by God to those who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ

## STUDENT’S LESSON

In our last student’s lesson, we studied three terms associated with salvation.

- What were they? **repentance, faith, and regeneration** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In this lesson we will study four more key salvation terms. (These terms have already been presented in the teacher’s lesson.)

### **Redemption**

Redemption means “to purchase or buy back.” This term was used when a slave was bought from the marketplace.

#### From What?

- According to Titus 2:13-14, from what did Christ redeem us? **all iniquity (lawlessness)** \_\_\_\_\_

(This means that redeemed people are not to continue in sin.)

- Why did He redeem us? **to purify unto Himself a peculiar or unique or special people** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Note that we were purchased for Him! We belong to Him. Salvation is *about* Him, it is *from* Him, and it is *for* Him.
- Are you redeemed? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you living up to His reason for redeeming you? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_
- What did Christ do in order to redeem us? **He died on the cross and gave Himself for us.** \_\_\_\_\_

### How?

- According to Galatians 3:13, from what are we redeemed? **the curse of the law** \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ removed the curse by becoming a curse for us (He took our place). Where did He go that He might take our place? **to the cross** \_\_\_\_\_

### What's Changed?

- According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, what is your body after you are redeemed? **temple of the Holy Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_
- Who owns your body? **God** \_\_\_\_\_
- Why does He own it? **because He bought it** \_\_\_\_\_
- What should we do since we have been purchased by God? **glorify God in our body and spirit** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Remission**

Remission means “to put away or to do away with.” It has to do with God’s putting our sins away.

### What Did Christ Do?

- According to Luke 24:46-47, what did Christ do in order that we might preach remission of sins? **suffer and rise from the dead on the third day** \_\_\_\_\_

- What is the responsibility of every Christian according to this passage?  
preach repentance to all nations

Preaching repentance to all nations, however, is more than a “responsibility.” It is a great privilege! We should be so thrilled and excited about this glorious Savior that we would want the whole world to know about Him!

### What Does Man Do?

- Acts 2:38 was written to the Jews and explains what they had to do to receive the remission of their sins. What did they have to do? repent and be baptized
- Acts 10:43 was written for Gentiles (like Cornelius) and explains what we must do for the remission of sins. What is it? believe in Christ

### What Had to Happen?

- What had to happen that men might have remission (Heb. 9:22)?  
the shedding of blood
- Whose blood do you think this verse is talking about? Christ’s
- According to Hebrews 10:17-18, how many times does a man have to have his sins remitted? once

## **Justification**

Justification means “to declare one innocent or righteous.”

### How Is a Man Justified?

How are we justified according to the following verses?

- Galatians 2:16 by faith; by believing
- Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7 by His grace
- Romans 5:1 by faith
- Romans 5:9 by His blood

## What Are the Results of Being Justified?

What are the blessed results of justification according to the following verses?

- Romans 1:17 **justified shall live by faith** \_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 5:1 **peace with God** \_\_\_\_\_
- Titus 3:7 **made heirs of God** \_\_\_\_\_

## How Much Does It Cost to Be Justified?

- According to Romans 3:24, how much does justification cost us?  
**It is given freely.** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Reconciliation**

Reconciliation means “to restore friendship and harmony.” It has to do with making peace with an enemy.

### The Need for Reconciliation

- Why is reconciliation necessary? According to Romans 8:5-8, the carnal (fleshly, sinful, lost) man and God have what kind of relationship?  
**They are enemies.** \_\_\_\_\_

### The Means of Reconciliation

According to Colossians 1:20-22, man was once alienated and an enemy of God in his mind. However, man can now have peace through the blood of His cross. Verses 21-22 tell us that He reconciled us in the body of His flesh.

- According to this passage, into what kind of people is God making the people He has reconciled? **holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable in His sight** \_\_\_\_\_

To summarize, a person is saved by faith not by depending on works but by believing in Christ who died on the cross and shed His precious blood that we might be redeemed, justified, and reconciled.

## Summary

Complete the following.

- In justification, I have been declared innocent or **righteous** \_\_\_\_\_ .
- In redemption, I have been **purchased (bought)** \_\_\_\_\_  
by His blood.
- In regeneration, I have been **born again** \_\_\_\_\_ .
- In reconciliation, I have made **peace** \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- In remission, my sins have been **forgiven (put away)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .
- All this happens when I exercise **faith** \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and **repent** \_\_\_\_\_  
of my sins.
- Have you trusted Christ alone to save you from your sins? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you really know what salvation is all about? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

## TARGET TRUTHS

- “What must I do to be saved?” is the most important question anyone can ask both because of man’s present condition without Christ and his eternal condition without Christ.
- The answer to this question is summed up in the four major terms Paul and Silas used in their answer in Acts 16:31: “believe,” “Lord,” “Jesus,” and “Christ.”

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Acts 16:30–31

These verses are excerpted from the account of Paul and Silas’s imprisonment in Philippi in Acts 16:16–40. Have your class read this entire account and then ask them the following questions to help them understand the setting for these verses.

- Why were Paul and Silas brought before the city officials (16:16–19)? Paul cast an evil spirit out of a young slave girl. This angered her masters who had been making money off her “soothsaying” (fortune-telling), so they brought Paul and Silas before the “magistrates” (city leaders).
- What charge did these men bring against Paul and Silas (16:20–21)? They said that Paul and Silas were Jews who troubled their city by teaching customs that were unlawful for Romans to observe.
- How did the magistrates respond to this charge (16:22–23)? They had Paul and Silas beaten and thrown into prison.
- Who was charged with keeping them safely (16:23)? A jailer was given charge over them.
- What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in the Philippian prison (16:25)? They were praying and singing praises unto God.
- What happened soon after midnight (16:26)? There was a great earthquake, all the doors were opened, and all the prisoners’ chains were loosed.
- When the jailer saw what had happened, what did he try to do (16:27)? He tried to kill himself because if all the prisoners escaped, he would be held responsible.
- Who stopped him from killing himself (16:28)? Paul stopped him by announcing that none of the prisoners had escaped.
- What question did this desperate man ask Paul and Silas (16:30)? “What must I do to be saved?”

- Why do you think he asked them this question? (Why did he see the need of asking how to be saved?) Perhaps he had heard them praying and singing, or maybe he had heard something about the message they had been proclaiming in his city.
- Was the answer we have in 16:31 all that they said in response to the jailer’s question (16:32)? No, verse 32 says that they spoke God’s Word to him.
- What happened within one hour of their answer to his question (16:33)? He washed their wounds, and the jailer and his family were baptized.
- Where did Paul and Silas go after they got out of prison (16:40)? They went to Lydia’s house (see 16:13–15).

## TEACHING STRATEGY

This lesson begins with a suggested exercise for the purpose of finding out what your students’ present understanding of salvation is. As suggested, you can do this by having them write a brief essay—or you could do the same exercise with a different teaching method (such as small group discussion or brainstorming with the entire class). Some students may immediately answer the question with the response: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. Of course, that’s correct, but require them to explain what they think that really means.

The teacher’s lesson has two basic parts: the importance of the question and the answer to the question. The first part gives a description of the present condition of unsaved man and then contrasts him with the saved man. The second part exposes some popular misconceptions of what someone must do to be saved. (You may want to have the class add a few more of their own.) Finally, the question is answered based on a discussion of the four major terms in Acts 16:31: “believe,” “Lord,” “Jesus,” and “Christ.” This should encourage your students not to just repeat Scripture phrases as trite answers to important questions without digging deeply into their meaning and studying them thoroughly for themselves.

The student’s lesson looks at other verses that tell us what does and does not save a person. It establishes from these verses that works (i.e., fearing God, giving to charity, praying, baptism) cannot save a person, but that confessing with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believing in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead will save us. It also deals with the question of how much God and man are involved in salvation.

## TEACHER’S LESSON

For the past two lessons we have learned many facts about salvation. It is one thing to know the facts; it is quite another to experience salvation for yourself. Now that we know the facts, the question we need to answer is: What must I do to be saved?

The main purpose of this lesson is to bring your students to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To determine the degree to which your students understand salvation, instruct them to write a short paper in class entitled: “What Must I Do to Be Saved?” Give the class fifteen minutes to answer this question. Allow them

to use their Bibles. Collect these papers and examine the students' answers after class. This will help you perceive how well your students understand salvation and will help you know how to teach this lesson in a way that will fit their needs.

“What must I do to be saved?” is an extremely important question with eternal consequences. Let's examine the importance of this question.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION

**Ask:** Is this question important to you? Why do you think it's important or unimportant? What does the Bible say about this question? Discuss.

To understand its importance, let's examine its effect on the present condition of man and the eternal condition of man.

### The Present Condition of Man

#### *The Unsaved Man*

- *Has No Joy or Understanding*

King Solomon received great wisdom from God as evidenced by the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. This wise king observed sinful men who did not know God and wrote the following comments about them. Read Proverbs 13:15. The present condition of unsaved man is that nothing truly makes him happy. Solomon says that the road of life for a sinner is difficult and full of pain. It's hard! This is because sin separates a man from true happiness in God. He has no real joy.

**Ask:** How does Ephesians 4:18 describe the mindset of an unsaved man? Discuss. Because of sin, man's understanding is darkened.

First Corinthians 2:14 points out that the unsaved man cannot receive or understand the things of the Spirit of God. He has no understanding and looks at the things of God as foolishness.

- *Is Corrupt and Contaminated*

Sin saturates the life of an unsaved man. He is thoroughly corrupted and contaminated by it. Read Titus 1:15. Sin not only blocks man's understanding and makes him unhappy; it corrupts and contaminates him. Thus, unsaved man lives in a spiritual winter. The skies are gray and drab, and he shivers in his sin. He knows not the sunshine of God's glory, nor the warmth of His presence. His future is a barren landscape, ending ultimately with eternal separation from God in hell. Even here he will endure corruption forever where the Bible says the worm never dies.

## *The Saved Man*

- *Is Joyful*

Even in the midst of great successes, the unsaved man is not truly joyful because sin separates man from true joy. The saved man, however, is quite different. He rejoices even when he has troubles. Read 1 Peter 1:6.

Read Psalm 146:5. What makes the saved man able to rejoice—even in heavy difficulties? Discuss. The saved man can rejoice because his trust is in God. The saved man can rejoice because he can “see God.” The scales of blindness with which Satan has made him blind (2 Cor. 4:4) have been removed, and he now sees the “light of the glorious gospel of Christ” shining brightly all about him.

- *Has Understanding*

The Christian has great understanding because of the miraculous change that God has worked in his life. He is now in Christ who is “the truth,” and, because of this, Christ has given him understanding (1 John 5:20).

First Corinthians 2:9–14 tells us that this understanding comes through the Holy Spirit. An unsaved man can read God’s Word and understand the actual physical facts, but he cannot understand the spiritual message of the book without a teacher, for he is “blinded” by Satan (2 Cor. 4:3–4).

- *Is Pure*

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem us and cleanse us to be His own special people (Titus 2:14). Peter commends our attention to the same truth in 1 Peter 1:22. The unsaved man is corrupted and contaminated, but the Christian has been purified and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Thus, the saved man lives in an eternal, spiritual springtime! He now sees the glorious beauty of Christ because God has shone the light of Christ into our hearts. (Read 2 Cor. 4:6 to see how Paul expresses this thought.) Sadly, though this is the believer’s privilege, many spend their days looking back at the winter and seldom take the time to enjoy the beauty of the glory of God reflected in the face of His Son. Yet, this is why we are saved! Christian, do you see and savor the Savior daily?

## The Eternal Condition of Man

The importance of the question (What must I do to be saved?) also involves the eternal condition of man. Because your soul is immortal, you must dwell somewhere forever.

## *The Unsaved Shall Be Tormented in Fire*

- *Eternally*

**Ask:** What words does Christ use to describe hell in Mark 9:46? Discuss. Christ speaks of hell as a place where the worm never dies and the fires never go out. The fire lasts forever, and the inhabitants of hell never die. They are eternally tormented! Jude 6 and 13 also refer to this terrible place as lasting forever. (God allowed a bush to burn without being consumed, and He can do the same with men's bodies in hell.) Hell will never end.

- *Physically*

An amazing passage in Luke 16 gives us the clear picture of a man in hell. Read Luke 16:23–31. This man has a physical body in hell.

- *He Has Eyes*

The man could see all around him. The flames rose up around him. Yet through this torment, he could see the comfort of Lazarus and Abraham (16:23).

- *He Has Ears*

He could hear the reply of Abraham denying his requests for comfort. His ears perceived the screams of those condemned to hell all around him (16:25).

- *He Has a Tongue*

He wanted Lazarus to bring water to cool his tongue. This same tongue made another request to Abraham (16:24).

- *He Has a Mind*

This man in hell clearly understands his torment. He understands his need for comfort. His mind is awake and fully aware of reality. Memories of exact details of human life are still in his mind. He understands the need of repentance before physical death.

- *He Has Feelings*

He feels the torment of the flames. The heat is all around him, and he cries out for deliverance. Make no mistake. When man is condemned to hell, he does not pass out of existence. He dwells eternally (forever) in a body that is as real as his physical body. He dwells in a real place of fiery torment.

## *The Saved Will Dwell in Heaven*

Read John 14:2–3. When Jesus Christ returned to heaven, He began preparing for Christians to dwell there. This glorious eternal dwelling place of the saved is described in Revelation 21–22. The world to

come is as real as the world you now live in. This is the wonderfully real, physical forever-home of the saved.

While sinners are forever separated from the glory and majesty of heaven, believers will be dazzled with the love, kindness, amazing power, and beauties of God as He continually reveals His kindness to them forever and ever. Note Ephesians 2:7. We don't know how great the riches are that God will show to us one day, but the believer will one day find out while the unsaved will never know them or see them!

## THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

**Ask:** The question we have been discussing is: What must I do to be saved? Where is this question found in Scripture? Discuss.

**Ask:** What had happened before this question was asked? Review briefly Acts 16:12–34. The Philippian jailer, trembling at the power of God displayed in the earthquake and the wisdom of God manifested in the Apostle Paul, fell down at Paul's feet to ask the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

Note some interesting things about Paul's answer.

### What the Answer Is Not

#### *Be Baptized*

To this man in great distress, Paul did not say, "Be baptized!" Baptism came later—after salvation. Baptism does not give a man eternal life.

#### *Join the Church*

Paul did not tell this man to add his name to a church roll.

#### *Do the Best You Can*

Paul did not tell the jailer to start doing good deeds. In his letter to the Christians at Ephesus, Paul spells this out directly. Read Ephesians 2:8–9. Man cannot perform good deeds for salvation. Remember from our discussion of justification that man has no righteousness.

### What the Answer Is

#### *Believe = Place Trust in; Commit Yourself to*

The word "belief" is synonymous with the word "faith." As we learned in lesson one, it means to place trust in or to commit your trust to something or someone. And the most important thing about faith is the *object* of your faith. A man can "place trust in" baptism, a church, or his own good works; but those won't save him. And it's not how genuine or earnest you were when you first believed—it's not the strength of your faith that saves you. It's the object—Christ saves you. God saves us. The object of true saving faith is the Lord Jesus Christ.

### *Lord = Master; Ruler; Boss*

The Philippian jailer could not save himself. He was completely unrighteous. Like every man in sin, he, no doubt, had made a mess of his life even though he held an important position. Moments before he had faced the possibility of death. In answer to the jailer's question, Paul exhorts him to turn over the rule of his life to Jesus Christ. That is, to trust the Lord Jesus as Master and Ruler. (Look also at Romans 10:9. This verse could be translated, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as *Lord*.")

### *Jesus = Savior*

"Jesus" means "the LORD saves" and refers to what He did on the cross when He died to save our souls. Perhaps the jailer had already heard the plan of salvation, which Paul had been preaching in Philippi. He may have heard about what happened on the cross of Calvary. In any case, Paul and Silas undoubtedly told him that Jesus would save him if he would trust what He did on the cross as payment for sin (verses 31–32). There is no salvation in any other (Acts 4:12).

### *Christ = Anointed One; Messiah*

"Christ" refers to the deity of Jesus. He is the "Anointed One" or Messiah of Israel (that is, the Christ). Paul told the jailer to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the God that all men were created to worship and love. He alone is the deliverer who could save the jailer from sin and its penalty. Why is the Lord Jesus Christ the only one who can save? He alone suffered and died for our sins (1 Pet. 2:24).

In this lesson we have discussed the importance of the answer to the question: What must I do to be saved? This question determines your eternal destiny. Will you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ today and be saved, or will you refuse and suffer in hell forever?

L E S S O N 3

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

## TEACHER'S LESSON

- ***The Importance of the Question***

- The present condition of man
  - The unsaved man—has no joy or understanding; is corrupt and contaminated
  - The saved man—is joyful, has understanding, and is pure
- The eternal condition of man
  - The unsaved shall be tormented in fire (Mark 9:46)
    - Eternally
    - Physically

<i>The Man in Hell Has...</i>
<b>eyes, ears, a tongue, a mind, and feelings</b>

- The saved will dwell in heaven (John 14:2)

- ***The Answer to the Question***

- What the answer is not
  - Be baptized
  - Join the church
  - Do the best you can

- What the answer is
  - Believe = Place trust in; commit yourself to
  - Lord = Master, Ruler
  - Jesus = Savior
  - Christ = Annoited One, Messiah

## WORD POWER

- *Saved*—rescued from sin and judgment by Jesus Christ
- *Unsaved*—not rescued from sin and in danger of God’s judgment
- *Baptism*—a church ceremony, instituted by Christ, in which a new believer is dipped under water to symbolize Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection

## STUDENT’S LESSON

- In Acts 16:30-31, the jailer asked Paul and Silas this question: What must I do to be saved?
- What was their answer? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

### ***What Does Not Save a Person?***

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, Works Cannot Save

- Verse 8 says, “Not of yourself.” Verse 9 says, “Not of works.” What would man do if he could work and earn his salvation? We would boast.

We have already learned that salvation is not ultimately for man’s benefit but for God’s glory! Thus, He designed salvation in such a way as to rob man of any glory he might desire and to bring Him ultimate glory.

### According to Acts 10:1-2, 43, Fearing God, Giving Alms, and Praying Cannot Save

- What was Cornelius' rank? centurion
- Was Cornelius religious?  Yes  No
- What does it mean when it says that he was "devout"? He was devoted to religion and his religious duties
- Did Cornelius reverence or fear God?  Yes  No
- Yet Cornelius was not saved! He did not get saved until verse 43. What did Cornelius have to do to be saved? believe on Christ

### According to Acts 8:9-12, Baptism Cannot Save

- Philip the evangelist was preaching the gospel in Samaria. How does Acts 8:12 say that the people responded? They believed.
- What happened to the people who had already believed Philip's presentation of the gospel? They were baptized.
- So what does a person have to do before he is baptized? believe on Christ
- If belief (and therefore salvation) comes before baptism, then can baptism save a person?  Yes  No

### ***What Does Save a Person?***

Read Romans 10:9. According to this verse, a person must do two things to be saved. (Actually, the two come together as one in faith, but this verse breaks "faith" into two aspects.)

First, we must be willing to "confess" (admit) with our mouth that Jesus is Lord (the ruler, boss, and authority in my life).

Second, we must “believe” in our heart (from the depths of our soul) that God raised Christ from the dead (that is, He died for our sins, was buried, and arose for our justification).

- The last phrase of Romans 10:9 gives us proof of what will happen when we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior. What does it say will happen when you confess and believe? **You will be saved.** \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you think it means to trust Christ as Lord? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you done this? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Who Does the Saving?***

The key to understanding salvation is understanding who does the saving. There are four possibilities.

1. God alone does the saving.
  2. Man alone does the saving.
  3. Man, with God’s help, does the saving.
  4. God, with man’s help, does the saving.
- Jonah 2:9 says that salvation is of the Lord . Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Is salvation of man?  Yes  No
  - What phrase proves this? **The entire work of salvation (including grace, faith, etc.) is not of us.** \_\_\_\_\_
  - According to these verses, salvation is a gift from God. Do you work for a gift?  Yes  No
  - Verse 9 states plainly that salvation is not a work. Therefore, which of the four possibilities is the correct one? **God alone does the saving.** \_\_\_\_\_