

Discipleship Lesson 2

Salvation

Key Memory Verse:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His
only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16



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As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. All mankind is part of one large family of God.
2. If you live a really good life, you get to go to heaven.
3. There are many paths to God as long as a person is sincere.
4. Sin must be confessed to a priest or pastor to be forgiven.

What Happened When I Got Saved and What Is My New Relationship to God?

There are two major differences between biblical Christianity and any other form of religion. First, biblical Christianity believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God without error. Second, biblical Christianity believes there is **only one way** to obtain eternal life. This lesson makes that one way clear.

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to briefly explain what took place regarding your relationship to God at the time of your decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

The decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision anyone can ever make. However, few Christians understand the true significance of what happened in their lives as a result of that decision.

- From Genesis to Revelation, God's desire is the redemption of mankind.
- His purpose for creating mankind is to glorify God and achieve His purpose for fellowship.
- God wanted mankind to choose to love Him.

Once Adam and Eve willfully sinned against God (Gen. 3), God put into motion the plan of redemption. The greatest need of mankind is to be brought into a proper relationship with his Creator. The Bible calls this “being saved” (Acts 4:12) or being “born again” (John 3:3, 7).

I. Salvation Is Made Up of Several Key Doctrines

A. Repentance

The importance given to the doctrine of repentance in the Scriptures cannot be overestimated. John the Baptist began his public ministry, as did Jesus, with the call to repentance upon his lips. Note Matthew 3:1–2, 4:17.

When the twelve went preaching, Jesus commanded them to preach repentance. Read Luke 24:47. Also, the preaching of the apostles was focused on repentance. Read Acts 2:38, 20:21.

The burden of the heart of God and His one command to all men everywhere is that they should repent. Read 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30.

1. Definition: Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.
2. The following three points break repentance down into three parts:
 - a. First, there must be a **change of mind**. The word *repent* means to change one’s mind, thought, purpose, or views regarding the matter. On the Day of Pentecost, when Peter called upon the Jews to repent (Acts 2:14–38), he called upon them to change their minds and their views regarding Christ.
 - b. Second, true repentance involves a person’s **emotions** (2 Corinthians 7:7–11). The great picture of someone’s emotions being touched in repentance is found in Luke 18:10–14.

No one can definitely say just how much emotion is necessary to true repentance. But it is evident that a certain amount of heart movement, even though it may not be accompanied by even a single tear, accompanies all true repentance (Psalm 38:18).

Notes and Questions:

c. Third, true repentance involves a person's will. Read Luke 15:17–20. A decision must be made to come to Christ.

3. What are the results of repentance? See Luke 15:7, 10.

a. Repentance brings pardon and forgiveness of sin (Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3:19).

b. Outside of repentance, the prophets and apostles knew of no way of securing man's pardon.

4. Genuine repentance will result in a changed life. A truly repentant person will begin at once to live a changed life, which is the fruit of repentance (Acts 26:20, James 2:14–26, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

5. It is important to realize that mere sorrow for one's actions, or even deep remorse, does not constitute genuine repentance. Study 2 Corinthians 7:9–10.

A worldly sort of grief may involve great sorrow for one's actions and probably, the fear of punishment, but it has no genuine renouncing of sin or commitment to forsake it in one's life.

Who illustrates this kind of worldly sorrow in the following passages?

a. Hebrews 12:16b–17. _____

b. 1 Samuel 15:11–26, 30. _____

c. Exodus 9:27–30, 34. _____

B. Faith

1. Faith is fundamental in Christian conduct and belief. It was the one virtue that Christ recognized above all others.

The definition of faith:

Faith does not mean believing without evidence. On the contrary, faith rests upon the best of evidence, namely the Word of God. Faith is no blind act of the soul. Such a thing as believing with the heart and without the head is out of the question. In Scripture, the heart means the whole man: intellect, sensibilities, and will.

Faith always has in it the idea of action or movement toward its object. Faith first says, "My Lord and my God," and then falls down and worships.

2. A distinction between believing about Christ and believing in Christ is made in John 8:30–31.

How important is faith? Note Hebrews 11:6.

Faith believes all that God says is absolutely true, even though circumstances seem to be against its fulfillment.

3. How can a person acquire more faith? Romans 10:17.

The great question for the Christian to answer is not "What can I do?" but "How much can I believe?" For "all things are possible to him that believes" (Mark 9:23, NKJV).

C. Regeneration (A New Birth to Be Made Alive)

Regeneration is to be made alive spiritually, a new birth (John 3:3–7, 5:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Let's look at what regeneration is not.

1. Regeneration is **not baptism**. What does the word *water* refer to in John 3:5?

Baptism Natural Birth Other
(Circle your answer)

If baptism and regeneration were identical, why did Paul make so little about the subject of baptism (1 Corinthians 1:14)? Yet we know that the people of Corinth were saved through Paul's preaching (1 Corinthians 4:15).

Notes and Questions:

2. Regeneration is **not reformation**. Changing our behavior or bad habits will not bring us closer to God. Ephesians 2:1–3 tells us a man before salvation is referred to as _____ in _____

The Bible teaches that we are dead in sin and must be made alive through the new birth (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20).

D. Justification

1. To justify means to set forth as righteous, to be declared righteous in a legal sense, and to put a person in a right relationship. Strictly speaking then, justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put faith in Christ are declared righteous in His eyes and free from guilt and punishment. Read Acts 13:38–39 and Romans 8:1.

God sees the believer as without sin and guilt in Christ (Romans 8:33–34).

2. The method of justification is not by the works of religion (Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16).

It is God's grace and the blood of Jesus that justifies a Christian (Romans 3:24, 5:9).

Definition of Grace:

Undeserved acceptance and love received from another.

E. Adoption

Romans 8:15, 23; Romans 9:4; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5

1. Adoption is the process of choosing a child. It means one man taking the child of another to be his own. Then that child has the same position and all the rights and privileges of a child by birth.
2. One of the **most exciting truths of salvation** is understanding that we are now children of God because of our _____ in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:2).
3. We become the objects of God's special _____ (John 17:23; Luke 12:27–33).

II. What Must I Do to Be Saved?

There are basically four points that must be understood for a person to be biblically saved (Acts 4:12) or born again (John 3:3).

A. The sin issue must first be understood.

1. Romans 3:10 tells us that there are none _____
2. Romans 3:23 says that we have all _____
3. Romans 5:12 tells us in Adam we all _____

B. The second point we must understand is the judgment of God because of sin.

1. Romans 6:23 teaches that “the _____ of sin is death.”
2. Hebrews 9:27 says that all men will eventually die, but what does it say will come after? See Revelation 20:11–15.

C. The third point: to avoid judgment, we must rely on God’s grace. It is His grace alone that provides forgiveness through the death of Christ.

1. Romans 6:23 Describe the gift God has given to us and through whom it is provided (Romans 5:8–9).

The gift is _____. Given by _____ because of His _____.

2. Second Corinthians 5:21 describes how God’s gift is given to us. In your own words explain this verse.

3. First, how does Ephesians 2:8–9 say that we are saved? Second, what do these verses rule out as being part of the equation?

Notes and Questions:

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D. The fourth and most crucial point is to be truly saved we must not only believe but **receive**. The Bible tells us in James 2:19, “even the demons believe and tremble.” We must not only believe in Jesus Christ, but we must each receive Him as our personal Savior based upon His finished work of atonement upon the cross (John 1:12).

1. Romans 5:17–18 tells us that though we all died in Adam without any act of the will on our part, it takes an active part of the will to _____ Jesus Christ.

2. Describe in your own words Romans 10:9, 13.

Illustration— please read Acts 16:25–34

Receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior means you understand four things:

- a. You are a sinner.
- b. There is a punishment to be paid for your sins.
- c. Jesus took the punishment for you.
- d. You must call upon His name (receiving), asking forgiveness for all your sins (repenting), based upon Jesus’s work on the cross and nothing else in this world (2 Peter 3:9).

Which of these four points is the hardest to explain to someone as you share your faith?

Why?

III. Practical Application

- A. Describe any changes that you have experienced in your life since receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.
- B. Do people who live a moral and honest life (give to charities, serve in the community) get to go to heaven? Explain why.
- C. Have you shared your decision to receive Christ with family and friends?
- D. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. _____

2. _____

Notes and Questions:



Notes and Questions:

IV. Your Personal Testimony

Briefly write the circumstances leading up to and including the time that you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. This will enable you to articulate more clearly to others how they can be saved.

The Four Parts of Your Testimony:

1. What my life was like before I met Christ.
2. How I realized I needed Christ.
3. How I committed my life to Christ.
4. The difference it has made in my life.

Please be prepared to read and share with your discipler.