

## Lesson 3 of 8: How can we be saved from our sins?

- I. All accountable people have sinned; sin is a transgression of God's law; unforgiven sin results in death and eternal separation from God; lying is an example of sin.
- Will you admit that you have broken God's law, and that the eternal consequence of your sin is spiritual death, which is separation from God in hellfire?
    - **Romans 3:23** <sup>23</sup> *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
    - **1 John 3:4** <sup>4</sup> *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*
    - **Romans 6:23** <sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death, (...)*
    - **Revelation 21:8** <sup>8</sup> *(...) all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*
- II. Although sin yields eternal punishment, the Bible tells us that salvation and an eternal life with God the Father is possible through His Son Jesus Christ.
- An eternal life in heaven is what God wants for every man, but it is only possible through Jesus Christ and His gospel.
    - **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
    - **Acts 4:10-12** <sup>10</sup> *let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup> This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
    - **Romans 1:16** <sup>16</sup> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*
  - Who is Jesus Christ?
    - **1 John 5:20** <sup>20</sup> *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
  - What did He do?
    - **Romans 5:7-9** <sup>7</sup> *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*
    - **1 John 4:10** <sup>10</sup> *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
    - **Hebrews 5:8-9** <sup>8</sup> *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. <sup>9</sup> And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*
  - Before ascending into heaven Christ told the apostles how one could be saved through the gospel.
    - **Mark 16:15-16** <sup>15</sup> *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*
    - **Matthew 28:18-19** <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
  - What is the gospel?
    - **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** <sup>1</sup> *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*
- III. We have an example in the New Testament of how individuals were saved during the very beginnings of the church
- The first gospel sermon was preached by Peter through inspiration of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the foundation of the church.
    - **Acts 2:14-17** <sup>14</sup> *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*
    - **Acts 2:22-23** <sup>22</sup> *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— <sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*
    - **Acts 2:32-33, 36** <sup>32</sup> *This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (...)* <sup>36</sup> *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*
    - When those heard the gospel of Christ believed, they asked Peter what they should do.
      - **Acts 2:37** <sup>37</sup> *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*
      - Peter responded by commanding what Christ had commanded him (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-19), that they should be baptized for the remission of sins.
        - **Acts 2:38** <sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
        - Those who were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ were forgiven of their sins, saved, and were added to the church.
          - **Acts 2:40-41** <sup>40</sup> *And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." <sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*
          - **Acts 2:47** <sup>47</sup> *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*
- IV. How are we saved and added to Christ's church?
- By obeying the author of eternal salvation, Jesus Christ, and following the examples of those mentioned throughout the New Testament who were saved by obedience to Christ's commands.
    - **Hebrews 5:9** <sup>9</sup> *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*
  - One seeking to be saved must first hear/understand the gospel of Christ, the word of God.
    - **Romans 10:14** <sup>14</sup> *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*
    - **Romans 10:17** <sup>17</sup> *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
    - **Acts 8:30-31, 35** <sup>30</sup> *So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. (...)* <sup>35</sup> *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.*

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- One seeking to be saved must believe the words of the New Testament that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
  - **Hebrew 11:6** <sup>6</sup> *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
  - **John 3:18** <sup>18</sup> *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
  - **John 20:31** <sup>31</sup> *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*
  - **Acts 16:31** <sup>31</sup> *So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*
- However, we have also been instructed by God that there is more to being saved than just belief and faith, but that faith is proven when action is taken.
  - **James 2:19-20, 24** <sup>19</sup> *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!* <sup>20</sup> *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? (...)* <sup>24</sup> *You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*
- One must repent to be saved. Repenting is to turn from a self-willed way of thought and changing the mind to think based on God’s will.
  - **Luke 13:3** <sup>3</sup> *I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*
  - **2 Corinthians 7:8-10** <sup>8</sup> *For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*
  - **2 Peter 3:9** <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
  - **Acts 17:30** <sup>30</sup> *Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,*
  - Paul repented after having the truth revealed to him. He was persecuting the church. He then repented by stopping his way of thought and immediately began thinking based on the will of God. This led to him becoming saved followed by a life that he lived for Christ.
  - **Acts 9:4** <sup>4</sup> *Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”*
  - **Acts 9:6** <sup>6</sup> *So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*
  - **Acts 9:18** <sup>18</sup> *Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*
  - **Acts 9:20** <sup>20</sup> *Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*
- In order to be saved one must confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
  - **Matthew 10:32** <sup>32</sup> *“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*
  - **Romans 10:10** <sup>10</sup> *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- Belief and confession are conditions that must be met prior to being baptized. Notice that infants are not able to meet these conditions prior to baptism.
  - **Acts 8:37** <sup>36</sup> *(...) they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*
- Being baptized into Christ Jesus is the point at which one is saved. True belief will lead to baptism and both are essential for salvation.
  - Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize those who believed in Him in order for them to be saved. Those who do not believe will not seek to obey.
  - **Mark 16:15-16** <sup>15</sup> *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*
  - Being baptized is to call on the name of the Lord- it is an obedient response to the commands of Christ. Our sins are forgiven and washed away when we are baptized. We become like Christ and obey the gospel when our sins are put to death by being buried in water to then be raised as new.
  - **Acts 22:16** <sup>16</sup> *And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’*
  - **Romans 6:3-6** <sup>3</sup> *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*
  - **Colossians 2:12** <sup>12</sup> *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*
  - Baptism is not a “bath” to clean the filth of the actual flesh. It is a response to true belief and is the point at which one is saved and is in Christ.
  - **1 Peter 3:21** <sup>21</sup> *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
  - **Galatians 3:27** <sup>27</sup> *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
  - The first Christians became Christians by being baptized.
  - **Acts 2:38** <sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
  - **Acts 8:35-38** <sup>35</sup> *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” <sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*
  - Will it really matter if we are baptized into Christ? What if we don’t obey the gospel and fail to be buried with Christ in baptism?
  - **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** <sup>7</sup> *and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*
- After being saved one must remain faithful until death in order to have eternal salvation
  - One only has the hope of salvation if they remain faithful and grounded in the truth after being saved.
  - **Colossians 1:21-23** <sup>21</sup> *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*