

Lesson 2 - Salvation

Let's look at the original plan of God for Adam and Eve. This represents God's plan for ALL OF MANKIND!

The Garden of Eden was prepared for us by God and FULL of PERFECTION! His will was for mankind to be an extension of HIS FAMILY in the earth, enjoying both spiritual and natural blessings that flowed from their intimate communion with Him!

God saw everything, the Garden of Eden, and all that He had made and thought, *"It is VERY GOOD!"* - GENESIS 1:31. Everything needed to sustain and nurture life was at the fingertips of Adam and Eve. There was NO sorrow, suffering, sickness, pain, disease or death! ALL was provided for and absolutely EVERYTHING was "GOOD!"

God's plan for mankind was that they ALWAYS experience His BEST, His goodness! This HASN'T changed!!

Hebrews 13:8 says, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."*

Malachi 3:6 says, *"I am the Lord, I change not."*

But if this is so, why has the world experienced suffering? Famines? Sickness, disease and tragedy? What happened? Why might someone feel as though God has forsaken them? Did God change His plans for mankind? No. What happened?

Let's read Genesis 2:16-17:

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God now had a big problem on His hands! Genesis chapter 3 tells the story of how Adam and Eve were tempted to eat from the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" and they did so! Fortunately, God knew this was going to happen and the Bible says He already had a rescue plan in place! - Genesis 3:15.

THE SIN PROBLEM

The Bible says "sin" or "transgression" is the breaking of God's law and that it has made a division, a separation between God and man.

Read Isaiah 59:2

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."

Are God's ears open to you?

Read these 3 scriptures:

Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 3:23

"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

God had a problem, because every living person had committed sin. They couldn't deliver themselves. God had to provide someone from the outside, to come and bare the pain, the suffering and the penalty of death by proxy! He decided to take this assignment on Himself.

Philippians 2:5-7 says:

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God [did not consider His prerogative as God something to cling to], but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming [being born] in the likeness of men."

Jesus [God] became man.

Let's read John 3:16

"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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

And He was perfect and sinless in every way.

Let's also read these 2 scriptures:

Luke 1:35 says:

"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

And 1 Peter 2:21-22 says:

"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"

Jesus never sinned, if He did even one time He could NOT go to cross on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

A Great Exchange Took Place!

Isaiah 53:4-5 says:

*"Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we considered Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed."*

1 Peter 2:24 says:

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed."

There was a GREAT EXCHANGE when Jesus went to the cross for us. The Bible says it was the greatest demonstration of God's power ever! He gave us righteousness in exchange for our sin, healing in exchange for our sickness! Joy in exchange for sadness!

WE ARE STILL LEARNING ABOUT ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS JESUS HAS DONE FOR US!

John 3:3-7 says:

"Verily, verily I say to you, except a man be BORN AGAIN, he CANNOT SEE the Kingdom of God." In verse 5 He says, "Verily, verily I say to you, except a man be BORN of WATER (the Word) and of THE SPIRIT, he cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God... Marvel not that I say unto you, You MUST be BORN AGAIN."

Jesus is saying a TRANSFORMATION MUST TAKE PLACE to ENTER HEAVEN! We HAVE TO be BORN OF THE SPIRIT!

Ezekiel 36:26-27 says, *"I will give you a NEW HEART and put a NEW SPIRIT within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put MY SPIRIT within you..."* This is what the Bible means by "BORN AGAIN". God gives us a NEW HEART and places HIS SPIRIT on the INSIDE OF US!

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

"Therefore if ANY man be in Christ, He is a NEW CREATION; OLD things have passed away, BEHOLD, ALL THINGS have become NEW! And ALL things are of God, who has RECONCILED us to Himself by Christ Jesus!" God places HIS nature, His likeness and His Spirit in our NEW hearts! WE ARE NEW CREATIONS!!

The Only Way

"Can you be saved by other religions?" No because no other "religion" deals with the "sin" issue. Jesus said this in John 14:6.

Jesus said in John 14:6:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Acts 4:11-12 says:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Jesus is the ONLY ONE who went to the cross. No other religion has someone who took the penalty for our sin and rose again (not Buddha, nor Mohammed, nor Krishna etc.).

1 Timothy 2:5,6 says:

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all..."

Salvation is a gift from God that Jesus purchased for us. It is not by our works that we are saved, but by His works, Jesus' perfect life and sacrifice for us. We cannot save ourselves.

It's a Gift! - "By Grace Through Faith"

Ephesians 2:8-9 says:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Salvation is obtained through faith, by believing in and relying upon Jesus' sacrifice on the cross 2000 years ago for us. Salvation doesn't come because of how good we are. We can't earn it. Our good works don't even compare with God's perfection.

It has to be HIS FREE GIFT to us! And it is!

So How do we Receive?

Let's read Romans 10:13-15

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

So How Does Anyone Get “Saved?”

1ST STEP - HEARING AND BELIEVING - Someone has to be sent and preach the GOOD NEWS about what JESUS HAS DONE FOR US! And someone has to HEAR and BELIEVE that GOOD NEWS!

When we believe, revelation from the Holy Spirit comes to our hearts!

2ND STEP - WE REPENT AND CHOOSE TO OBEY – “Repentance” means – to turn around, think differently and change direction! Like walking North, you turn around, and now you’re walking South! It means that if we have been doing anything that is displeasing to God, we are willing to give it up, because we love God more! We make a quality decision to change!

In Acts 2:38, Peter said to the multitude:

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

When we are willing to do what’s right, refreshing from the Holy Spirit and blessing comes to our lives!

Acts 3:19 says:

“Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Repentance is lining up our thinking with God’s thinking!

Amos 3:3 says:

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

Reconsidering our life’s direction and changing our thinking to agree with God and His Word is the shortest way back to relationship with Him!

He loves us MORE than we can dream or imagine! And He LONGS for us to KNOW HIM! Repentance makes knowing Him possible!

3RD STEP - WE “CONFESS” JESUS AS OUR LORD! - Romans 10:9-10 says if we confess with our mouth, “JESUS IS LORD” and believe with our heart that God (THE FATHER) has RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, WE SHALL BE SAVED!

Inviting Christ into our heart to be our Lord and Saviour is asking Him to be the One in charge of our lives! It’s embracing His perfect will for our lives EVERY DAY and acknowledging that His way is best!

Revelation 3:20 says:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine (banquet) with him, and he with Me.” The word for “dine” means, “eat the BIGGEST meal of the day!”

Jesus said He would COME INTO OUR HEARTS if we would INVITE HIM IN! That is AWESOME! (God doesn’t force His way in, He waits to be INVITED!)

Jesus said, “Have FAITH in God!” Have confidence in Him and what He did for you 2000 yrs ago! He’s in LOVE with you! And He is YOUR Saviour! He will NEVER leave you or forsake you!

Jesus promised to lead us and guide us, not only through His Word, but also through His Holy Spirit. He said in John 10:27-28, “My sheep hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish...”

The word “Lord” means - owner or master, the one in charge.

Luke 12:8,9 and 1 John 4:2,15 speak about how anyone who confesses Jesus has come in the flesh is of God. They also say anyone who does so before others, Jesus will PERSONALLY acknowledge them before His Heavenly Father! That's AWESOME!!! (There are REWARDS for being bold in this life about your following JESUS!!!)

4TH STEP - SO PRAY A PRAYER OUT LOUD TO GOD TODAY, INCORPORATING THE STEPS ABOVE FROM THE HEART!

A model prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that You went to the cross on my behalf, bore my sins and died under the penalty of them so I wouldn't have to. I believe that You are raised from the dead to be the Saviour and Lord of all who call upon you. Lord Jesus, I ask you to forgive my sin, come into my heart and be MY LORD! Be MY SAVIOUR from this day forward! Thank you Jesus, for being MY LORD!”

Mark 13:13 says, he that “*perseveres (is faithful) to the end will be saved.*” Continue in what you believe.

5TH STEP - THINK ABOUT WHAT ALL THIS MEANS AND PRAISE HIM FOR IT!

- 1) Your past is forgiven and forgotten. - Hebrews 10:17,18
- 2) Jesus will testify about you before your Father in heaven. - Luke 12:8,9
- 3) Your “old” spirit is “born again,” made completely new, with God's life and God's divine nature inside - Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Peter 1:4
- 4) You have received eternal life - John 17:3 - God's kind of life, to know Him intimately.
- 5) You have become a “son of God,” His child and part of His family! - John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1, 2a
- 6) Your name is registered (securely written) in the Book of Life in heaven. - Philippians 4:3

Though feelings and emotions accompany our experiences, this is not about feelings or emotions, but the promises of God. His Word is always true. When we act upon it, we experience His salvation and rescue! AND THAT'S AWESOME!!!

1 John 5:12-13 says:

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”