

Lesson 5: Knowing We Have Eternal Life, Part 1

Lesson Introduction

This lesson is focused on knowing we have eternal life. I grew up in a church that taught that you couldn't know whether you were going to heaven or not until after you died. They said that even the Apostle Paul didn't know his eternal destiny before he died. How contrary to Scripture and it's obviously a little too late to find out after you've died, when your eternal destiny is already determined. What kind of a savior would that be that would leave you wondering if he's really saved the one that's trusted in him?

As we will see, the bible clearly teaches that we can know that we have eternal life. Not at some point in the future, but now as a present reality.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 5: Knowing We have Eternal Life, Part 1

Topic 1: Sixth Doctrine of Salvation: All Man must do to be Saved is Believe (continued)

Salvation by Faith (review)

Justification by Faith

Few Know the Gospel

Our Authority

Topic 2: Seventh Doctrine of Salvation: Assurance of Eternal Life

Saved Forever

God's Integrity

Seven Doctrines of Salvation
(1) Everyone is a Sinner Less Perfect than God
(2) The Wages of Sin is Death
(3) No Sin Can Enter Heaven
(4) Man's Imperfection and Helplessness
(5) Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness
(6) All Man must do to be Saved is Believe <i>All mankind are sinners incapable of contributing anything toward their salvation. The free gift of salvation is given with undeserved grace to those who believe in Christ.</i>
(7) Man can know that He has Eternal Life

With some things it's better if we don't try too hard. For example, a good swimmer is always relaxed in the water. But if you put a non-swimmer in the water they're anything but relaxed. Instead they'll thrash around wildly and end up tiring themselves out. They will end up sinking like a rock. But the relaxed swimmer can float for an extended period of time.

In a way the Jews had this type of problem with doing the works of God. They sought to win God's favor by their works. Many Jews at the time of Christ would fast two days out of the week. They would make long prayers, make wide their phylacteries, and put outsized trim on their religious garments (Mt 23:5). All this to show their godly works before men.

But when the Jews asked Jesus, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" (Jn 6:28). Jesus replied, "This is the work of, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (Jn 6:29). They were trying too hard! For salvation, they needed to relax from their works and instead simply believe on the one whom God sent.

Salvation by Faith (review)

Assignment

- Please memorize Romans 5:1.

No one can ever accuse us of not having a clear gospel. Sunday after Sunday. We're going to continue looking at making the gospel clear we're going to be talking about how it's not of works what is the issue when you're witnessing to anybody. It's always grace versus works. All the religions of the world always say that you must work your way to heaven. Christianity alone says that Christ did it all for us and this is what makes all the difference. We were in Galatians 3:24 - 26 as we ended last week and I want us to continue on. "for you are children of God by faith" this is verse 26 "in Christ Jesus you become a child of the faith through Christ and he will take care of you." now how does he take care of us? well we know that he takes care of us through the church. he supplies all our needs. and it's nice to have a church and friends that can really watch out for us. Romans 5:1 "therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" since I trusted Christ, God sees me justified. The one good way to remember this now, this is not the best definition of the word justified, but it is a good definition and at least it'll get you on the right track — just as if I never sinned. Justified is not just, as if you've never sinned, because every one of us have sinned. But God looks at us as justified. And God looks at us as justified, that is, so we've all sinned but God does not see our sin. The true definition of justified is that we have sinned but God has forgiven our sins. But this is a good way to remember-just as if I've never sinned. well I guess in the end result that is what it is God knows that we have sinned but that sin was paid for, that it is even on this side, right? that's what kind of makes it nice with printing and it's justified on both sides. it's made us even and that is what it means. with Jesus we are sinners and he has justified us. a good way to at least put you on the right track - is just as if I've never sinned I think we need to see that God sees Christ's righteousness instead of my sin, therefore, I have peace with God. Jesus reconciled God in me, isn't that a great thing to think about that we have peace with God! We can be sure tonight and know that someday we will be we will be in heaven. What an incredible thought that is.

QUESTION 1

Please write Romans 5:1 from memory.

QUESTION 2

Please give the simplified definition of justified.

QUESTION 3

Please give the true definition of justified.

Justification by Faith

Assignment

- Please memorize Romans 3:20.
- Please memorize Galatians 2:21.

Acts 13:38 - 39. This is a soul winning verse. What a soul winning verse! “be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” Through Christ you were justified from all things that you could not be justified to the law of Moses. Isn't that the way to first to show people that the law does not save you. You are justified from all things. It's just like these verses, they are justified on both sides from all things. We're justified totally. We are totally cleansed. We are totally made right. We are totally seen without sin. And I guess the thing you totally have to see here is the past present and future. You need to be able to show people that you are totally saved. This is very important Jesus paid it all. If Jesus paid it all, how many do we have to pay? And you say we don't have to pay anything if Jesus paid it all. Will you say that's right. You could not be justified by keeping the law. “Therefore by deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight.” Romans 3:20 See, by deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. No flesh shall be justified! You couldn't justify with a typewriter, well you could justify with a typewriter. You could count the spaces. My dad used to tell me how he used to justify. You did a few little things with the typewriter. I tell you no flesh can be justified. It would be just impossible. Now do not despise God's grace. Do not reject God's grace. If you could have been saved through your own efforts, Christ death would be useless. Calvary would have been a mistake. I do not frustrate the grace of God. For if righteousness comes by the law then Christ death is in vain. To see that if you if you could have been saved any other way Christ would not have had to die. And so many people say well Jesus is one way, and Buddha is another way, and whatever way you want to go. Listen, it is not true. Christ is the only way and only Christianity has God becoming man becoming flesh and dying and justifying us. Go back to Acts 13:39. Notice that all those who are justified from all things are those who believe. So many times the Gospel says that I have to believe, depend, trust, rely on Christ. People present the gospel every way but believe.

QUESTION 4

Please write Romans 3:20 from memory.

QUESTION 5

Acts 13:38-39 tells us that by Christ all that believe are justified from all things; but what does it say cannot justify us? Answer: _____

- A. Good intentions
- B. Good works
- C. Repentance
- D. The Law of Moses

QUESTION 6

We can only be cleansed of sins we've committed in the past. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 7

Because of the nature of what grace is God doesn't mind if we take His grace lightly. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 8

Christ's death was unnecessary if we could be saved through our own efforts. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Few Know the Gospel

now here is the presentation as we are in this one doctrine grace versus works. since the greatest majority of people that you will meet are trying to work their way to heaven it will follow that they are not trusting in Christ alone for their salvation. is important that as you try to deal with them. that you remember that they have never really understood the gospel. most churches do not make plain the Gospel and the way of salvation. And some do not even know what the plan of salvation is to begin with. The vast majority of preachers do not make the way of salvation clear. We thank God for all the godly pastors who stand for the word of God but in America today this is one of the real tragedies people do not understand the gospel. and so many people are so fed up. I'm telling you that so many people get so fed up and they are not fed up with Christ they're fed up with what they think is the message of Christ. God tells us to avoid the appearance of evil. if a man won't avoid the appearance of evil he won't avoid evil. do you understand that? you know what God wants? he wants a church and a school that are the same. he wants a church and a school that are one. he wants people to see that Christianity is real and kids grow up and serve Christ and there is a reality in the Christian life and that the Christian life does work. it doesn't work if you never have time with your family. We all know that you should give your all for Jesus. but giving your all to Jesus is raising a family. I could get so sick when people ask me which do you rate? the church, the home, the family, God? listen of course God is rated first! but God does not make you make distinctions. if you don't raise your family right you can't be a preacher. listen God makes it work out. God balances it out and what America needs today is to see the reality. Anyway, so many people have seen things, so many people have seen things that I've seen when I grew up. I saw no reality in my dad's churches whatever. Those men would go out and light up their cigarettes and I tell you I hated it. I hated it. you ask why did I hate it? well, I thought it was hypocritical. I shared with you this one Sunday that Johnny Beaton and I, we got up and preached on the evils of smoking and man my dad almost slid out of that chair. And when it was over they went out and lit up as usual. we were young boys and I looked at those guys and I said you phonies. and I rejected Christianity I rejected it because I didn't see reality in it. I didn't expect them to quit smoking but I didn't expect them to go and light up right after they got out the door. so many people are so fed up. it's not that they have rejected Christ. they have rejected what they think Christianity is. that is a tragedy. when you run into people like that and sympathize with them explain that you want to talk to them and that what you want to talk to them about is not a religion. explain the gospel to them. do not insinuate that they are stupid. you know when I give the gospel I say to some of them you are not as stupid as I am. they all accept that and some will say well I'm not that stupid but I'm on that way. but don't ever imply that someone is stupid remember they're not stupid they just do not know the truth, and many of them have never heard the truth. sometimes it will be easier to lead those to the Lord that have rejected religion and because they have recognized that something was not right about what they have been taught. Do compliment them on their insight. Agree with people when ever you can. I do not mean falsely I mean agree with them when you can I don't mean that you should lie about it. I mean if you can agree with someone on something compliment them on it

QUESTION 9

It is important to remember as you deal with most people that they probably never understood the Gospel. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 10

Most churches that are Christian in name know the gospel and make the plan of salvation clear. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 11

Millions of people today are fed up with genuine Christianity. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 12

There is a vital connection between giving your all to Jesus and raising your family. *True or False?*
Answer: _____

Our Authority

the issue is grace and works and until they see that Christ completely paid for their sin they will not be ready to rely on that payment alone. keep showing them the verses and get them to see that God has something to say about this matter. sometimes a person will reject your authority to speak on theological issues we have a lady in our church who has been witnessing to a nice Jewish lady at her work. the Jewish lady says you don't have the authority to tell me about God. now I have had people question me and they have questioned you. you need to explain to them that it is not your authority that you are talking about but it is the authority of God and again keep the issue focused. when the issue is you're dealing with a true intellectual, comment on his obvious intelligence and use this as a means to his salvation. we are not talking about using pride to win someone to Christ. we are taught about being nice people. like people are just nice. now we need to learn to be nice we can take lessons from the southerners on what it means to be nice. to know how to be nice. a lot of times it is a phoniness but they know how to be nice. we need to take some lessons to know how to be nice, and how to be kind, and how to compliment where compliment is due. sometimes were just not good at it. I'm not good at it. compliment a person when you can compliment him, when you can admire something about somebody tell them that by their own reasoning power they ought to be able to see that they could not have salvation by their own good works. and again show them the Bible way when a person trust Christ as Savior is it is always the core to explain to them that they can know they have eternal life from that moment on. which is the last point we wanted covered in this chapter.

QUESTION 13

Please briefly explain what you should do if people you witness to challenge your authority to speak on spiritual matters. _____

QUESTION 14

It is good to be nice and give compliments to people we witness to even if we have to stretch the truth to do it. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Topic 2: Seventh Doctrine of Salvation: Knowing We have Eternal Life

Seven Doctrines of Salvation
(1) Everyone is a Sinner Less Perfect than God
(2) The Wages of Sin is Death
(3) No Sin Can Enter Heaven
(4) Man's Imperfection and Helplessness
(5) Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness
(6) All Man must do to be Saved is Believe
(7) Man Can know that He has Eternal Life <i>God promises us eternal life based on faith in Christ (Jn 6:47). God is unable to lie.</i>

God always speaks absolute truth. However, there are times when He adds even more emphasis to His word. We see this in Hebrews 6:13: "when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself." Hebrews 6:16-18 goes on to say, "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

Hebrews 6:19 then tells us that Jesus became a priest forever. Because His priesthood lasts forever, He is able to forever save us. When God promises us eternal life based on faith in Christ (Jn 6:47), He means it. He is unable to lie. And Jesus' priesthood endures forever as a further guarantee!

Topic 2: Seventh Doctrine of Salvation: Knowing We have Eternal Life

Saved Forever

the next doctrine I want to cover is number seven. man can know he has eternal life now, because eternal life is eternal. and can know that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Romans 6:23. you know, we take the seven basic verses I will give those to you in order this weekend. notice that the gift of God is eternal life. Is it as a gift of God until you sin again, eternal life until you backslide? It is eternal life. the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. notice what John 3:16 is saying, "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life". everlasting life? how long is everlasting is it six months? Is it 10 months? is it 12 months or 12 years? how long is everlasting? everlasting is forever. God's gift is salvation and not probation. God's gift is eternal life not temporary life. and it is so important that we make people understand this. so many people just don't understand this. John 6:47 has been quoted before showing our need to believe. what does this verse do for you? "Verily, verily I say unto you he who believes on me has everlasting life." Has everlasting life is present tense. If you have everlasting life, you have life right now! I remember a lady, her name is Arlene. I'll use her first name. she could not understand how you could have eternal life now. she said eternal life is what you get when you die. and I would go over and over and over with this dear

Arlene and I never got it through to her. as far as I know that lady has died now and probably gone to hell. She said you can't know. what I would tell her is that the Bible says "these things have I written unto you who believe in the son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." she said you cannot know it until you die. I said you're not dead. when you know it you've got to know it before your dead. she would never accepted that you could have it now. if you have everlasting life now you are safe forever you don't have to wait for death to receive everlasting life. you received it the instant you trusted Christ. I John 5:13, "these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God that you may know that you have eternal life that you may believe on the name of the son of God." we have to be able to emphasize this. this is written to a certain class of people. not to the rich or the poor or to the American the African or the to the Gentile, Buddhist or the Baptist but to those that believe on the name of the son of God

QUESTION 15

God's gift of eternal life can be forfeited because of some severe sins. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 16

In John 6:47, *has* is in the _____ tense.

- A. Future
- B. Past
- C. Perfect
- D. Present

Topic 2: Seventh Doctrine of Salvation: Knowing We have Eternal Life

God's Integrity

Jesus comes from the Greek translation to hope for-Joshua. it means the eternal self existent God who saves and keeps. the eternal self existent God who saves and keeps those who believe Jesus is the Lord and trust him to save them and to keep them safe and know they have eternal life. you do not need to hope, think, guess, or pray for it. you can know you have it and when God promises that you can know that you have eternal life you can count on it because God cannot lie. you know so many people believe that God can lie. and yet God says, look you have eternal life. that was kind of going along with what I said this morning about the ministry of godliness I am not going to get into the presentation tonight I will do that next week I want to give you the seven verses that you should have. I think most of you know this, but I want to give these to you. if you learn the seven verses you can be quite a soul winner! you can be a soul winner if you don't learn them. but I want to give you these verses. Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Revelation 21:27, Ephesians 2: 8, 9, II Corinthians 5:21, John 3:16, and I John 5:13. if any of you do not know Christ the Savior let me say that Jesus Christ 2000 years ago, but here we are with sin. God says I love you but I hate your sin. to go to heaven you got to be sinless. he who knew no sin was made to be sin for us that we could be made righteous as God. in him and we could be as righteous as God. you see how we can go to heaven. how great it is. Jesus Christ paid at all. He shed his blood on the cross, buried and

on the third day he rose again from the dead and God now looks at you and me and he sees us with the righteousness of Jesus. we can't do anything for it. we get it as eternal life

QUESTION 17

“Jesus” comes from the Greek translation of “Jehovah Yasha,” meaning “the eternal, self-existent God who saves and _____

- A. Defends
- B. Delivers
- C. Justifies
- D. Keeps

QUESTION 18

The fact that God cannot lie is a factor in our confidence in being eternally secure. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Lesson 5 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1).

QUESTION 2: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

The simplified definition of justified is just as if I’d never sinned.

QUESTION 3: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

The true definition of justified is that we have sinned and God has now forgiven that sin (because Christ paid for it).

QUESTION 4: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

QUESTION 5

D. The Law of Moses [We are justified totally by Christ]

QUESTION 6: False [Christ’s forgiveness takes care of ALL sins, past, present and future.]

QUESTION 7: False [It was costly to God to provide salvation by grace and it is unwise to treat his free gift with disdain.]

QUESTION 8: True [“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal 2:21).]

QUESTION 9: True [Since the greatest majority of those you meet are trying to somehow work their way to heaven, it will follow that they are not trusting Christ alone for their salvation.]

QUESTION 10: False [A minority of preachers knows what the gospel is and even if they do, fewer still make a clear presentation of it.]

QUESTION 11: False [God want people to see that Christianity is real.]

QUESTION 12: True [This is part of living a genuine Christian life and showing it to the world.]

QUESTION 13: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

Explain that it is not your authority but God’s. Explain that the authority is the word of God and that the Bible is open to all people. It is just something you open and understand.

QUESTION 14: False [We do however need to be nice and give genuine compliments whenever possible when you find something to admire in someone.]

QUESTION 15: False [Man can know that he has eternal life now because eternal life is eternal. It is not possible to forfeit it because of any sin.]

QUESTION 16

D. Present [Consequently, if you have eternal life right now you are saved forever.]

QUESTION 17

D. Keeps [Part of Jesus being a great savior is that he is fully capable of keeping us safe after we’ve believed.]

QUESTION 18: True [When God promises you can know you have eternal life, you can count on it because God cannot lie.]