

Lesson 3: Christ's Perfection and Man's Helplessness

Lesson Introduction

Each year on the Day of Atonement the sin of Israel came up before God. The sins of Israel were symbolically placed on animals. "But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year" (Heb 10:3). The author of Hebrews goes on to explain, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Heb 10:4). All that animal blood could do was cover their sins for another year.

In contrast to the Old Covenant atonement, or temporary covering of sins, is the offering of Christ who offered His own body. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb 10:10). Based on this fact, how can anyone possibly think we can contribute anything but faith to our salvation?

Lesson Outline

Lesson 3 Christ's Perfection and Man's Helplessness

Topic 1: Fourth Doctrine of Salvation: Man's Imperfection and Helplessness (continued)

Concentrate on the Gospel

No Works Passage

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness

Christ the Sin-bearer

We Don't Bear Sin!

Perfect Forever

Dead Without Christ (Righteous in Christ)

Topic 1: Fourth Doctrine of Salvation: Man's Imperfection and Helplessness

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 <i>Paul probably had the best spiritual qualifications on earth of anyone God ever saved. Yet he knew those qualifications contributed nothing toward his salvation.</i>
(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

righteousness and not his own.

Despite biblically clear statements to the contrary, it's fallen human nature to want to contribute something to our salvation. What's so difficult for people to accept is a totally free, undeserved gift. The message in Christ is that our best works are as filthy rags (Isa 64:6). Even the Apostle Paul considered his best fleshly qualifications as dung compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus and being found in Him (Phil 3:8-9). For Paul sought Christ's

Most people will accept God's salvation if they can contribute to it. But pride gets in the way of accepting it as the gracious, undeserved gift. The question for unbelievers is, "Will you let pride keep you from eternal life?"

Topic 1: Fourth Doctrine of Salvation: Man's Imperfection and Helplessness

Concentrate on the Gospel

We've been talking about the greatest issue you'll always face in witnessing to someone is grace vs. works. Christ paid our sin debt. The devil will do anything, he doesn't care how much of a heavenly way you have to go to hell. The devil doesn't care how religious you are. He likes the unsaved to be religious without Christ. Now what saves us? It's Christ, and his blood on the cross of Calvary. That and that alone. Now whenever you are witnessing, if you are witnessing to a Jehovah witness, they believe you got to have works. If you witness to a Mormon, they believe you got to have works. If you witness to a Buddhist, they believe you got to have works. Christianity is not us trying to reach God, as we talked about last week, it's God reaching us. It's Jesus Christ paying our sin debt. Now we were talking about continuing with point number 4, doctrine number 4, that you are saved apart from any works. Here's the important thing, I've already covered it a little bit, but don't let people get off on side issues. Everybody will want to get off on a side issue. Now a couple of men came up to me, that have been out witnessing out on the Navy base, and they asked me this question. We had a man that said he was an atheist, and one of our men said "I told him the proofs", and the other man said, "I didn't do anything, I just stayed on the gospel". And they came, and they said, "Pastor, which one of us was right?" Well, I want you to understand this...there are times when you should explain to an atheist – if the atheist is truly open – you should explain to him why we know there is a God. Most atheists, they aren't rejecting facts, they just don't want to believe, and you're better off to just stay on the Gospel, because the Gospel is the power. I'm not say one was right and one was wrong, I'm just saying each case is different. I've witnessed to atheists, and I've told the atheist why I believed there is a God. But I tell you, remember, as much as is possible, stay on the Gospel. That's the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel. Satan will constantly work to get you to leave the Gospel. Satan will want you to attack their church. Satan will want you to attack their political party. Satan will want you to tell them that what they are doing is crazy. What you've got to do is stay on the Gospel.

QUESTION 1

In witnessing, the greatest issue you will always face with someone is _____ vs. works.

- A. Grace
- B. Legalism
- C. License
- D. Merit

QUESTION 2

What is the main issue when testifying to atheists?

Answer: _____

- A. They have honest issues with biblical facts
- B. They just do not want to believe
- C. They just want to argue
- D. They haven't had all their questions answered

QUESTION 3

When witnessing, most of the times it is better to concentrate on the gospel. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: Fourth Doctrine of Salvation: Man's Imperfection and Helplessness

"No Works" Passage

If a person insists that he must work for his salvation, show him verses like Ephesians 2:8-9 and stay with them. Now we happen to have this up on our wall; you show them Ephesians 2:8-9 and here's how you do it. "For by grace..." and you explain grace – grace is something you don't deserve. "...are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, Not of works, lest any man should boast." Now some will say, "Well that's your interpretation." Then you tell them, "Well, then you interpret it." Like I shared with you, I take my Bible and say "You interpret it. You tell me what you think it says." Or you give them a heaven tract and say "What do you think this means? What do you think not of works means? What do you think not of yourselves means?" And let them see it from the Word of God. Stay on the issue of Grace vs. Works. God says it is not of works. You'll have a problem, not so much with a person's interpretation of it as with belief. See that's the problem; there is no other way you could interpret that. It says not of works. If it's not of works, do you have to be water baptized to be saved? If it's not of works, do you have to be water baptized? Well no, that would be works, wouldn't it? If it's not of works, do you have to come forward? No that would be works. IF it's not of works, it means not of works..very clearly. Some people are just unwilling to accept what God says at face value. This is calling God a liar and it's so serious that a person will go to hell forever. They're calling God a liar, they're saying, "I don't really believe that it's all by grace, that it's a gift, that it's not of works. Stay on it. Remember, when witnessing, the issue is always Grace vs. Works. The Buddhists? They're working their way to Heaven. The muslims, they're working their way to heaven. The Christian Scientists, they're working their way to Heaven. Christianity, true Christianity, is Jesus Christ paying it all.

QUESTION 4

Which of the following passages is best to use to someone who insists he must work for his salvation?

Answer: _____

- A. Isaiah 53:6
- B. Isaiah 64:6
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- D. Ephesians 2:8-9

QUESTION 5

If someone objects to Ephesians 2:8-9 saying “That’s your interpretation” it’s okay to say “What do you think not of works means?” *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

A person who claims that salvation involves work is calling God a liar. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ’s Perfect Payment and Righteousness

There was missing furniture in the first tabernacle, the earthly tabernacle that Moses built. Oh, nobody forgot it. There wasn’t supposed to be a chair. The priests ministered standing and in their ministry they were never supposed to sit down. The author of Hebrews explains: And every priest stands day after day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again--sacrifices that can never take away sins (Heb 10:11). The lack of a chair vividly illustrated that **their priestly work was never finished!**

In contrast to their unfinished work Hebrews says: “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is **set** on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Heb 8:1). There is a chair in the heavenly tabernacle and as far as his priestly work of putting away sins is concerned, Christ has sat down. “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb 10:14). Jesus bore all of our sin and His sacrifice--plus nothing!--has perfected us for all time. Amen!

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 <i>Christ sat down at the right hand of the throne in heaven, declaring His work of paying for sins done (Heb 8:1; 10:14).</i>
(6) All Man must do to be Saved is Believe
(7) Man can know that He has Eternal Life

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ’s Perfect Payment and Righteousness

Christ the Sin-bearer

Assignment

- Please memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- Please memorize Isaiah 53:6.

Number 5, the next doctrine, is Christ made a complete payment for all sin and offers His righteousness. Christ made a complete payment for all sin and offers His righteousness. Now this is 2 Corinthians 5:21, that I quote every Sunday morning, “For he (God) hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” Now Christ never sinned; people won’t usually argue this. Of all the witnessing I’ve done, I’ve found that people usually don’t argue that Christ sinned. He lived a perfect life, yet he took upon himself our sins, paid for them. He did this so that He could give us his righteousness in place of our sin. Boy, isn’t that something? Now I want you all to think about that. Now I want you to get people to understand that, what it means with 2 Cor 5:21. And Isaiah 53:6 is the equivalent in the Old Testament to 2 Cor 5:21; “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” All we like sheep have gone astray...every one of us... and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Very clear. Ok, we’re all sinners, we do what we want to do. Don’t people do what they want to do? You know, people, they want to go and want to do, and we all do our own way. We’re sinners. This is what makes it so hard to live down here on this earth because we’ve got a sin nature. I’ve got one, you’ve got one, I do things wrong, you do things wrong. Listen, we’re all sinners...it’s very important. We do what we want to do, but God allowed Christ to take our sin upon him and pay for it all. Boy now that’s the greatest thing. In 1 Peter 3:18 it says “Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but quickened by the Spirit.” Oh ,I tell you, and this is what we’ve got to have people understand. Christ – the just for the unjust...put to death in the flesh but quickened by the spirit. In other words he made us alive. Christ was the just one, we are the sinners. But he came to earth, took on flesh, died on the cross, and rose from the dead that we could live forever in heaven with the Lord. In 1 Peter 2:24 it says, “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.” This is talking about eternally; when we get saved, we are going to get a new body, and by his stripes we are healed and we are going to get a new body. But this does not guarantee physical healing on earth. Yes God does physically heal, but this does not guarantee it. God can, and he cannot. Sometimes he might do a physical healing, sometimes he works through doctors.

QUESTION 7

Please write 2 Corinthians 5:21 from memory.

QUESTION 8

People usually argue the fact when you tell them that Christ never sinned. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 9

Please write Isaiah 53:6 from memory.

QUESTION 10

The main point of 1 Peter 2:24 is that God guarantees He will save your body from disease. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness

We Don't Bear Sin

Assignment

- Please memorize Titus 2:14.

Jesus paid for our sins by Himself; he needed no help. You know so many people think that Jesus helped pay for sins, and we help pay for sins. Isn't that amazing? Jesus did part of it, but we...you know, I hear so many people say "Jesus did it, but we got to do our part." No we don't. I like the old thing, you know, we do our part, Jesus does the saving and we do the sinning. That's our part. We were dead spiritually because of our sins, he died so we could be alive spiritually because he would give us his righteousness. We are made whole because he took our punishment. We are made whole, do you see that? But being made whole doesn't mean you aren't going to have physical sickness right down here on this earth, but believe me, the greatest event that will ever take place in your life is your salvation. Colossians 2:13 -14, "And you being dead in your sins, and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses, Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." Aren't you glad he took out the ordinances? All the things that were against us, the way we couldn't possibly save ourself, and he literally became sin for us. We were spiritually dead. You became spiritually alive when you trusted Christ as the payment for your sin. He then forgave you of all your trespasses, he can forgive us because he took all our sins and paid for them. In titus 2:14, this is a nice verse, it says, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity..." Boy, just to be redeemed from all iniquity. You know, I like this next verse I'm going to quote; you know, we sing this hymn "Calvary Covers it All". "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses." Now that was Acts 13:39, I want to read 38. "be it known therefore men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins." I want you to see that. Justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. We had a dear lady, she said "But how do you go to heaven when you don't keep the law?" And one of the dear ladies explained to her that keeping the law never got anybody saved, that the law was only to let you know how dirty you were, and James said if you broke the law in one point you broke it all and no one was ever saved by keeping the law because no one could ever keep the law. And yet if you broke it in one point you broke it in all. And I preach on it, and I try my best, I try to watch myself, try to know that I'm going to give an account for everything I say, and I still catch myself saying things I shouldn't say. Even after I've preached on them. And I catch myself, and go why did I say that. We all have that, don't we. Boy isn't it great to know that he justified us from all things? Justified us from all things.

QUESTION 11

Jesus paid for sin and we help Him with that payment by being the best person we can be. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 12

Being made whole by Christ means that if we have enough faith we need not be physically sick while here on earth. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 13

Please write Titus 2:14 from memory.

QUESTION 14

What will keeping the law do?

Answer: _____

- A. Allow us to boast
- B. It is how we are sanctified
- C. It will show us how sinful we are
- D. Keeping it will save us

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness

Perfect Forever

In Hebrews 10:10-14, these are the verses that I really like, it says he did it, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Boy isn't that great? Do you know what it means to be perfected forever? You know some of us look at ourselves and say man I don't see anybody perfected forever, but we are, because we've been cleansed in the blood of Christ. Sometimes it just doesn't seem like we are perfected forever, right? Sometimes the days just don't seem to be quite right and the devil just puts every kind of pressure on you to make you feel non-spiritual, to make you feel like who are you to get up there. You know what you got to do sometimes, when you don't feel spiritual, you don't feel worthy? You just keep going, you keep pluggin, you keep doing, and you keep remembering, and you thank God that he perfected you forever. I am not worthy, you are not worthy, I'm just glad God perfected me forever. Like the old bumper sticker, "God's not through with me yet, don't give up on me." Sometimes you just got to do that when you don't feel spiritual. It is God's will that we be made pure and holy because Jesus offered himself for our sins, his one payment was sufficient for all sins, of all time, of

all people, by this one offering, we who believe are made perfect forever, we are made pure and holy through His death. Had Christ not fully paid for our sins, we could not have received justification, he would not come back from the dead, Romans 4:25, since the payment of sin is death he would still be in that grave. But Christ is risen from the dead, proving that God is satisfied with the payment for sin that Christ made.

QUESTION 15

It's possible for a true, born again, Christian to feel like he hasn't been perfected forever in Christ. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 16

If you feel unspiritual or unworthy you should stop everything you're doing until you get your feelings straightened out. *True or False?* Answer: _____

QUESTION 17

Which of the following chapters would be best to look at to assure someone that they have been perfected forever? Answer: _____

- A. Genesis 3
- B. Isaiah 53
- C. Acts 13
- D. Hebrews 10

QUESTION 18

Which of the following was the best proof that Christ fully paid for our sin? Answer: _____

- A. His incarnation
- B. His death
- C. His burial
- D. His resurrection

QUESTION 19

If we have all sinned and we cannot take any sin to heaven, then we do not have a chance to go to heaven apart from Christ. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Topic 2: Fifth Doctrine of Salvation: Christ's Perfect Payment and Righteousness

Dead Without Christ (Righteous in Christ)

Assignment

- Please memorize 1 John 5:13.

He who never sinned was made sin for us, that we could be made the righteousness of God in him. And God would now look upon you and me as righteous as he looks upon Christ. That's what it means to be perfected forever. You say, well why do you still sin? We still got our old bodies, we're not worthy, we're just not worthy. And you know one way the devil tries to defeat most Christians is by making you feel unworthy. You're unworthy. And boy, he perfected forever, isn't that great? By one offering, one time. He did it once; you can't get saved and lost, saved and lost. He did it by one offering. And once you're saved, God now looks upon you and me as righteous as He looked upon Christ. Why? Because that sin has been taken and paid for. Those that receive that payment, you say does that mean the majority of people are going to heaven? No the majority of people are going to hell because they haven't trusted Christ's payment. Do you see the difference? He paid it all. If he paid it all then we don't have to. Do you know what it means to know for sure you are going to heaven? 1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life. Do you know what it means to know you are going to heaven? That means more than anything else. You've got to trust God. You say what's going to happen living in these last days? I don't know, I know this, you Christians have got the greatest joy that's ever been.

QUESTION 20

God now looks upon you and me as being as righteous as when He looks upon Christ. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 21

The majority of people are going to Heaven. The minority of people are going to Hell. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 22

Please write 1 John 5:13 from memory.

Lesson 3 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1

- A. Grace [Man always wants to contribute something, some work, to his salvation. That is totally contrary to the gospel.]

QUESTION 2

- B. They just do not want to believe [Satan will constantly work to get you to leave the gospel to deal with some other issue.]

QUESTION 3: True [Again, the power is in the gospel.]

QUESTION 4

- D. Ephesians 2:8-9 [This passage is clear that salvation is not by works.]

QUESTION 5: True [It shouldn't be too hard to show an honest person it's not a matter of interpretation.]

QUESTION 6: True [In this case his claim is endangering his own eternal destiny.]

QUESTION 7: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

QUESTION 8: False [Most people will agree with the Bible on this point.]

QUESTION 9: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

QUESTION 10: False [The healing it talks about is spiritual healing from sin.]

QUESTION 11: False [Jesus paid for our sin himself and it's an insult to him and a rejection of his finished work if we attempt to pay for our sin.]

QUESTION 12: False [We still reside in a sinful body of death until the time we are resurrected.]

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

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

QUESTION 14

C. It will show us how sinful we are [Romans 3:20 says, "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 15: True [The devil puts every kind of pressure on you to make you feel unspiritual.]

QUESTION 16: False [Instead you should just keep going, keep plugging, keep remembering and thank God that you know he has perfected you forever.]

QUESTION 17

D. Hebrews 10 [It would be good to focus in on Hebrews 10:10, 14.]

QUESTION 18

D. His resurrection [Romans 4:25: "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."]

QUESTION 19: True [Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under given among men, whereby we must be saved."]

QUESTION 20: True [This is what it means to be perfected forever. God now looks upon you and me as righteous as he looks upon Christ, because that sin has been taken and paid for.]

QUESTION 21: False [Though salvation is free to those who believe, most people will not believe.]

QUESTION 22: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."