

THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

CELL GROUP STUDIES



(Matthew 18:3-4 KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. {4} Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

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THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

LESSON 1

THE FALL OF MAN AND ORIGINAL SIN

The fact that every duck as soon as it is hatched takes to water, proves that by nature it is an aquatic fowl. The fact that every child, of every family, of whatever age or tribe or clime, whatever be its surroundings, begins to sin with the very dawn of its moral faculties, is awful evidence that the very faculties themselves are corrupt. (A. M. Hills, *HOLINESS AND POWER*, p. 32)

(Psalms 58:3 KJV) The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

ORIGINAL SIN DEFINED

Men are not born with a sinful nature, in the sense of a blameworthy nature, deserving of divine punishment. But they are born full of the “principle of sin, proneness to sin, sinful propensity,” which leads all men to commit sin and become sinners. (A. M. Hills, *FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY*, p. 406)

1. GOD MADE MAN IN HIS IMAGE.

(Genesis 1:26 KJV) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

(Colossians 3:10 KJV) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

(Ephesians 4:24 KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2. HE BREATHED INTO HIM THE LIFE OF GOD.

(Genesis 2:7 KJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

3. HE MADE THEM FREE MORAL AGENTS AND GAVE THEM A LAW.

(Genesis 2:16-17 KJV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: {17} But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

>God had to give Adam and Eve the power to choose between obedience and disobedience or their love would not be real. Adam and Eve had the power to stand and the freedom to fall.

(Romans 6:23 KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. THE FALL OF MAN.

(Genesis 3:1-7 KJV) Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? {2} And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: {3} But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. {4} And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: {5} For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. {6} And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. {7} And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

That this creature was the most suitable to his purpose, as being the most subtle, the most intelligent and cunning of all beasts of the field, endued with the gift of speech and reason, and consequently one in which he could best conceal himself. (Adam Clarke, *CLARKE'S CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY*, p. 91)

>The fall of man was caused by Satan.

(John 8:44 KJV) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

(Revelation 12:9 KJV) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(2 Corinthians 11:3 KJV) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

5. THREE USES OF DEATH IN SCRIPTURE

A. Spiritual death

(Genesis 5:3 KJV) And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

(Ephesians 2:1 KJV) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

B. Physical death

(Genesis 3:22-24 KJV) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: {23} Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. {24} So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

>The physical body was kept alive by the tree of life.

C. The Second death - Final and Eternal separation from God.

(Revelation 20:11-15 KJV) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And

death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

6. THE FIRST PROPHECY OF JESUS

(Genesis 3:15 KJV) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

7. GOD SHOWED THEM THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE BLOOD AND DEATH TO ATONE FOR SIN.

(Genesis 3:21 KJV) Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

8. ADAM PASSED ON HIS FALLEN NATURE TO HIS DESCENDANTS.

A. Adam was made in God's likeness

(Genesis 5:1 KJV) This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

B. He brought forth a son in his own likeness.

(Genesis 5:3 KJV) And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

(Psalms 51:5 KJV) Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

9. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO RESTORE TO MAN WHAT WAS LOST IN THE FALL. THE SPIRITUAL LOSS IS RESTORED AT THE TIME OF SALVATION, THE PHYSICAL LOSS IS RESTORED AT THE RESURRECTION.

(Romans 5:12-19 KJV) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: {13} (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. {14} Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. {15} But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. {16} And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. {17} For if by one man's offence death reigned by

one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) {18} Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. {19} For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

10. WHERE DO BABIES GO WHEN THEY DIE?

(Job 3:11-19 KJV) Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? {12} Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck? {13} For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest, {14} With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves; {15} Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver: {16} Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light. {17} There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest. {18} There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor. {19} The small and great are there; and the servant is free from his master.

>We are all born justified from original sin. When we learn the reality of right and wrong and willfully sin, then we are accountable to God as sinners.

(Romans 5:18 KJV) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

(John 1:4 KJV) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

(John 1:9 KJV) That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

11. ALL MEN AND WOMEN WILL SIN BECAUSE OF THEIR FALLEN NATURE AND STAND IN NEED OF A SAVIOR.

(Romans 3:10 KJV) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

(Romans 3:23 KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(Isaiah 53:6 KJV) 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.

(Matthew 1:21 KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

12. HEARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST MAKES PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD.

(2 Corinthians 2:14-17 KJV) Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. {15} For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: {16} To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? {17} For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

13. SIN HAS A TWO FOLD NATURE IN THE LIFE OF MEN AND WOMEN.

A. Original Sin

(1 John 1:8 KJV) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

That is, we have no personal guilt, no principle of sin.
(A.T. ROBERTSON WORD PICTURES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT)

“To have sin” is distinguished from “to sin” as the sinful principle is distinguished from the sinful act in itself. (Daniel Steele, *HALF HOURS WITH SAINT JOHN*, p. 8)

(1 John 2:1 KJV) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

B. Our actual “SINS” or acts of sin that we commit.

(1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

>God promises to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, original and actual sin.

(1 John 3:4 KJV) Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Nothing is sin, strictly speaking, but a voluntary transgression of a known law of God. Therefore, every voluntary breach of the law of love is sin; and nothing else, if we speak properly. (John Wesley, *WESLEY'S WORKS* VOL. 12, p. 394).

(1 John 3:8-9 KJV) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

LESSON 2

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

We must learn diligently the article of justification, as I often admonish you. For all the other articles of the faith are comprehended in it: and if that remain sound, then all the rest are sound. When we teach that men are justified by Christ, that Christ is the conqueror of sin, death, and the everlasting curse, we witness therewithal that He is naturally and substantially God. (Martin Luther, *COMMENTARY ON GALATIANS*, p. 171)

1. WE NEED TO BE JUSTIFIED BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS

(Romans 3:23 KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2. JUSTIFICATION DEFINED

To “justify”, in Biblical usage signifies not “to make righteous,” but to “reckon”, “declare”, or “show to be righteous.” A man is justified before God when God reckons him righteous. (R. A. Torrey, *What the Bible Teaches*, p. 316)

(Deuteronomy 25:1 KJV) If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

3. HOW ARE WE JUSTIFIED?

(Job 9:1-2 KJV) Then Job answered and said, {2} I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?

(Genesis 15:6 KJV) And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

4. NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BY WORKS.

(Romans 3:20 KJV) 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.

It is here very plainly stated that we are not justified by keeping the law of God, either the Mosaic law or any other law, and that the law is given, not to bring us justi-

fication, but to bring us a knowledge of sin, i.e., to bring us to the realization of our need of justification by grace. (R. A. Torrey, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*, p. 189)

(Galatians 3:24 KJV) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

(Galatians 2:16-17 KJV) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. {17} But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

>The LAW demands perfect obedience a ground of justification.

(Galatians 3:10-11 KJV) For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. {11} But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

(Romans 3:28 KJV) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(Galatians 5:4 KJV) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5. WE ARE JUSTIFIED AS A FREE GIFT BY GOD'S GRACE (GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR) THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Romans 3:24 KJV) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

6. THE ONE AND ONLY GROUND OF JUSTIFICATION IS THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

(Romans 5:9 KJV) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

(1 Peter 2:24 KJV) 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.

7. WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN WHAT JESUS DID FOR US.

(Romans 3:25 KJV) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

(Romans 3:26 KJV) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(Romans 4:5 KJV) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

In other words, faith makes ours the shed blood which is the ground of justification, and we are justified when we believe. (R. A. Torrey, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*, p. 194)

8. THE FAITH THAT SAVES IS A FAITH FROM THE HEART, NOT THE MIND.

(Romans 10:9-11 KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. {11} For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

God tells us that the faith that appropriates justification is a faith with the heart, i.e., a faith that is not a mere notion, or opinion, but a faith that leads to action along the line of that faith, and it is therefore a faith that leads to open confession with the mouth, of Jesus as our Lord. (R. A. Torrey, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*, p. 195)

(Matthew 12:34 KJV) O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

9. DEAD FAITH THAT DOES NOT CHANGE A PERSON OR BRING FORTH GOOD WORKS IS NOT JUSTIFYING FAITH.

(James 2:14 KJV) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

(James 2:17-24 KJV) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. {18} Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. {19} Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. {20} But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? {21} Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? {22} Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? {23} And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. {24} Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Some see in these words a contradiction between the teaching of James and the teaching of Paul, but there is no contradiction whatever. But James teaches us here an important truth, namely, that the faith that one says he has, but which does not manifest itself in action along the line of the faith professed, will not justify. The faith that justifies is real faith that leads to action accordant with the truth we profess to believe. (R. A. Torrey, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*, p. 197)

(Matthew 5:20 KJV) For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

>The Biblical word that describes the attitude that someone coming to Christ must have is - repentance.

(Luke 18:10-14 KJV) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a

Pharisee, and the other a publican. {11} The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. {12} I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. {13} And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. {14} I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

10. THE TIME OF JUSTIFICATION

(Acts 13:38-39 KJV) Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: {39} And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

>We are justified when we believe.

(1 John 3:2 KJV) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

11. THE EXTENT OF JUSTIFICATION

(Romans 8:1 KJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(Romans 8:33-34 KJV) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. {34} Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV) 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.

(Philippians 3:9 KJV) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

(Romans 3:21-22 KJV) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; {22} Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them

that believe: for there is no difference:

There has been an absolute interchange of positions between Christ and the justified believer. Christ took our place, the place of the curse (Gal. 3:13). He was made sin (Cor 5:21). God reckoned Him a sinner and dealt with Him as a sinner. (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 27:46) And when we are justified we step into His place-the place of acceptance. We are made the righteousness of God in him. (R. A. Torrey, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH*, p. 321)

12. THE RESULT OF JUSTIFICATION

(Romans 5:1 KJV) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

13. THE GREAT HOPE OF JUSTIFICATION

(Titus 3:7 KJV) That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Romans 8:30 KJV) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

14. GENUINE JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH RESULTS IN REGENERATION, ADOPTION, AND SANCTIFICATION.

(1 Corinthians 6:11 KJV) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

LESSON 3

REGENERATION OR NEW BIRTH

(2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

>Regeneration is different than justification, but it is also impossible to separate them.

>Regeneration takes place every time that genuine faith for justification is exercised.

>There is no such thing as a person that is justified but is not regenerated.

REGENERATION DEFINED

Regeneration may be defined to be that moral change in man, wrought by the Holy Spirit, by which he is saved from the love, the practice, and the dominion of sin, and enabled, with full choice of will and the energy of right affections, to love God and to keep his commandments. (*WAKEFIELD'S CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY*, Vol. 2, p. 425)

1. REGENERATION IS NOT AN OPTION, SO WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN.

(John 3:3 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. WE MUST BECOME A NEW PERSON SPIRITUALLY WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN

In the place of the old ideas, old affections, old purposes, old choices, are new ideas, new affections, new purposes, new choices. (R. A. Torrey, *WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES*, p. 332.)

(Ephesians 4:24 KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

(Colossians 3:10 KJV) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

(Ephesians 2:10 KJV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

3. WE MUST PREACH THE NEW BIRTH BECAUSE THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT IT.

(John 3:7 KJV) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

(Matthew 18:3 KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

(Galatians 6:15 KJV) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

4. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT TO EXPERIENCE NEW BIRTH THE PERSON MUST BE WILLING TO TURN FROM THEIR SINS AND TURN TO CHRIST IN FAITH.

(Acts 3:19 KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

>There is no regeneration without repentance from sin.

5. WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN WE RECEIVE A NEW NATURE FROM GOD.

The New Birth is the impartation of a new nature, even God's own nature, to the one who is begotten again. (R. A. Torrey, *WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES*, p. 327)

(2 Peter 1:4 KJV) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

6. THE NEW NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS CREATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT COMING TO DWELL IN HIS HEART.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

(Romans 8:9 KJV) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

7. THE REGENERATED PERSON DOES NOT HABITUALLY SIN.

(1 John 3:8-10 KJV) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. {10} In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The child of God does not have the habit of sin. (A. T. Robertson, *WORD PICTURES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT*)

For the divine seed of loving faith abideth in him; and so long as it doth, he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (John Wesley, *WESLEY'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT*)

Sin then is here, a conscious intentional violation of the law of God. The regenerate man will not be doing that which he knows to be contrary to the will of God.....It is not taught that he never sins in a single act, but it is taught that he is not going on sinning, making a practice of sin. (R. A. Torrey, *WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES*, p. 331)

>NO ONE EVER COMES TO THE POINT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO SIN

(1 John 2:1 KJV) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

(1 John 5:18 KJV) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

So long as that loving faith abides in him, he neither speaks nor does anything which God hath forbidden. He keepeth himself-watching unto prayer. And, while he does this, the wicked one toucheth him not-so as to hurt him. (John Wesley, *WESLEY'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT*)

8. THE PERSON THAT IS BORN AGAIN OVERCOMES THE WORLD BY FAITH

(1 John 5:1 KJV) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

(1 John 5:4-5 KJV) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. {5} Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

9. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN OF THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT?

(John 3:5 KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

A. Baptism is obviously not the “new birth”

(1 Corinthians 4:15 KJV) For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

>If baptism were the new birth, Paul would have baptized these people:

(1 Corinthians 1:14 KJV) I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

(1 Corinthians 1:17 KJV) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of

none effect.

B. If being “born again of water” is not baptism, what does it mean? The Bible teaches that we are cleansed and born again by receiving the word of God. The water symbolizes the word of God.

(Ephesians 5:26 KJV) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

(John 15:3 KJV) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

(1 Peter 1:23 KJV) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

(Psalms 19:7 KJV) The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

(James 1:18 KJV) Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

(John 17:17 KJV) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

>TO BE BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT is to be born again by the Holy Spirit through believing the word of God. The Holy Spirit works through the word of God because that is his sword.

(Ephesians 6:17 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

10. REGENERATION CLEANSSES AND RENEWS

(Titus 3:5 KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

>Here, Paul is teaching the same truth that Jesus did in John 3:5.

11. PEOPLE THAT ARE BORN AGAIN HAVE LOVE

(1 John 4:7-8 KJV) Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. {8} He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

12. PEOPLE THAT ARE BORN AGAIN NEED TO FEAST ON THE WORD OF GOD SO THEY CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY.

(1 Peter 2:2 KJV) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

LESSON 4

ADOPTION

(1 John 3:1-3 KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. {2} Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1. ADOPTION DEFINED

In regeneration we receive the nature of sons of God; in adoption we receive the position of sons of God. Regeneration is a change of nature. Adoption is a change of position or relation. (R. A. Torrey, *WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES*, p. 336)

We may therefore define adoption, according to the Scriptural sense of the term to be that gracious act of God, by which we are acknowledged to be of the number, and become entitled to all the privileges of His children. (A. M. Hills, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES*, Vol. 2, p. 214)

THE DOCTRINE OF ADOPTION LETS US KNOW WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.

>We are adopted into the family of God when we believe.

2. Adoption originates in the eternal, sovereign, unmerited grace of God.

(Ephesians 1:3-6 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: {4} According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: {5} Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, {6} To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

3. All who believe in, or receive Christ Jesus receive the adoption of sons.

(John 1:12 KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(Galatians 3:23-26 KJV) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. {24} Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

4. In adoption we receive a new Father and a new kingdom.

(John 8:44 KJV) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

(Colossians 1:13 KJV) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

5. We can now call on ABBA FATHER.

(Romans 8:15 KJV) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

(Galatians 4:4-7 KJV) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. {7} Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Abba is an Aramiac word which came to be used among Jews as the familiar term by which children address their father. (F. F. Bruce, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Romans, p. 157)

(Matthew 6:9 KJV) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

6. ADOPTION - WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT

We consider the evidence of adoption the witness of the Spirit. It is not enough that we be forgiven. We need to

know it. (A. M. Hills, *THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES*, Vol. 2, p. 215)

(Romans 8:16 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

..the evidence of our adoption is twofold: a direct testimony of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by an “inward impression on the soul,” that we are the children of God, and are reconciled to him; and an indirect testimony, arising from the work, of the Spirit in the heart and life, which St. Paul calls the testimony of our own spirit; for this is clearly inferred from his expression, “the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit.” (Samuel Wakefield, *WAKEFIELD’S CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, VOL. 2*, p. 437)

(1 John 5:9-10 KJV) If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. {10} He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

(1 John 4:13 KJV) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

(1 John 5:13 KJV) 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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

(1 John 2:3-5 KJV) And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. {4} He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

(1 John 3:14 KJV) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

(2 Corinthians 13:5 KJV) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

7. THE BENEFITS OF ADOPTION

(The comments marked with an asteric (*) are from Samuel Wakefield, *WAKEFIELD'S CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY*)

A. GOD BESTOWS UPON US A GREAT HONOR IN ADOPTION

(Hebrews 12:22-24 KJV) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, {23} To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, {24} And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

* When, therefore, we become ‘the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus,’ we are introduced into fellowship with the most glorious and dignified creatures in the universe.

(Ephesians 2:19 KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

B. GOD PROVIDES FOR THE NEEDS OF HIS CHILDREN

(Matthew 6:25-33 KJV) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? {26} Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? {27} Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? {28} And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: {29} And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. {30} Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? {31} Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? {32} (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. {33} But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and

his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(Psalms 23:1 KJV) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(Psalms 84:11 KJV) For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

(Philippians 4:19 KJV) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

(Psalms 37:25 KJV) I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

* But the provision which he makes for the wants of his children is distinguished from that which he makes for others by this important consideration, that in kind, in degree, and in manner it is exactly such as is most promotive of their real welfare.

C. THE LORD PROTECTS AND CARES FOR HIS CHILDREN

(Romans 8:28 KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(Psalms 121:7-8 KJV) The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. {8} The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

* In every situation of life in which the children of God may be placed his eye is upon them for good.

D. GOD INSTRUCTS AND LEADS HIS CHILDREN

(Romans 8:14 KJV) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

* In all these ways he furnishes them with whatever knowledge and whatever useful impressions they need to receive, and trains them up as children, in effectual preparation for the perfect state of manhood to which they will arrive in his heavenly kingdom.

E. GOD CHASTISES AND CORRECTS HIS CHILDREN

(Proverbs 3:11-12 KJV) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: {12} For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

(Revelation 3:19 KJV) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

(Hebrews 12:5-11 KJV) And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: {6} For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. {7} If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? {8} But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. {9} Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? {10} For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. {11} Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

(Deuteronomy 8:5 KJV) Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

* We learn particularly that correction is a distinctive privilege of the children of god, and that those who are not corrected are not his children; that God corrects his children, not arbitrarily, or wantonly, but with a benevolent intention, 'that we might be partakers of his holiness and live;'

(James 4:10 KJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

F. HE GIVES HIS CHILDREN A GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

(Romans 8:17 KJV) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

(1 Peter 1:3-4 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

(Galatians 3:29 KJV) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

8. WHEN WE ARE ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD - JESUS IS OUR BROTHER

(Romans 8:29 KJV) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

(Hebrews 2:11-12 KJV) For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, {12} Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

9. THOSE WHO LIVE IN WILLFUL SIN ARE NOT THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WILL INHERIT NOTHING

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10 KJV) Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

(Galatians 5:19-21 KJV) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

(2 Corinthians 6:17-18 KJV) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

(1 John 3:10 KJV) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

(Revelation 21:7 KJV) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

LESSON 5 *REPENTANCE*

REPENTANCE (Metanoia) DEFINED

...the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and early amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds. (*THAYER'S GREEK ENGLISH LEXICON*)

> Repentance is the attitude of faith. When we come to the cross for salvation, we must be willing to turn from all sin.

(Acts 26:20 KJV) But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

1. LOUIS BERKHOF LISTS THE THREE ELEMENTS OF REPENTANCE THAT NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR IT TO BE TRUE BIBLICAL REPENTANCE.

A. An intellectual element. There is a change of view, a recognition of sin as involving personal guilt, defilement, and helplessness.

B. An emotional element. There is a change of feeling manifesting itself in sorrow for sin committed against a holy and just God.

C. A volitional element, There is also a volitional element, consisting in a change of purpose, an inward turning away from sin, and a disposition to seek a pardon and cleansing. (Louis Berkhof, *SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY*, p. 486)

(Matthew 3:8 KJV) Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

2. REPENTANCE WAS PREACHED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Matthew 3:1-2 KJV) In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, {2} And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3. REPENTANCE WAS PREACHED BY JESUS

(Matthew 4:17 KJV) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

4. REPENTANCE WAS PREACHED BY THE 12 APOSTLES

(Mark 6:7 KJV) And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

(Mark 6:12 KJV) And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

5. JESUS WANTS REPENTANCE PREACHED EVERYWHERE!

(Luke 24:46-47 KJV) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: {47} And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

6. THE LORD'S SUPREME DESIRE CONCERNING ALL MEN IS THAT THEY SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.

(2 Peter 3:9 KJV) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

7. GOD'S ONE COMMAND TO ALL MEN EVERYWHERE IS "REPENT"

(Acts 17:30 KJV) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

8. THE ONLY DOOR OF ESCAPE FROM PERDITION FOR ANYONE IS REPENTANCE!

(Luke 13:1-5 KJV) There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. {2} And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? {3} I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. {4} Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? {5} I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

9. THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE

As it regards the nature of repentance, it may be considered both as the gift of God and as the duty of man... (Acts 11:18, Acts 5:31 KJV).. We must not sup-

pose, however, that because repentance is the gift of God we have nothing to do in the matter. This would be to contradict the plainest declarations of inspiration, for God commands ‘ all men everywhere to repent’ . (Samuel Wakefield, *WAKEFIELD’S CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, VOL. 2*, p. 472-473.)(Acts 11:18 KJV) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

(Acts 11:18 KJV) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

(Acts 5:31 KJV) Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

(Romans 2:4 KJV) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

(Luke 18:13 KJV) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

10. REPENTANCE MUST GO BEYOND CONVICTION OF SIN

(2 Corinthians 7:10 KJV) For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

When Deacon Stephen preached, they were profoundly convicted; but they resisted the Holy Spirit, and killed the preacher. So far as we know none were saved. (A. M. Hills, *FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, Vol. 2*, p. 166)

11. REPENTANCE MEANS A TURNING FROM SIN

(Isaiah 55:7 KJV) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

(Ezekiel 14:6 KJV) Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

(Ezekiel 18:30 KJV) Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

12. REPENTANCE IMPLIES CONFESSION OF SIN

(Psalms 51:3 KJV) For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

(1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Proverbs 28:13 KJV) He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

(Psalms 38:18 KJV) For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

13. REPENTANCE IS MANIFESTED BY WATER BAPTISM

(Mark 1:4 KJV) John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

(Acts 2:38 KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

14. THERE IS JOY IN HEAVEN WHEN A SINNER REPENTS

(Luke 15:7 KJV) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

(Luke 15:10 KJV) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

15. D. L. MOODY ON REPENTANCE:

Well then, what is repentance? I will give you a good definition. It is "right about face!" In the Irish language

the word “repentance” means even more than “right about face!” It implies that a man who has been walking in one direction has not only turned around but is actually walking in a completely contrary direction. “Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?” A man may have little or much feeling, But, if he does not turn away from sin, God will not have mercy on him. (D. L. Moody, *THE WAY TO GOD*, p. 89)

16. CHARLES H. SPURGEON ON REPENTANCE FOR REMISSION OF SINS

Where there is no repentance, there can be no remission; but where there is true repentance, that Godly sorrow for sin that needs not to be repented of, there is the full and free forgiveness of all the sins of the one who has thus sincerely repented. (Charles H. Spurgeon, *SPURGEON’S EXPOSITORY ENCYCLOPEDIA*, 1988 Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan, Vol. 13, p. 99)

after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel;” so no true minister of Christ need be either afraid or ashamed to tell sinners, and the very worst of sinners, that they should repent. (Charles H. Spurgeon, *SPURGEON’S EXPOSITORY ENCYCLOPEDIA*, 1988 Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan, Vol. 13 , p. 98)

Have you really repented of your sin? Have you sorrowed over it as the great curse of your life? Have you hated it, and turned away from it, and sought to live as the holy God would have you live? Well, then, if the repentance is yours, the remission also is yours, for they go together in Christ’s own words “repentance and remission of sins.” (Charles H. Spurgeon, *SPURGEON’S EXPOSITORY ENCYCLOPEDIA*, 1988 Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan, Vol. 13, p. 101)

17. ALEXANDER MACLAREN

What is the connection between repentance and salvation? Two sentences will answer the question. You cannot get salvation without repentance. you do not get salvation by repentance. You cannot get the salvation of God unless you shake off your sin. It is no use preaching to a man, 'Faith, Faith, Faith!' unless you preach along with it, 'Break off your iniquities.' (Alexander McClaren, *EXPOSITIONS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE*, Baker Book House, Vol. 14, II Corinthians, p. 8)

Remember, I urge no rigid uniformity of experience or character, but I do say that unless a man has learned to see his sin in the light of God, and in the light of God to weep over it, he has yet to know 'the straight gate that leadeth unto life.' I believe that a very large amount of the superficiality and easy-goingness of the Christianity of today comes from this, that so many who call themselves Christians have never once got a glimpse of themselves as they really are. (Alexander McClaren, *EXPOSITIONS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE*, Baker Book House, Vol. 14, II Corinthians, p. 13)

Please contact us if you have any comments or questions at:

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