

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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SALVATION ONLY THROUGH CHRIST

God could have destroyed the devil, his fallen angels and his works soon after the initial rebellion and spared a multitude of misery. Had God chosen this option and annihilated the transgressors immediately, the rest of creation would have no concept of where sin would lead. They would forever wonder if Lucifer could have been right and that this "tyrant" we serve is quick to kill anyone who does not agree with Him.

The only way God could show that He truly is a God of love (1John 4:10) and that Satan is a liar, a deceiver and a destroyer, is

to give him time to develop his principles and then God could demonstrate salvation by love (Ephesians 2:7). Thus vindicating His name, all creation would then have no doubts, that God's principles are right (Nehemiah 9:13).

1. What is the greatest demonstration of the love of God for this fallen race?

1John 4:10 _____

Note: "Propitiation" - to make favourable, to appease, conciliate, overcome the hostility of, to placate.

2. What is the result of and penalty for sin?

Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23 _____

3. Where only does our salvation lie?

Acts 4:10,12 _____

4. What did Jesus do that made it possible for us to be saved from sin?

Romans 5:6-8 _____

5. When Jesus rose from the dead, where did He go?

Mark 16:19; Hebrews 8:1 _____

6. What is Jesus doing for us, in this position?

Hebrews 9:24,14 _____

Note: Examine the next question to see a different perspective on His priestly ministry.

7. Because you and I have sinned against God, Jesus needs to do something for us, at the throne of grace (the mercy seat Exodus 25:22), that we may be brought to the light of truth and behold his righteousness. What is that work He is doing?

Micah 7:9 _____

8. In order to behold Jesus in His righteousness, face to face, at His second coming, what must be our character?

1John 3:2-3; Philippians 2:5 _____

Note: If this is not our standing with Jesus, at His appearing we shall be destroyed by His bright glory along with the rest of the wicked, for evil cannot exist in the presence of the righteous God (2Thessalonians 2:8). On the other hand, the righteous shall rejoice at His appearing (Isaiah 25:9). Those who are born of God and reconciled to Him, will also see Him in this life, in a spiritual sense of course (John 6:46). Reconciliation to God will be treated in greater detail in lesson 5.

9. Jesus knows our difficulties and battles with sin. What has He invited us to do to obtain mercy and grace for help?

Hebrews 4:14-16 _____

Note: In heaven, Jesus pleads our cause (need or petition) before our loving heavenly Father, that we may receive mercy, forgiveness and the power to overcome sin, which is the righteousness of Christ.

10. When Jesus offers His own blood as our sacrifice and offering at the throne of God (see Q4 - 7) with what attitude is this received by the heavenly Father?

Ephesians 2:4-7 _____

Note: a) Jesus is appearing in heavenly places, pleading for us (Hebrews 9:24). If we are "in Christ" we, like Him, also sit in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). This is figuratively speaking and illustrates that Christ is our personal and exclusive representative. We are there with Him, because we are "in Him" (see Q11-13) and we are "in Him" only when we accept His salvation by faith. "By faith" (or by belief), means we believe, or trust in the power of God to purge us from dead works (that we not repeat our old sins Hebrews 6:1) to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 2:10).

b) "Quicken" is to be made alive, as opposed to death. (Acts 10:42). In a spiritual sense, it is to have the words of Christ in the heart (John 6:63; Hebrews 8:10).

11. If we abide "in Christ", what are we said to be?

John 15:7,8 _____

Note: When we abide in Christ, we follow Him and do what He says (1John 2:3-6; 1John 3:4; Luke 6:46). When Christ abides in us, we think like He does (Philippians 2:5).

12. When Christ abides "in the heart" what is a man described to be?

Colossians 1:27,28 _____

Note : This term indicates the character of the one filled with Christ. When we remember that the works of Christ is righteousness, then the works, or behaviour of the Christian will also be righteous (1John 3:7; 2:29).

In the following three lessons it will be discussed in detail how the personal attainment of this holy character is within the reach of every man and woman on earth. Be encouraged, for it is not hard as you

will see (Matthew 11:28-30). The difficulty lies in our own reluctance to let go of our darling sins.

13. If we are abiding in Christ, what else is said to be "in" the disciples of Christ?

John 15:7 _____

14. For the word of God, or His testimony to be abiding in the heart, what must be our attitude towards it.?

1John 5:3; Psalm 119:111,167 _____

Note: Trying to abide by the letter of the law is a heavy burden we cannot sustain. But to live in the spirit of the law is a delight, for it does not violate our heart's desire (2Corinthians 3:6).

15. If we believe in the recreating power of Christ, that He works in us, what will be our behaviour?

Ephesians 2:10; 1John 2:5,6 _____

16. What is God's work upon the heart?

Psalm 51:10 _____

17. Who alone is the mediator between God and man?

1Timothy 2:5 _____

Note: It can be seen that our salvation is intimately and inseparably linked with our relationship with Jesus Christ. Though He is in heaven and we on earth, somehow by a Divine MIRACLE, a mysterious blend of the Divine nature and the human nature, the mystery of godliness is revealed to us (Colossians 1:27; Romans 16:26).

18. When Jesus pleads for us and offers the sacrifice of Himself as an atonement for us, is there anything in that petition that may be of our own contribution, or the contribution of some other man or woman?

Ephesians 2:8,9

Note: Faith is our belief, or trust in the salvation that only Christ is able to do for us.

19. When we pray, to whom do we address? Does God make any allowance for praying to anyone else?

Matthew 6:9

Note: Luke 16:19-31 is an account of where a man, while in hell, prayed to Abraham, who was in heaven. Evidence indicates this to be a parable and not literal. It is used simply to illustrate the impassability between heaven and hell after death, which also emphasises the urgent need to make our decision NOW (2Corinthians 6:2), for there will be NO chance after death. Purgatory offers no opportunity for salvation after death either, for purgatory is a man made doctrine, based on the Apocrypha, a set of writings that are not part of the Received Text, or accepted Bible canon, the Bible we know today embracing Genesis to Revelation.

The Apocrypha has a number of doctrines that conflict with the Received Text. *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them (Isaiah 8:20)*. A later lesson, entitled "The Credibility of the Bible" will expand on how we may determine the reliability of writings claiming a Divine origin.

Jesus used parables only when speaking to those who could not understand the point He was trying to make, when expounding to them the kingdom of God (Matthew 13:13,34). To consider this parable

in Luke 16 as being fact, would require us to ignore scriptural evidence to the contrary.

In our study on the state of the dead (yet to come), the unconscious state of the dead will be treated at length. But for now, a few texts to support our present discussion are given as follows:

- ◆ Genesis 25:8-10 Abraham died.
- ◆ Isaiah 63:16 Abraham being dead, is ignorant of world events.
- ◆ Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10 The dead know nothing.
- ◆ Isaiah 38:18 There is no consciousness of God after death.
- ◆ Daniel 9:9 Mercy and forgiveness belong to God
(not to Abraham, Luke 16:24)

God said, I will not give My glory to another (Isaiah 48:11). It is clear then, that God will not accept prayers directed to anyone other than Himself, with Christ as our only mediator between Himself and us. So that EXCLUDES Mary and all of the saints. They cannot hear us and even if they could, they are NOT authorised by God to act as mediator. The righteous and sinless Jesus is the only One who is/was able to die for your sin and then to take the position as Mediator (1Timothy 2:5,6).

Our salvation rests in no other, but Jesus Christ. *For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).* Only Christ ministers for you in heaven before the throne of God. Only Christ and God can forgive your sin. Only God can receive your prayers in Jesus' name and you can pray directly to God. Only Christ is your mediator between you and the heavenly Father.

How do we receive the blending of the Divine nature into our human nature? Can I truly be one with God and with Christ to that extent? God has promised that you CAN. You may know the riches of the glory of this mystery... which is Christ in you the hope of glory. In our next lesson we will discuss these questions and how you can receive the power to conquer every unholy trait of character and truly be one with Christ. He will be your personal high priest and representative at the mercy seat.