

THE GIFT OF GOD

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

In this lesson we will establish some fundamental truths about salvation. It is sad to hear of many people who have spent an extended time in some sort of church and yet still do not know what it means to be saved.

In the following lesson we will be looking at three important truths we find in this verse:

The Sinner – The Recognition of Man

“...the wages of sin is death...”

The Savior – The Redemption in Christ

“...eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The Saved – The Reconciliation to God

“...the gift of God is eternal life...”

The Word of God places people in one of two categories. There is no in-between stage, you are either on one side or the other!

YOU ARE SAVED	YOU ARE LOST
You are Spiritually Alive	You are Spiritually Dead
You are Reconciled to God	You are the Enemy of God
You are Justified	You are Condemned
You are Free from Sin	You are a Slave to Sin

To become a born again Christian one must be moved from one condition to the other. Our Lord Jesus Christ put it this way,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 5:24

To be a Christian means that you have “passed from death unto life.” Becoming a Christian is not a process that takes place over an extended period of time, it is rather a positional change. Every man is either under condemnation or he is not condemned. Again, Christ said,

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:18

I. THE SINNER – THE RECOGNITION OF MAN

“...the wages of sin is death...” **Romans 6:23**

We must first recognize the sin in our lives. The Bible is clear on this subject of sin.

“For _____ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 3:23

UNDERSTAND SIN

Sin is anything that is offensive or contrary to God’s holy laws.

The word ‘SIN’ means *“to miss the mark, to deviate from the standard of righteousness and holiness.”*

“As it is written, There is _____ righteous, no, not one: There is _____ that understandeth, there is _____ that seeketh after God.”

Romans 3:10-11

UNDERSTAND RIGHTEOUSNESS

To be ‘righteous’ means *“to be innocent, to be holy, to be perfect.”*

God’s Word tells us that there is “none righteous.” There is not one person in the world that can fulfill this standard of righteousness.

Our world does not like to talk about sin, much less admit of a sinful nature within every man. We hear much about sickness and deficiencies instead of calling it by its rightful name, that name is SIN.

A. THE GREAT CON

"...the wages of sin..."

The Word of God teaches us that all men are born in sin. The natural behavior of every child that is born is one of sin. **Romans 5:12** tells us, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon _____ men, for that _____ have sinned:"*

Human nature from the beginning has always been manifested by a propensity to excuse sin away.

Adam excused his rebellion away by blaming his wife Eve. (Genesis 3:12)

Eve excused her rebellion away by blaming the serpent. (Genesis 3:13)

Saul excused his disobedience by blaming the people. (1 Samuel 15:21)

David excused his adultery by offering sacrifices to God. (Psalm 51:16)

In an effort to stamp out God, philosophers have attempted to change the Biblical teaching of sin and the depravity in every man.

1) **The World's Influence on Sin**

Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud's corrupt thinking claimed mankind to be equal to the animals. He erroneously taught that 'man exists to do as he pleases.'

B.F. Skinner

B.F. Skinner has been called the Pioneer of human behavior. He believed and propagated the 'Blank Slate' theory. This theory declared that man enters this world at birth in a neutral state. He propagated the idea that man at birth was neither good nor bad.

Philip E. Johnson

Philip Johnson had a fundamental misunderstanding about human nature when he said, "Materialism sets us free from sin by proving that there is no such thing as sin. There's just antisocial behavior, which we can control with measures like laws and educational programs."

Such men in their ignorance have done great harm to our society. **Man cannot be helped unless he understands the truth about what sin is and his sinful condition before a holy God.**

2) **The World's Indifference of Sin**

The Evolutionist Theory

Many will claim that sin is not sin, but simply the natural outgrowth of man's process. They believe that we are going through the evolution process and that 'sin' is simply 'good' in the making.

The Christian Science Theory

This theory teaches that 'sin' is a figment of man's imagination. They will assert that sin, sickness, and death are not true because these things do not come from God. They contend that evil is an illusion and death is a failure of the imagination.

The Disease Theory

This theory promotes sin to be nothing more than an incurable disease. What Bible believers call 'sin' is rather an illness of the blood, and as a result man cannot be held accountable for it. They regard 'sin' as some medical problem and not a behavioral choice.

The Demonic Theory

This theory is adopted in many religious circles such as the Charismatic movement that will often blame sin on demons. For example, if a man has a problem with lust, then they must cast the demon of lust out.

The Accidental Theory

This theory is often seen in someone excusing their behavior by saying, "I didn't mean to do that."

What does Scripture declare?

All have _____

Romans 3:10, 23, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

All are _____ before God

Romans 3:19, *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."*

All have a heart that is _____ and _____ wicked

Jeremiah 17:9, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

B. THE GRAVE CONDITION

"...the wages of sin is death"

There is no need for Christ until man has been thoroughly convinced of his sinful condition. The Bible has much to say about the condition of man before he is redeemed.

- 1) Man is _____.
Luke 19:10
- 2) Man is _____ Already.
John 3:18
- 3) Man has the _____ of God Abiding on Him.
John 3:36
- 4) Man is a _____ of Sin.
Romans 6:17
- 5) Man is _____.
2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- 6) Man is _____ in Trespasses and Sins.
Ephesians 2:1
- 7) Man is a _____ of Wrath.
Ephesians 2:3
- 8) Man is _____ from the Life of God.
Ephesians 4:18

Man is not evolving and getting better and better. In truth, man has a sinful nature with an appetite for that which is evil. **James 1:14** tells us, *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

We are given a summary of all that is in the world in **1 John 2:16**, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* This speaks of the natural inclinations of man.

The **Lust of the Flesh** - A Desire to **Do Something** – against God
The **Lust of the Eyes** - A Desire to **Have Something** – against God
The **Pride of Life** - A Desire to **Be Someone** – against God

There is a raging beast (called the flesh) inside of every man that is constantly desiring to satisfy its cravings.

We are easily blinded by lust.
John 3:19

We are easily corrupted by lust.
1 Corinthians 5:6

We are easily invited to lust.
Matthew 7:13-14

We are easily bound by lust.
Proverbs 5:22

We are easily consumed by lust.
James 3:5, 6

C. THE GRIEVOUS CONSEQUENCES

"...the wages of sin is death..."

"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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

Revelation 20:13

The word death means more than just our physical departure from this world. When the Bible tells us that *"the wages of sin is death,"* it speaks of our existence beyond the grave. This brings us to the sobering subject of Hell.

The clearest passage in the Bible on the subject of Hell is found in **Luke 16:19-31**. This record is not a parable as it is often claimed to be.

Many religious leaders have done away with the 'doctrine of Hell.' They often will dismiss the idea of Hell by saying something like this, "I just don't believe that a loving God would send people to Hell."

First, The Word of God **declares** there is a Hell.
Matthew 5:29, 30; Matthew 10:28

Second, The Holiness of God **demand**s there be a Hell.

Psalm 7:11; Psalm 9:17

Third, The Love of God **delivers** sinners from Hell.

John 3:16

C.H. Spurgeon said, "Warn the boatman before he enters the current – then if he's swept down the rapids he destroys himself. Warn the man before he drinks the cup of poison; tell him it's deadly – then if he drinks it, his death lies at his door."

1) The Serious Consequences Determined

Man will give an account for _____ idle word in the day of judgment.
Matthew 12:36

The death of man will be followed by the _____.
Hebrews 9:27

He who does not repent will likewise _____.
Luke 13:2-3

2) The Specific Consequences Described

Hell is a real and literal place. Our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed it Himself in **Matthew 25:41**,

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

a) Hell is a Place of Fire

A Place of Hell _____.
Matthew 5:22; 18:9

A Place where the _____ is not Quenched
Mark 9:43, 45

A Place of Everlasting _____.
Matthew 18:8; 25:41

A Place described as a Furnace of _____.
Matthew 13:42, 50

A Place where men are Tormented in this _____.

Luke 16:24

**A Place of Burning _____ and Brimstone
Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 21:8**

b) Hell is a Place of Darkness

**Chains of _____.
2 Peter 2:1, 4, 17**

**Blackness of Darkness _____.
Jude 13**

**Outer _____.
Matthew 8:12**

c) Hell is a Place of Torment

**There is _____ Torment
Luke 16:23**

**There is _____ Torment
Luke 16:25**

**There is _____ Torment
Luke 16:27-28**

This truth is fundamental to a proper understanding of the gift of God. There is no gift needed unless man recognizes his need as a sinner. There is no gift needed unless man recognizes that he deserves eternal punishment in a place called Hell.

We have expounded upon this Scriptural truth that *“the wages of sin is death.”* A greater degree of emphasis upon sin will encourage the lost sinner to a greater awareness of his need for a Saviour.

There is no **Christ** needed where **sin is not mentioned!**
There is no **forgiveness** needed where **sin is not admitted!**
There is no **grace** needed where **Hell is not deserved!**

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Who possesses a sinful nature?

What is sin?

Is anyone righteous according to God's Word?

What is declared to be deceitful and desperately wicked?

What is the present condition of every man without Christ?

Who will stand in judgment after death?

What are some expressions that are used in God's Word to speak of the eternal punishment?
