



Name: _____

Lesson 1

Salvation: Man's Need, God's Provision

Before starting this first lesson we want to explain how to use our text, the Bible. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The two testaments are divided into books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. Each book is divided into chapters and each chapter into verses. When listing a scripture reference the book is written first followed by the chapter number and finally the verse is written after the chapter number. The chapter and verse (or verses) is separated by a colon (:).

Example: John 3:16-18, the book is John, the chapter is 3, the verses are 16 through 18. If it is written John 3:16,18 then only verses 16 and 18 are part of the reference, verse 17 would not be included.

All of the lessons of Stepping Stones will list Bible references in this manner that you will need to find and read in your Bible.

Introduction

Understanding what salvation is and why we need it is foundational to the rest of the lessons in this course. This lesson is basic but necessary before we move on to other topics.

Romans 3:23 describes something that all mankind has in common. According to this verse, what do we all have in common?

1 John 3:4 gives us a definition of sin, what is it?

When we break God's law, we sin. His law is found written in the Bible, but it is also found written upon our hearts in the form of conscience and in nature that surrounds us. Read Romans 2:15 and Romans 1:18-20.

No one will be able to stand before God in judgment and have an excuse for not knowing His law, why?

The consequence of sin is found in Romans 6:23, what does a person who sins deserve?

Romans 6:23 also gives us hope, what is the gift of God and through whom do we receive it?

Read John 3:16. This is a verse that describes God's reaction to our hopeless, sinful condition and His reasons for that reaction.

What did God do to provide a way for man to escape the consequence of sin?

Why did He do it?

Read Romans 5:8. This verse states that God showed us His love by the fact that His son, Jesus, paid the penalty for our sin by dying for us. We deserve the consequence of sin, which is death, but Jesus stepped in and paid that consequence for us.

Some people have the thought that we are all on the pathway to heaven; it doesn't matter what religion a person follows; we will all end up in heaven. Read John 14:6, John 1:12 and 1 Timothy 1:5-6. According to these verses, is that a correct thought?

Another thought that people have is that if their good works outweigh their bad works, then they will go to heaven. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Will good works help us get to heaven?

Since we are all saved by grace through faith, what does that keep a person from doing?

Now, go to Romans 10:9-10. These verses describe how we receive the free gift of salvation that God provides for us.

There are two things listed in Romans 10:9-10. Fill in the blanks below.

1. We must _____ with our _____
that Jesus is _____.
2. We must _____ in our _____
that God _____ him from the _____.

Let's examine these two steps to find out what they entail.

1. When we confess Jesus is Lord, we are saying He is *our* Lord. Another word for Lord is Master. This means we are no longer lord or master of our own lives, but He is now in charge.

2. When we believe that God raised Him from the dead, we are recognizing that He also died, for how can he be raised from the dead if He first did not die? And if He did indeed die, then why did He die? As the verses that we already examined state – it was to pay the price for our sin. So, as we believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead we are acknowledging our sinful state and accepting that Jesus died on the cross for us.

If you have not yet received God's gift of salvation you can do so right now by praying the sample prayer written below.

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, but I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Please forgive me and make me new. I turn from my sins and surrender my life to you. Come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Jesus for saving me."

If you prayed the above prayer or a prayer similar to it and meant it with all you heart then *you are saved* as Romans 10:9 states.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. For someone in Christ what does this verse promise?

A brand-new life! What a wonderful gift we have been given! In our next lesson we will learn how to live and grow in this new life. But before closing this lesson we need to address some things.

The devil will try to convince you in your thoughts that you aren't really saved.

Read John 8:44. The devil is a _____ . There is no

_____ in him. He never tries to convince a person who is not saved that they are not saved, only those who are saved. If you have troubling thoughts that maybe you are not saved, then that is a great indicator that indeed you are saved.

Read Romans 8:1-2. You are free from sin! But you still will deal with temptations (James 1:13-15). If you do sin again it does not mean that you lost your salvation.

In 1 John 1:9 we find what to do if we do sin. What do we need to do?

If we do this, what are we promised?

Recognizing our need because of our sinful state and receiving the provision that God has made for us because He loves us is the first step in beginning our new life in Christ. Send this completed lesson back to us and we'll send you Lesson 2, The Daily Life of a Christian.

Recommended Reading for further study:

At the end of a lesson we may recommend a book or books for further study. It is not necessary to read the books to complete this course, but we want to recommend them as they will add to what you are learning.

Recommended Reading by Joyce Meyer

A New Way of Living

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