

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 1

HOW WE CAN GO TO HEAVEN

1. HEAVEN

A. A holy place.

Heaven is a place where there is no sin. It is holy. God is in heaven. No sin can come into His presence. If sin should enter into heaven, heaven would be like the world is today. It would not be heaven. It is sin that brings sorrow, sickness and death.

What does Revelation 21:27 tell us about those who will enter heaven?



B. A prepared place.

Those who want to go to heaven must be written in the Lamb's book of life.

Heaven is a prepared place for those who are prepared to go there, John 14:1-3. We are to be made ready for heaven while we are living. We cannot be made ready after we die.

How can we get ready for heaven? Acts 16:30,31

C. A perfect place.

To be ready for heaven, we must believe in Jesus.

It is God Who created heaven to be a perfect place. If we are going to heaven, we must be perfect. Men have tried to make themselves good enough to go to heaven, but they never were able.

Read Ephesians 2:8,9. How are we made ready for heaven?

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We are made ready for heaven by faith.

What is heaven like?

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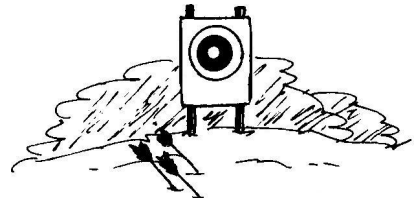
Heaven is a place which is holy, prepared and perfect.

2. SALVATION

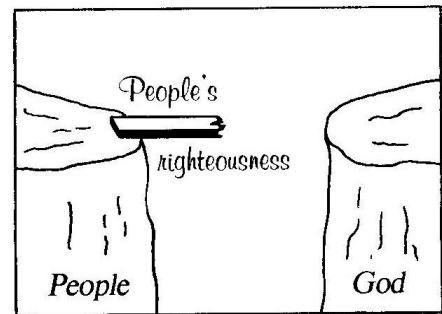
A. Salvation: What does it mean?

Who gives salvation? Psalm 3:8

What does Romans 3:23 say about all people?



The Lord gives salvation. But people sin and come short of the glory of God. To "come short" means to fall short of a target as a shot falls short of the moose or elk. It fails to reach the target. We try to get into heaven, but we fall short of our target.



Read Romans 3:23 again. Why do we come short?

If we are going to get to heaven we must get rid of our sin. We must get rid of all great sins and all small sins. God sees all sin alike. God hates every kind of sin. In other words, if we are going to get to heaven, we must be saved from our sin.

Read Romans 5:12,14,19. Where did sin come from?

We get the color of our hair, eyes and skin from our parents. We also receive desires to do things from our parents. The things we understand come from our parents. Also the desire to sin comes from our parents. This is the way we are made. Just as we cannot do anything to change the color of our hair, eyes, or skin; so we cannot change our desire to sin. Only God can do this.

Do only some people have to be saved from sin?

What does Romans 3:23 tell us about all people?

Romans 3:10

Isaiah 53:6

Isaiah 64:6

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Who can give salvation?

Who has to be saved?

* * *

God gives salvation. All people have to be saved because all people have sinned.

B. Salvation.

We may ask, "If we really repent of our sin and confess it, can we stop sinning?" Jesus has saved us. God gives us the power to stop sinning. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes and lives within our bodies.

Who is in us?

Revelation 3:20

John 1:12

1 John 5:12,13

2 Corinthians 6:16

1 Corinthians 6:19

It is the Spirit of God living in us that gives us the power over sin.

When we are saved, who lives in us?

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When we are saved, the Holy Spirit lives in us.

3. ONLY GOD CAN SAVE MAN

Just as we cannot change the color of our skin, so we cannot take the desire to sin out of our life. Because God is holy, He cannot lie. He must do what He says He will do.

Read Genesis 2:17. How was God going to punish Adam and Eve when they disobeyed Him?

Read Romans 6:23. How will we be punished when we sin?

God told Adam and Eve that they would die if they sinned. God does what He says He will do. If we sin, we are separated from God.



We say that God is love.

Can a loving God punish us for our sin?

Remember this punishment is an eternal suffering in the lake of fire. It is eternal like heaven is eternal, Revelation 20:10,15.

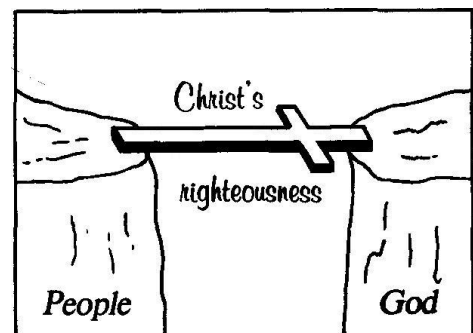
God is holy.

Read Romans 5:8. What has God done so we can go to heaven?

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:21

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

In these verses we can see that God did keep His word. He sent His Son to die in our place. God not only punished sin, but He also showed His love to us. If God did not love us, He would have allowed us to continue on our way to hell.



Who can save people?

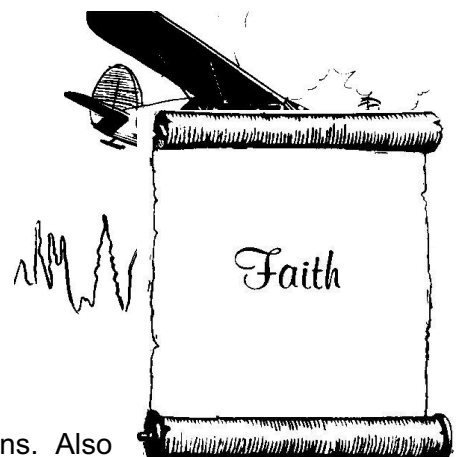
4. SAVING FAITH

God can save people.

From what we have studied so far we might say that all men are saved and are going to heaven. This is taught in some churches today. Yet this is not so. We do have some responsibility.

Read Hebrews 11:6. What must we have to please God?

We must have faith in God's work of salvation. We must not look for any other way of salvation. There are people today who say, "We believe Jesus died for our sin. We also believe that we must try to live a good life to get to heaven." These people are trusting in Jesus and also in their good works to get to heaven. They remind us of a person who climbs out of an airplane and tries to help it off the ground. This is not saving faith. If we have faith in the airplane, we will sit down in the plane and let it take us to where we want to go.



There are people who say, "We believe Jesus died for our sins. Also

we have to be confirmed or take Communion and fast in order to get to heaven." These people are believing in Jesus and also in their religious works to try to get to heaven.

Saving faith is to stop trying to save ourselves and **let Jesus save us**. Saving faith is **believing that Jesus was punished for our sin** and therefore we will not be punished for it. Saving faith is believing that we are going to heaven because **Jesus died on the cross**.

From where does this faith come? Romans 10:17

This faith comes from the Word of God. We must first understand we are lost in our sin before we will know we need to be saved. A person swimming across a river or lake will never call for help until he knows he cannot make it. We will not know that we are lost until we see that our sin is taking us to hell.

Read Ezekiel 18:4,20. What does God say about the person that sins?

What is saving faith?

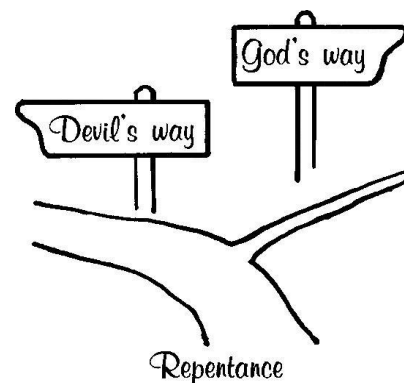
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The person who sins must die. Saving faith is to let Jesus save us, to believe Jesus was punished in our place and to believe Jesus died for us.

5. REPENTANCE

When we see that our sin is taking us to hell, we will want to stop sinning. We will want to turn away from sin. This is what we call repentance - "To turn around". In order to repent, we must be willing to confess all our sin to God. Even little sins are sin.



What does God promise us if we confess our sin? 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sin to God, He forgives us and makes us clean. There are four points to remember about repentance:

- God is holy. He can have no sin in His presence. He must punish all sin. When we understand this, we will change our minds about God.
- Our sin condemns us to eternal hell. When we understand this, we will change our minds

about ourselves.

- The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death", Romans 6:23. When we understand this, we will change our minds about sin and turn to God.
- Our only hope of salvation is in Christ. He died in our place. We cannot add to what He has done nor take away from it. When we understand this, we will change our minds about Christ.

Remember, to be sorry for sin is not enough. We must be willing to get rid of our sin completely.

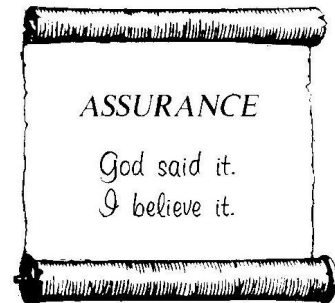
How can a person repent?

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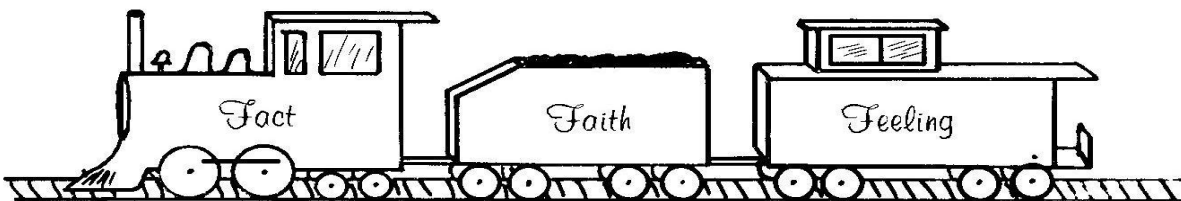
We repent when we confess our sin to God and turn from our sin.

6. ASSURANCE

Assurance means to know for sure that something is true. We have assurance when we can say, "God said it. I believe it. There are no more questions." To have assurance is to really believe that Jesus Christ has saved us from hell and from sin. It is to know that our sins are forgiven and we are ready for heaven. 1 John 5:12,13 tell us we can know we are saved.



There is another important thing about salvation. We may not always feel saved. We can truly repent from our sins and trust Christ as our Saviour without any feelings. The Holy Spirit can come into our life and we may not have any feeling at all. Then again, we may experience great joy or great relief from a heavy burden. We may experience a great love for God and for others. These feelings come, but remember, the feelings do not tell us that we are saved. If we have truly repented, and have honestly trusted Christ as our Savior, we must believe God has saved us.



"Fact -- faith -- feeling" diagram -- from *How to Experience and Share the Abundant Life*, Copyright, Campus Crusade for Christ, Ind. 1971. All rights reserved by Campus Crusade. Printed by permission

The devil can have power over our feelings. He often tries to make us doubt that we are saved. He cannot separate us from the love of God, because God is stronger than Satan. Christ overcame Satan when He died on the cross, Romans 8:35-39.

What verses tell us that we can know for sure that we are saved?

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1 John 5:12 and 13 tells us that we can know we are saved.

MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: John 3:16.

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DO YOU REMEMBER

Do you remember what you have learned?

1. What is heaven like?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

2. Who can give salvation?

3. Who has to be saved?

4. Who can save people?

5. What is saving faith?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

6. How can a person repent?

7. Who lives in us?

8. What verses tell us that we can be sure we are saved?

9. Write out John 3:16.

Words To Learn

1. accept - to take what is offered.
2. assurance - to know for sure that something is true.
3. Communion - "The Lord's Supper".
4. condemn - to give over to punishment.
5. confirmation - a religious practice where a person promises to be faithful to his religion. He is accepted as a member of that religion at that time.
- b. to say the same as someone else has said.
6. create - to make something out of nothing.
7. confess - to tell our faults or sins to God.
8. defile - to make dirty.
9. disobey - when we are told "do this" and we understand it, but we do not do it; or when we are told, "don't do this", and we understand it, but we do it.
10. desire - to wish for something.
11. doubt - to not really believe, not to be sure.
12. eternal - from always to always; without end.
13. experiences - those things which happen, or have happened to us.
14. obey - to do what we are told to do; or not to do what we are told not to do.
15. prepare - to make ready.
16. presence - being close by, or near.
17. promise - when a person tells us he is going to do something or not do something.
18. punish - to cause pain or loss for doing wrong.
19. repentance - to be sorry for sin so that we turn from sin and begin a new life.
20. responsibility - the things God asks us to do.
21. salvation - to be free from the power of sin and punishment for sin.
22. target - the thing that we aim for.