

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 2

HOW WE CAN WE KNOW WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN.

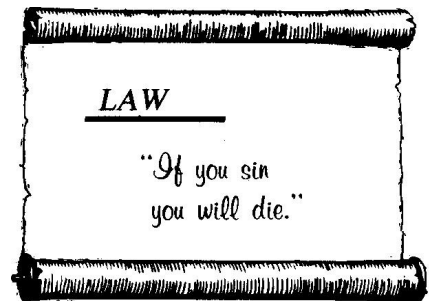
If we do not really know deep down in our hearts that our sins are forgiven, we cannot really live for God. If we do not know we are on our way to heaven, we cannot really live for God.

1. CHRIST FINISHED THE WORK OF OUR SALVATION

A. Sin and death.

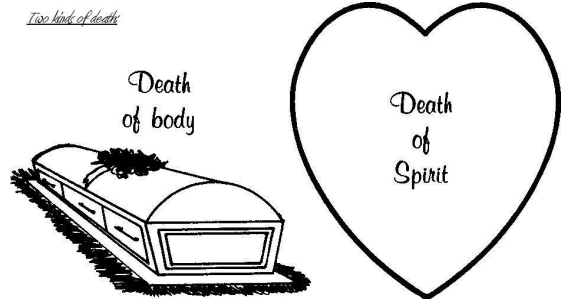
We all have sinned and must die. There is a law in this world that says, "If you sin, you will die." Death does not come right away with every sin we do, but it will come.

What will happen if we sin? Romans 6:23.



B. Two kinds of death.

Romans 6:23 says we will die if we sin. The Bible talks about two kinds of death. One is the death of the body. The other death is the death of the spirit. When our bodies die, we are separated from those we know and love. When our spirits are dead, we are separated from God. Just as you cannot visit with a dead person, so God cannot visit with you if your spirit is dead.



God told Adam and Eve,

" . . . of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Genesis 2:17.

Their bodies did not die that day, but their spirits were cut off from God. He no longer walked with them in the evening.

Adam's sin separated him from God. It also separated his children from God. In other words, we are all born separated from God.

Read Ephesians 2:5; and Colossians 2:13. Why are we dead?

What are the 2 kinds of death?

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We are dead because of sin. To be dead means to be separated from those living. To be dead in sin means to be separated from God. The two kinds of death are when the body dies and when the spirit dies.

C. Law.

In the Old Testament times God gave Moses a set of rules or laws to live by. Those who could live by these laws without breaking or disobeying a single one would be good enough to go to heaven. However, there was only one Person who could keep all these laws - Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:3 tells us that the law cannot save us because we ourselves want to do evil and do not think about God.

Why can the law not save us?

D. Christ kept the law.

The law cannot save us because we sin and do not think about God.

When Christ came into the world, how did He come? Romans 8:3

Did Christ sin?

In other words, He kept the whole law.

But what did Christ do for us?

1 Peter 2:24

1 Peter 3:18

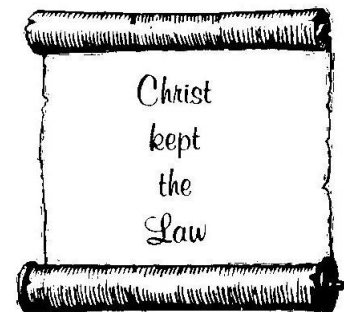
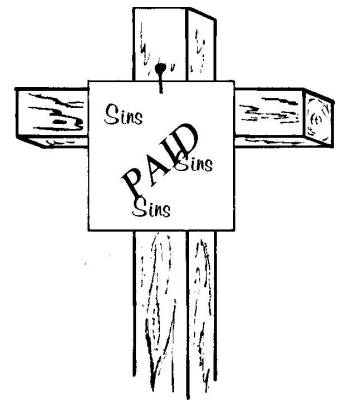
Why did Jesus Christ die? 2 Corinthians 5:21

Christ came in a body like ours, but He never sinned. Because He kept the whole law, He could carry our sins. He suffered for our sins. Now we can have His righteousness.

Who kept the whole law?

E. Christ paid for sin.

Christ kept the whole law. Because Jesus Christ lived a holy life, He had no sin in His life at all. But He died like a sinner dies. Because Jesus died for us, there is not a thing that we must do. We cannot add to the work Jesus did. He finished it.



When Jesus died on the cross, He died for every sin. He died for every person's sin. He died for the sin of every person who would be born. Every sin that is done today was paid for by Jesus Christ.

How did Jesus pay for our sin? 1 Peter 1:18,19

Also read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20. Who paid for our sins?

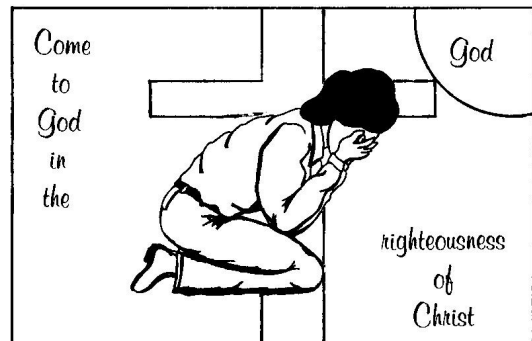
2. OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES FROM CHRIST

Jesus Christ paid for our sin. He is righteous. To be righteous is to be without sin in our life. If we ever are to come to God, we must be righteous. Yet, we know that we are not righteous.

What does the Bible tell us about our own righteousness?

Titus 3:5

Isaiah 64:6



From this we can see that we could never be righteous enough to come before God. Our righteousness is like filthy rags. This is where we see God's great love for the world. He gave His only begotten Son to save us. Romans 5:8 tells us of God's love for us. Even though we are sinners, Christ died for us.

It is through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we can receive a perfect righteousness, Romans 3:21,22. This righteousness is really Jesus Christ's righteousness. So that when we come to God, we stand there with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Read Romans 3:24. What do we have because of the grace of God?

By the grace of Jesus Christ we are freely justified. Justification means that God thinks of us as if we have never sinned. When God forgives our sin, He will never remember our sin again, Isaiah 43:25.

Where did our sin go?

Micah 7:19

Psalms 103:12

Isaiah 38:17

When God forgives us, He throws our sin into the deep sea, He puts it away from us as far as

the east is from the west. He puts our sin behind His back. This is what Jesus did for you and me. There is nothing left for us to do but to receive it.

From whom does our righteousness come?

3. WE MUST HAVE FAITH

Our righteousness comes from Jesus Christ.

How do we know that we have the righteousness of Christ? Romans 3:22 tells us how we receive this righteousness.

Read Romans 3:22. How do we receive this righteousness?

We receive Christ's righteousness by faith. One man was asked, "How do you know you are saved?" He said, "God said that I am saved. I believe God. There are no more questions."

When we see that our own righteousness is no good, and when we receive by faith Christ's righteousness, we are saved. Have you accepted His righteousness? Have you thanked Him for it? This is faith.

How do we receive Christ's righteousness?

4. WE CAN REALLY KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED

We receive Christ's righteousness by faith.

The Bible tells us that we can know we are saved and that we are God's children.

Whose children are those who receive Jesus? John 1:12

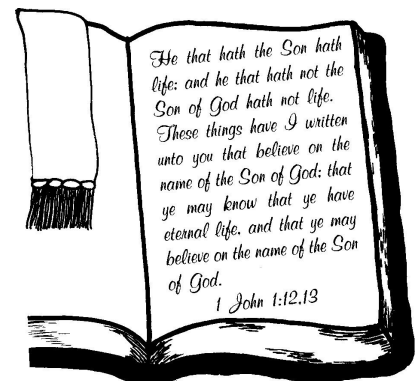
If we are the sons of God, we are the children of God. In order to be children of our mothers and fathers, we must be born of them.

What does John 3:3,7 tell us to do?

We must be born again. When we are born into God's family, there must be a change in our lives.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What is this change?

The one who is born again lives differently now than before. When we are born to our mothers and fathers, we are their children. We will always be their children. Revelation 21:27



tells us that God keeps a record of those who are His children.

What is this book called?

God's children are written in the Lamb's book of life. The government has a book or file which tells whose children we are. This is kept in a safe place. There are times when fire or something else destroys these records. God's record can never get lost or be destroyed.

When we accept Christ as our Saviour, we become children of God. We are born into God's family. We see that our life is changed. 1 John 5 tells us we have eternal life. This is how we know that we are saved.

How can we know we are saved?

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5. HOW WE CAN KNOW THAT GOD IS KEEPING US

We know we are saved because our life is different and because I John 5:12 and 13 tells us. First of all we are told that Jesus gives eternal life to those who trust Him.

How long is eternal?

What does it mean for a person to perish?

Eternal life is forever and ever. The person who perishes goes to hell.

Notice that John chapter 10 shows us that we are like sheep in the shepherd's hand. If a wolf or coyote comes, the shepherd tries to keep the wolf or coyote from taking the sheep out of his hands. We see here that we are in the hand of Christ and also in the hand of God. So God is able to protect us from all our enemies.



We may ask, "Is God really able to keep us from sinning?"

Read Hebrews 7:25. What can Jesus do?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12. What can Jesus do?

Read 1 Peter 1:5. How does Jesus take care of us?

Jesus can save those who come to Him. He always takes care of those who come to Him. He takes care of us through God's power by faith. From these verses we can see that we do not have to hold on to God. He is holding on to us. This is a wonderful truth to know that God loves us so much that He is keeping us.

Who can take care of us?

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God takes care of us.

6. DOUBTS

A. Where doubts come from.

Doubts come from two places. They can come from the devil or if we do not want to stop sinning. Remember the devil is our greatest enemy and he does not want us to enjoy fellowship with God.

It is surprising how soon we can wonder about our salvation. This is one of the reasons why so many people go back into sin. The devil causes us to doubt that God has really saved us. The devil waits till we sin. Then he tells us, "You are not saved." He tells us, "You better give up and go with the rest of the gang."

We will have doubts about our salvation if we do not want to stop sinning. If we keep on sinning, perhaps we have not been born of God. 1 John 3:9 (N.L.T.) tells us,

"No person who has become a child of God keeps on sinning."

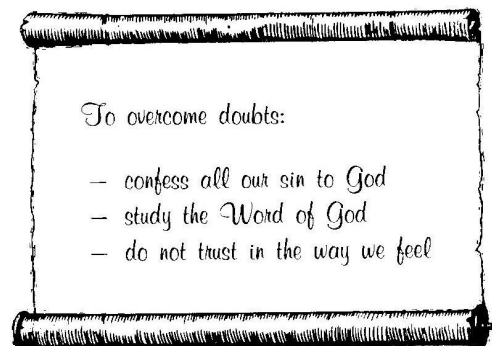
If we are really saved we will not want to keep on sinning. Sometimes we sin and do not want to confess it. We may doubt our salvation until we confess our sin to God.

From what two places do our doubts come?

B. How we can overcome doubts.

Doubts come from the devil and if we do not want to stop sinning. As Christians we need to overcome doubts. How can we overcome them?

- Be sure we have confessed all our sins to God, 1 John 1:9. Do we really want to get rid of our sins?
- Study the Word of God. Know it well. Then we can answer the devil with God's Word and not with our own words. Jesus did this when Satan met Him in the wilderness. List the three verses Jesus used from the Bible to answer Satan, Matthew 4:1-11.



- Last of all we cannot trust in the way we feel. Sometimes we think that when we feel happy and good, everything is all right. We think we are going to heaven. But when we are sad and have problems, we think we may not get to heaven. Sometimes we feel unhappy because our bodies are tired or sick.

We all know that our feelings change very fast. We must always remember that God's Word never changes. We are just as saved when we are sad as when we are glad. Our names are written in the "Lamb's book of life," Revelation 21:27, Luke 10:20. Our salvation is sure because God's Word is true, 1 John 5:11-13. Praise the Lord!

How can we overcome doubts?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: 1 John 5:11-13.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What happens when we sin?
2. What are the 2 kinds of death?
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3. Why can the law not save us?
4. Who kept the whole law?
5. Who paid for our sins?
6. From whom does our righteousness come?
7. How do we receive Christ's righteousness?
8. How do we know we are saved?
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9. Who takes care of us?
10. From what two places do our doubts come?

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11. How can we overcome doubts?

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12. Write out 1 John 5:12,13.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. begotten - "born to." This word is used in the New Testament to show us that Jesus is God born as man.
2. destroy - to break down, to pull to pieces.
3. fellowship - when two or more people believe and enjoy the same things. They tell each other everything. They feel and think the same about many things.
4. flesh - 1) a Bible word meaning the self or selfishness in us that likes to sin and doesn't care about God.
2) the human body.
5. grace - favor that is not deserved.
6. justification - God thinks of us as if we have never sinned.
7. knowledge - that which a person knows.
8. law - set of rules.
9. perish - to be altogether lost.
10. protect - to keep in safety or watch over.
11. resurrection - to live again after death.
12. righteous - to be without sin in our life.
13. righteousness - without sin and right before God.
14. Scriptures - Bible.
15. wilderness - a place where no one lives.