

Lesson 4

Your New Path: New Life in Christ Part One

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The apostle Paul echoes the Old Testament and the teaching of the New Testament when he said, “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). Humankind’s sinful nature (Galatians 5:17) has passed on to all people because of Adam’s sin. Everyone is born with this sinful nature and eventually acquiesces (assent) to sin, thereby giving approval to that sinful nature. Look at Romans 5:12.

1. How did sin enter the world? _____.
2. What causes death? _____.
3. Who sinned? _____.

Jesus taught that sin comes from the heart (Matthew 15:18-19). Before people sin outwardly, they defile themselves with their own evil thoughts and intentions. Sin is more than committing wrong deeds. It is willful disobedience that comes from a sinful nature. Sin kills, and it separates people from God. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, and from the presence of God. Read Romans 1:18-2:16. Sin erodes the image of God in people.

Paul teaches that sin results in death (Romans 6:21). But under the law of righteousness you have been set free from sin. As a slave to God you reap holiness and eternal life (Romans 6:21). Salvation and righteousness in God’s sight can not be earned by attempting to do good deeds. God offered it to you freely as you believed on his Son. Sin earns wages, God gives salvation. Now read Romans 6:23.

4. What are the wages of sin? _____.
5. What is the gift of God? _____.
6. Through whom can one receive that gift? _____.

You may ask, “Does this free gift from God keep me from sinning?” The regenerating power and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit puts away the old sinful nature. You are a new creation! As you grow and mature in Christ, you will learn more about what pleases God. But no one is perfect, and no one will reach perfection until we go to heaven and we are changed to be like Christ. You may still struggle with some issues or you may yield to temptation. You will study about spiritual warfare in Lesson 10. For now, be encouraged that God grants help in the face of temptation.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Can you list four encouraging truths from 10:13?

7. _____.

8. _____.

9. _____.

10. _____.

Read James 4:7. What two suggestions does James make?

11. _____.

12. _____.

13. What does James say that the devil will do? _____.

Now read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Satan wants to destroy you and your faith in Christ. Peter gives advice and encouragement.

14. His advice is _____.

15. His encouragement is _____.

The writer to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus gives help.

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

If temptation overcomes you, do not give up. God is merciful. He is not going to cast you aside. John writes to believers, not unbelievers (1 John 1:8-9).

16. What should we do if we sin? _____.

17. What will God do? _____ and _____.

Christians believe that sin has separated all humans from God. Each individual possesses culpability (guilt or responsibility) and can do nothing to reinstate that fellowship on his or her own initiative. All deserve eternal punishment and banishment from the presence of God. Salvation refers to that act of God whereby he provides deliverance from the bondage, guilt, and penalty of sin. God provided salvation by offering Jesus as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Ransom means to purchase

something back that once belonged to the purchaser. Adam and Eve lived in fellowship with God, but sin broke that fellowship.

18. Why did Jesus come in human form (Matthew 20:28)? _____.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men. (1 Timothy 2: 5-6)

Redemption is a term that means to free someone from something bad by paying a penalty. In the Old Testament, the sin offering had to be perfect, without blemish or defect. John called Jesus the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29, 36). Silver and gold could never pay the price to redeem sinful mankind. God redeemed us with the precious blood of Christ.

19. How does Peter describe Christ as the perfect sacrifice (1 Peter 1:18-21)? _____

John refers to Jesus as the Righteous One (1 John 2:1). That is why John could say, “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). Atonement means *reparation for an offence*. Because of the substitutionary death of his holy son, a righteous God can pardon a guilty race without compromise. You may ask, “But how does an individual appropriate salvation?”

The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin, convinces them concerning the righteousness of Christ, and convinces them of the reality of judgment (John 16:8-11). What must the sinner do to be saved? Read Romans 10:9-11.

20. Paul said that in order to be saved, the sinner must confess with his mouth that _____.

21. And the sinner must believe in his heart that _____.

The whole sin problem begins with unbelief. The path to salvation begins with believing. It is not a matter of works and deeds. It is a matter of faith. We can call Romans 10:9-11 the Christian confession of faith. Of course this is found in different forms in different places in the New Testament. Peter first made this confession by saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16). In confessing Jesus as Lord, we are affirming to the church and to the world that we will serve and obey Jesus. By saying that we believe in the resurrection, we are also saying that we believe in his atoning death. The resurrection affirms the deity of Jesus: “declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 1:4). Furthermore, the resurrection affirms the efficacy (effectiveness) of his atoning death. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Romans 4:25). Peter told the crowd in Jerusalem that they must repent and be baptized (Acts 2:36-39). This means the sinner confesses and forsakes sin. The Holy

Spirit changes the new believer by creating new life (John 3:3-8). God forgives sin and cancels the guilt and punishment (Romans 3:21-26; 8:1).

Now read Acts 13:38-39.

22. Paul proclaimed the forgiveness of sins through _____.

23. Through him (Jesus) everyone who believes is _____.

Justification is a legal term. Believers are declared innocent, and God views them as though they never sinned. What a wonderful salvation Jesus provides for believers!

How can a person be made righteous? Paul explains.

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)

God's salvation provides so much for the believer. In your own words, what do the following verses say that God's salvation provides through Christ's sacrifice?

24. Acts 2:29-33 _____.

25. Acts 2:38-39 _____ and _____.

26. Romans 8:1 _____.

27. Romans 8:2 _____.

28. John 14:1-4 _____.

29. Hebrews 9:15 _____.

30. What do you think the eternal inheritance is in Hebrews 9:15? _____.

31. John 10:27-28 _____.

32. 1 John 3:1-3 _____.

These are just a few of the wonderful promises in God's Word for those who have put their faith in Jesus. We have forgiveness of sin, freedom from bondage, power to resist the devil, freedom from guilt and condemnation, God's presence living in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, assurance of eternal joy in the presence of God, and more.

33. Memory Verses:

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)

34. Action:

Take time to reflect on how great a salvation has been provided for you. Think about all of the provisions of God's grace. Now, thank him and praise him for not being vindictive and capricious (impulsive and unpredictable). He is merciful and kind, not willing that any should perish. He has provided the right path for you. He wants to fellowship with you, help you to live victoriously, and take you to heaven to spend eternity with him. Hallelujah!

35. Rethink the Lesson

- All people sin because they have a sinful nature. They are guilty before God, and they can do nothing to pay for their sin.
- God gives us help to resist Satan and overcome temptation.
- God saved us by sacrificing his Son. The blood of Jesus redeemed humanity.
- The sinner must confess with his mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in his heart that God raised him from the dead.
- Sinners must repent of their sins. Of course this means that they must be sorry for their sinful nature, but it also means that they must be sorry for their unbelief, and change their minds about who Christ is. They must believe.
- The new believer receives many benefits of salvation.

Answers to Lesson 4:

1. Through one man.
2. Death.
3. All.
4. Death.

5. Eternal Life.
6. In Christ Jesus our Lord.
7. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.
8. God is faithful.
9. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.
10. When you are tempted, he will provide a way out so you can stand up under it.
11. Submit to God.
12. Resist the devil.
13. He will flee from you.
14. Resist him, stand firm in the flesh.
15. You know that your brothers throughout the world are suffering the same things.
16. Confess our sins.
17. Forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
18. To serve and give his life a ransom for many.
19. The precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
20. Jesus is Lord.
21. God raised him from the dead.
22. Jesus.
23. Is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.
24. The promised Holy Spirit.
25. Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
26. No condemnation. This means no guilty conscience and freedom from culpability.
27. Freedom from the law of sin.
28. A destiny in heaven with Jesus.
29. Eternal inheritance. Eternal life in heaven, the presence of God, the blessings of God.
30. Your answer.
31. Eternal life and security.
32. The kingdom of God.

