

Salvation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*

Introduction:

Can you imagine planning to get someone a very special gift. All that planning and saving. Such great care has went into many a gift. And isn't it great when others think of you enough to give you something special.

For those that are reading this at the onset of this lesson, I take a small gift around to different people and tell them how much I think of them and that I have prepared a gift especially for them. They all adamantly reject the gift stating that they don't want anything to do with it. Yes I prearranged their answers to make the point.

Transitional Statement:

Church, the truth is that God has prepared a special gift for all of mankind. The gift of His son but with any gift there is a choice to receive it or not.

Lesson:

I. The intended relationship between God and man

- A. In the beginning God created man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life Gen 2:7
- B. Male and female He created them Gen 1:27
- C. And He put them into his garden (Eden) Gen 2:8
 - 1. A paradise setting for sure.
 - 2. There they lived in His presence
 - 3. It was a quite neighborhood with absolutely no crime
 - 4. There God took care of them
 - a. Providing for them
 - 5. God protected them
 - 6. There they basked in the love of God.

D. But there God gave them at least three things:

1. Work to do

Genesis 2:15 *“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”*

2. Law to keep

Genesis 2:16-17 *“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die”*

3. Choice to make

Genesis 3:6 *“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”*

II. But, Adam and Eve choose to turn their backs on God

A. There at the tree of knowledge of good and evil they both choose to sin

1. They stopped trusting God and began to trust themselves.

B. As a result they were kicked out of the presence of God.

Genesis 3:24 *“So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

C. You see sin separates man from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 *“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”*

D. And the payment for sin is death.

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*

1. Here we must avoid the tendency to think of death in the physical sense, the death here is a spiritual separation from God.

E. And the reality is that we have all sinned against God.

Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

1. There isn't one person here today that has not sinned
2. 1 John 1:10 says: *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”*

III. But there is Good News

A. God doesn't want anyone to perish 2 Peter 3:9

B. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

C. So Jesus took the sins of the world and went to the altar of God (Calvary) to make atonement for all who would accept it.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Romans 3:25 Tells us that Jesus' Sacrifice on the cross provided atonement for our sins.

D. The Apostle Paul plainly spells out that the good news.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”*

E. To which Jesus declares.... *“I am the way the truth and the life, No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

1. As Peter filled with the Holy Spirit proclaimed in Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

IV. So how does the bible instruct us to receive salvation?

-STEPS:

1. Hear the Word of God

- a. Romans 10:17 *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*
- b. We must give God our undivided attention.
- c. We must be truth seekers.

John 8:32 *“...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

2. Believe in God

- a. John 20:30-31 *“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*
- b. Hebrews 11:6 *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*
- c. John 8:24 *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”*

3. Conviction or realization that your wrong

- a. Acts 2:37 *“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”*

4. Repent... or turn away from sin

- a. Acts 2:38 Peter says the first thing to do is “Repent...”
- a. In Paul’s sermon on Mars Hill in Acts 17:30 he says:

“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,”

- b. And Jesus says in Luke 13:3 *“...but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”*

5. Confess Jesus as Lord

- a. Matthew 10:32 *"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven."*
- b. Romans 10:9 *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"*
- c. 1 Timothy 6:12 *"Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses"*

6. Baptism (Immersed)

- a. Forgiveness of sins and gives us the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 22:16, Points out that at baptism our sins are washed away.

- b. We die to sin and are united with Christ

Romans 6:1-6

1 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

- c. Enter into covenant relationship with God

Colossians 2:11-12

“...and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

d. Become son's of God and clothe ourselves with Jesus

Galatians 3:26-27

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

1) Because we have clothed ourselves with Jesus.

Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of grace

Revelation 7:14

14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

e. Appeal to God for a good or (clean) conscience.

1 Peter 3:18-22

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him”

f. Regenerates us making us new again.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

1) Born againJohn 3:3

g. Saved

Mark 16:16

16 " He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

h. Added to the church

Acts 2:47

47 "... And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved"

i. @ bap is where faith meets obedience and you can't be pleasing to God without both

1) James 2:26 Faith without works is dead

2) Romans 1:5 & Romans 16:26

7. Continue in a faithful walk

a. Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

b. Revelation 2:10

"...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"

V. The result of being in Covenant relationship with God

A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation the old has gone, the new has come."*

- B. Galatians 2:20 *“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.*
- C. Reconciled to God.
- D. Paradise relationship restored

VI. Those that do not accept the gospel will be judged by God

- A. Read 2 Thess 1:6-9

“God is just; He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.”

Conclusion:

The words of the Apostle Paul....

1 Cor. 15:19 “If only in this life have we hoped we are above all men to be most pitied.”