

GOD's Solution To Life's Problems

Lesson 4 – Jesus Christ Brings Good News

INTRODUCTION

Good News! God has come to rescue mankind in the person of Jesus Christ. But who is this Jesus Christ? Was he just a good teacher or is he God? In this lesson, you will not only learn who Jesus Christ is, but you will also learn what he has done for mankind. You will also learn what mankind must do to receive forgiveness of sins.

REVIEW

In light of the past lessons, you should have learned the following:

- _____ The Word of God has the answers to man's problems.
- _____ The God of the universe is our Creator and He is Holy.
- _____ Every person born in this world is a sinner and guilty of disobeying God's commands.
- _____ Because of mankind's sin, everyone will have to face death and the judgment of God.

I. THE GOSPEL OR GOOD NEWS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Write down the three phrases that explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - *"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,"*

Verse 3: Christ died for our sins

Verse 4: Christ was buried

Verse 4: Christ raised from dead on the third day

II. THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

1. In Matthew 1:18-25, observe and write down what you learn about Jesus Christ's birth, and who He is. Matthew 1:18-25 - ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

2. Read John 1:1 & 1:14 answer the following questions:

- a. When was the "Word"? "In the beginning was the Word..."
- b. Whom was the "Word" with? "...and the Word was with God..."
- c. Who was the "Word"? "...and the Word was God." (John 1:1)
- d. What did the "Word" become? "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (Jn. 1:14)

3. So who exactly is the "Word" (John 1:17)? - "...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (Jn 1:17)

[TEACHER EXTRA: These Bible verses are teaching that Jesus was fully God who became a man. It could be said in another way that Jesus was the God-Man or that He was God in human flesh.]

4. Read Matthew 13:53-58. How did the people in Jesus' home town of Nazareth view him?
 Matthew 13:53-58 - "And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."
The people of Nazareth lived and worked with Jesus for 30 years, and yet they viewed him as no more than an ordinary man. Even though Jesus never sinned, they didn't believe that he was God in human flesh.

JESUS WAS FULLY HUMAN

Consider these Scriptures that show that Jesus was fully a man by what He said and did.

He was born just like all human babies.....Luke 2:7
 He grew, became strong, increased in wisdom and in stature.....Luke 2:40; 2:52
 He was weary, thirsty, and hungry at times.....John 4:6; John 19:28; Matt. 4:2
 He was troubled in spirit and sorrowful at times.....John 13:21; Matt. 26:38
 He wept at times.....John 11:35
 He slept just like all human beings.....Mark 4:38
 He had flesh and bones just like all human beings.....Luke 24:39

5. While Colossians 2:9 is a mystery to the human mind, what does the verse tell us about Jesus?
 Colossians 2:9 - "For in him the whole fullness of deity (God) dwells bodily."

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD

Consider these Scriptures that show that Jesus was fully God by what He said and did.

He showed he was all-powerful (omnipotent) when he calmed the storm.....Matt. 8:26-27
 He states he is eternal when he says, "Before Abraham was, I am".....John 8:58; 1 John 1:1-2
 He forgave sins which is something only God can do.....Mark 2:5-7
 He was all-knowing (omniscient) in that he knew what people were thinking.....Mark 2:8; John 16:30
 He is to be worshiped which is something only reserved for God.....Rev. 5:12-13
 He was unchanging (immutable).....Heb. 13:8
 [Remember or look back at Lesson 2 and compare these same characteristics of God the Father.]

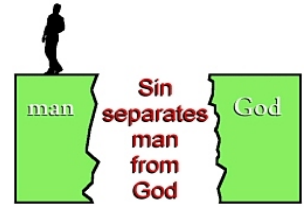
6. According to Hebrews 4:15, how was Jesus unlike any other human being?
 Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

7. In the following passages, underline all the words & phrases that describe who Jesus Christ is.
 Titus 2:13 - "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our 1) great God and 2) Savior Jesus Christ,"
 1 John 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."
 John 1:29 - "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

8. Why is knowing Jesus Christ and what he has done so important according to John 14:6?
John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

III. THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

The last lesson showed that man's sin separates him from God. Isaiah 59:2 states, "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."



1. According to the following passages, what did Jesus Christ do for mankind's sins?

Romans 5:6 - "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

Romans 5:8 - "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. Identify the two characteristics of God in the following verses concerning God's motivation for sending Christ to die for mankind:

Romans 5:8 - "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

1 Peter 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

3. Why did Jesus have to die for mankind's sins according to Hebrews 9:22, 26?

Hebrews 9:22 - "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

Hebrews 9:26 - "for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

4. Read the following passages, and describe what Jesus' death accomplished:

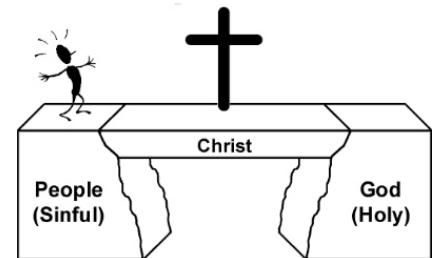
1 Peter 3:18 - "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."

Romans 5:10 - "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

1 Peter 2:24 - "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Galatians 1:4 - "...who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."



5. After Christ died and was buried, He arose from the dead (read John 19-20). Why is it important that Christ rose from the dead according to 1 Corinthians 15:17?

1 Corinthians 15:17 - "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

6. According to Romans 1:4, how was Jesus declared to be the Son of God?

Romans 1:4 - "and was declared to be the Son of God...by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ.."

IV. WHAT MUST MAN DO TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS?

Because of our sin, we deserve to die, bear God's wrath, and be separated from Him for all eternity. But, God made a way through Jesus Christ that mankind might be reconciled to Him. When some people are confronted with these truths, they realize they have been wrong about what they have believed or how they have lived. They are convicted in their hearts just like the people in Acts 2:37. "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?""



1. What is the first thing you must do, according to Acts 3:19, in order to be forgiven of your sins?
Acts 3:19 - "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out."

2. What was the difference between the Pharisee's and the Tax Collector's response to God in Luke 18:9-14?

Luke 18:13 - "*But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*"

3. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 - "*As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For a) godly grief produces a repentance b) that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*"

a. What does godly grief over sin produce (v. 10)? _____

b. What does it lead to (v. 10)? _____

4. In your own words, explain what you think it means for your own life to "repent"?

"REPENTANCE CAN BE DEFINED AS A COMPLETE CHANGE REGARDING YOUR SIN. YOU MUST ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER, A REBEL AGAINST A HOLY AND LOVING GOD. THERE MUST BE A CHANGE OF HEART - GENUINE SORROW AND SHAME AT THE FILTHINESS OF YOUR SIN. THEN YOU MUST BE WILLING TO FORSAKE IT AND CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE. GOD'S WORD CHALLENGES PEOPLE "THAT THEY SHOULD REPENT AND TURN TO GOD, PERFORMING DEEDS IN KEEPING WITH THEIR REPENTANCE" (ACTS 26:20). YOU MUST DO THIS BECAUSE GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE ANY SIN YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO FORSAKE. TO REPENT IS TURNING TO GOD'S DIRECTION, AND SEEKING WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT PLEASURES GOD." [QUOTE ADAPTED FROM JOHN BLANCHARD]

5. What must you do next according to the following passages:

John 3:16 - "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*"

Romans 10:9-10 - "*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*"

6. In your own words, explain what you think it means for your own life to "trust in Jesus Christ"?

"TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST MEANS ACCEPTING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. IT'S BELIEVING CHRIST IS ABLE AND WILLING TO SAVE YOU. FINALLY, IT IS PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN CHRIST BY RELYING ON HIM AND HIM ALONE TO MAKE YOU RIGHT WITH GOD. YOU MUST STOP TRUSTING IN ANYTHING ELSE AND TRUST ONLY IN CHRIST, WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE COMPLETELY THOSE WHO COME TO GOD THROUGH HIM." [QUOTE ADAPTED FROM JOHN BLANCHARD]

IF GOD HAS SHOWN YOU YOUR NEED, AND GIVEN YOU A DESIRE TO TURN TO CHRIST, THEN DO IT NOW! CALL OUT TO GOD RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE AT. CONFESS THAT YOU ARE GUILTY, LOST AND HELPLESS SINNER, AND WITH ALL YOUR HEART ASK CHRIST TO SAVE YOU, AND TO TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE, ENABLING YOU TO TURN FROM SIN AND TO LIVE FOR HIM.