

## LESSON THREE: UNDERSTANDING OUR SINFULNESS AND OUR NEED OF A SAVIOR

- A. The Scope of Sin - Romans 5:12 - "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
1. Tells us of our sin nature; the corruptness of our heart; the condition of being morally bad and even perverted; the fact of being spiritually dead; by nature disobedient .....alienated from God..children of wrath...blinded enemies of truth...natural and foolish; our ways lead only to death (Prov. 14:12); within us is nothing good (Rom. 7:18); our hearts are only deceitful (Jer. 17:9); we have no righteousness (Rom. 3:10); what we do is no good (Rom. 3:11); and this sin principle is in every human being who is born.
  2. Man's sinfulness is universal. When Adam sinned, that sin nature was inherited by us all from Adam.

\*We don't become sinners by our sinning, but we sin because we have a sin nature producing within us corruptness that wants to sin.

3. In and of ourselves there is no way to overcome the sin nature. This is why Paul says in Romans 7:19-21, 23-24 - "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (23-24) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

### B. The Character of Sin

1. Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Sin causes us to come up short with God and His will. God's bar of acceptance and approval is perfection.
2. No person has the ability to please God or to live up to His standard of perfect righteousness. And remember-nothing less will do; only perfect righteousness can meet God's standard.

\*This is why we sinners "come short of the glory of God." The glory of God is His brightness of His absolute perfection in Who He is, and what He requires of us to be in a relationship with Him. On our own that's impossible and our miserable failure proves this!

### C. The Consequence of Sin

1. Sin brings death: Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin *is* death.." James 1:15 - "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."
  - a. Physical death - This is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body. Our soul-spirit never ceases since they live forever.

Hebrews 9:27 - "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

- b. Spiritual death - This is separation from spiritual life, blessings, and relationship with God. Being dead spiritually, our spirit doesn't respond to the things of God.

I Corinthians 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Ephesians 4:18 - "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

\*Our spirit is totally unable to produce anything that's receptive to God or pleasing to God. Jesus said: Mark 7:21-23 - "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

- c. Second death - Revelation 20:14 - "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

This death is the final separation of the lost (body, soul, spirit) from God forever in the lake of fire! This death is final, irreversible, and eternal. It is for all who reject in unbelief God's grace, Son, and His gospel today.

#### D. The Remedy for our Sin?

1. Paul says: Romans 5:15 - "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."

Yes, there's sin and death (and not by God's choosing) but Paul says God has given those who will believe in Christ the gift of abounding grace!

2. Paul says: Romans 5:16 - "And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification."

Adam's sin inherited by us leads to our condemnation but God's gift of grace leads us to justification (being right with God).

3. Paul says: Romans 5:17 - "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"

Adam's sin and death passed upon us all, but we who receive the gift of God's grace also receive the gift of righteousness and life!

Five times the term gift or free gift is offered to those who simply believe-receive it.

God doesn't ask for a single work from us! God has made salvation accessible only by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ (S.D.B.R.).

4. Paul says: Romans 5:18-19 - "Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

If one stays in Adam's sin he will experience sin's consequences. But those who believe in Christ are made righteous...accepted by God.

5. Paul says: Romans 5:20 - "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"

God gave the law to show man his sinfulness under His spotlight. But also God's grace has gone beyond the saved one's sin. Grace super abounded! Grace began a secret but is totally revealed through Paul.

\*So today, we are saved by grace through faith plus nothing. If anyone will put their trust in Christ, God's grace through Christ's work is greater than all our sins!

6. Paul says: Romans 5:21 - "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Sin in former time periods reigned unto death, ruled over men. But now today, God's righteousness received by grace through faith, is fully revealed. Grace has taken the throne giving us eternal life.

## LESSON FOUR: SALVATION

- A. Salvation is so important because it is what delivers us from our sinfulness, our lost-dead spiritual condition.

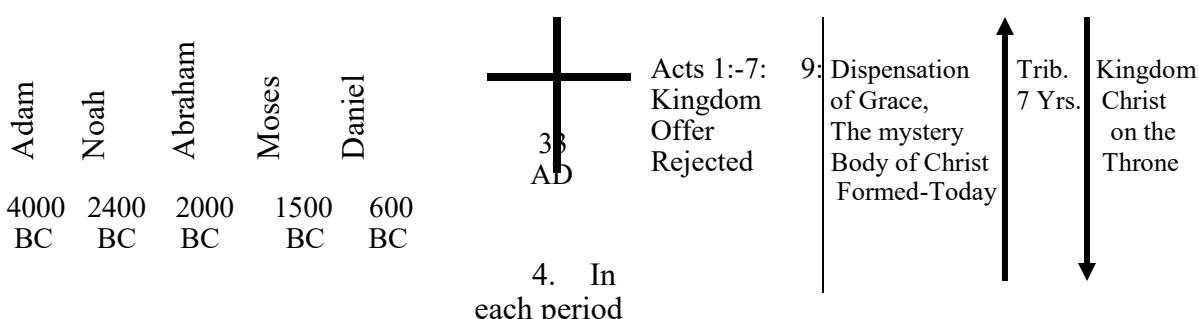
The word salvation means: to deliver, to preserve, or to save. Context always determines its meaning. It could mean deliverance from the enemy, from your problems, and of course salvation from sin.

- B. We should always look at salvation dispensationally. Though God has always made known His intentions to deliver believers, God has progressively and dispensationally revealed how He will save.
  1. For example, what man was to believe was determined by God's revelation of truth at that particular time.

2. Adam had less revelation than Noah; Noah had less revelation than Abraham; Abraham had less revelation than Moses; Moses had less revelation than the prophets; prophets had less revelation than John the Baptist; John had less revelation than the 12 apostles; the 12 had less revelation than Paul!
3. You can trace these periods of time:

Dispensation of:

Innocence Gen. 2:8-17,25	Conscience Gen. 3:8-10 Ro. 2:11-15	Human Govern. Gen. 9:6 Ro. 13:1	Promise Gen. 12:1-3 Gen. 22:17-18	Law Ex. 20:1-26 Gal. 3:19	Grace Ro.5:20-21 Eph. 3:1-4	Kingdom Isa.9:6-7 Isa. 2 Isa. 11:1-9
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of time God required certain things: animal sacrifice, faith in the of land, law, keeping commandments, circumcision, water baptism, and faith in what God said.

Example: Romans 15:8 - "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:"

This shows us that the time Christ was here, He only ministered to the Jews and Israel (with a few exceptions).

Matthew 10:5-7 - "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Christ required, since He and Israel were under the law, to keep the commandments and believe that He is the Christ, the Messiah.

5. After Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven, the 12 continued under the Law, offered the Kingdom, and they were to repent, be water baptized, follow the Law, and believe Jesus Christ is the resurrected Son of God, the Messiah.

Acts 2:36-38 - "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 3:13-15, 19-21 - "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. (19-21) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Acts 15:1, 5 - "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. (5) But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses."

6. We know in Acts 7, with the stoning of Stephen, Israel as a nation remained in unbelief of Christ's being Messiah. At this moment in time God set Israel temporarily aside.

Romans 11:25 - "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

7. But God in mercy and grace raised up Saul - Paul with the complete revelation of the gospel of the grace of God. Paul's gospel only requires grace through faith that Jesus Christ is God's Son, He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

\*That alone is enough today to save us from all our sin!

Galatians 1:11-12 - "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:1-4 - "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Galatians 3:22-26 - "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Titus 2:11 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

C. What are we saved from?

\*God's salvation today in this dispensation means: to be saved from sin...from sin's penalty...God's judgment; saved from sin's power (now we can live for the Lord); and one day saved from the presence of sin (we will be in glory!)

1. Saved from sin's penalty - This happens the moment we trust Christ as Savior. Sin's penalty is condemnation, death, and eventually the second death in the lake of fire. All true believers are saved from this penalty!

Revelation 20:15 - "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."      But us:

Colossians 1:14 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:"

2. Saved from sin's power - The old nature is still with us, but we now also have God the Holy Spirit living within us. We have the ability now through the Spirit's presence to break sin's power from controlling us!

Romans 6:14 - "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Galatians 5:16 - "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

3. Saved from sin's presence one day - This is when we receive our new glorified, resurrected or transformed bodies to dwell forever in God's presence.

Romans 8:21 - "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

Philippians 3:20-21 - "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

D. These teach us the tenses of salvation:

1. Past - we have been saved - we have been Justified
2. Present - we are being saved - we are being Sanctified
3. Future - we will be saved - we will be Glorified

\*The source of our salvation is grace. Romans 3:24 - "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;"

\*The ground of our salvation is blood-death. Ephesians 1:7 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"    Hebrews 9:22 - "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

\*The means of our salvation is faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Romans 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"    Romans 3:27 - "Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."    Romans 4:5 - "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

\*The message of our salvation is Christ's D.B.R.!    I Corinthians 15:1-3 - "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"