



Preaching God's Grace, Teaching God's Truth

DISCIPLESHIP I

Lesson 1

Salvation

***"We have suffered from the preaching of cheap grace. Grace is free,
but it is not cheap. People will take anything that is free,
but they are not interested in discipleship.
They will take Christ as Savior but not as Lord."***

- Vance Havner

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BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

Introduction

Throughout history, God has given every individual a chance to receive his eternal plan of salvation. Sadly, most people have rejected it and will suffer the punishment for their sins.

Thus, receiving Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Saviour is the most significant decision you could ever make during your lifetime. Instead of being destined to hell, you will now spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living a life of vanity, now you have a reason to live with eternal results. Jesus has filled the emptiness within.

The devil also knows of your new life in Jesus Christ. His desire for you to reject God's salvation is no longer in effect. However, he now will exert every effort to keep you from growing close to God and fulfilling God's plan for your life.

These discipleship lessons are designed to help you begin your new life in Jesus Christ. They are to help you understand what your relationship to God is, how to communicate with him, how to apply basic Bible principles to your life, and how your life can be an influential witness and testimony of God's grace.

Whether you just got saved or have been a Christian for years, understanding these principles will help you establish a solid foundation in your life whereby you can learn to enjoy a victorious life in Jesus.

Our sincere prayer for you is that these lessons might help you grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON 1: SALVATION

“What Happened When I Got Saved and What is My New Relationship to God?”

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour is the greatest decision you could ever make. However, it is very unlikely you fully understood the true significance of what happened in your life.

The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what took place and how your decision has affected your basic relationship to God.

I. There are only two spiritual families in the world.

A) The devil's family

1. John 8:44 speaks of a group of people who are *“of your father the devil.”* – See also John 8:38
2. You enter this family by birth through your physical family, who are ultimately descendants of Adam. Genesis 5:3 shows that the descendants of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness which is that of a fallen sinner.
3. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam (the first man on earth). Romans 5:12 states, *“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*
4. Romans 5:12 also states that as a result of sin you were sentenced to die.
 - a. Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death...”*
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:22 – *“...in Adam all die...”*

B) God's family

1. John 1:12-13 says, ***“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”***

“But as many as received Him,”

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour.

“To them gave he power to become the sons of God,”

Our entrance into God's family.

“Even to them that believe on his name:”

A biblical belief marked by faith repentance.

“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,”

It is not a physical birth...

“But of God.”

...It is a spiritual birth.

2. You also enter God's family by birth; but it is a spiritual birth by your Heavenly Father, whereas your birth in the devil's family happened at your physical birth. John 3:3 states, *“...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

3. This new birth puts you into God's family in exactly the same way that your physical birth puts you into your father's family. You are now a son of God by birth.

4. As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God's divine nature and now you have eternal life.

- a. John 6:47 – “***...He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.***” (present tense)
- b. John 3:36 – “***He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...***” (present tense)
- c. 1 John 5:12 – “***He that hath the Son hath life...***” (present tense)
- d. 1 John 5:12 – “***...that ye may know that ye have eternal life...***” (present tense)

II. Being in God's family separates you from the devil's family.

- A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you. See 1 Corinthians 6:19
- B. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 commands you as a believer to maintain a difference between yourself and the lost world.
- C. Your new life is perfectly summarized in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, “***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...***”

III. You now have a new family relationship with God, which makes you a member of his family.

- A. He is your Heavenly Father and you are his child. 1 John 2:1 says, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”
- B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner, but as his child.

C. This relationship now between you and God is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child.

- 1. A good father loves and cares for his child. 1 Peter 5:6-7**
- 2. A good father protects his child. Matthew 18:6**
- 3. A good father provides for his child. Philippians 4:19**
- 4. A good father guides and teaches his child. John 14:26**
- 5. A good father helps his child. Psalm 46:1**
- 6. A good father will not discourage his child. Colossians 3:21**
- 7. A good father disciplines his child. Hebrews 12:5-11**
- 8. A good father feeds his child. Matthew 4:4**
- 9. A good father has a plan for his child. Romans 8:28-29**

D. *A good father will NEVER do anything to purposely hurt his child. He will only do those things which will help in the growth and maturing process of his son or daughter. Your Heavenly Father operates in the same way - only his ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes err, God never makes mistakes in his dealings with his children.

Matthew 7:11 "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

IV. You did not lose your physical nature at the time of your spiritual birth.

- 1. That is obvious because you are still alive!**

2. You now have two natures.

A. Old nature – physical, sinful, in Adam's image.

B. New nature – spiritual, perfect, in God's image.

3. Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one you feed the most.

A. Colossians 3:5-10

B. 2 Corinthians 4:14-18

V. Basic Questions.

A. Will I sin after I am saved?

Yes, you still have your old sin nature. Romans 7:25

B. How does my sin affect my relationship with my Heavenly Father?

God does not kick you out of his family. When you sin, he lovingly disciplines you as a child. Hebrews 12:5-11

C. What should I do when I sin?

1. Confess the sin and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you. 1 John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13

2. Repent from the sin (turn away from it) and ask God to give you a hatred for that sin so you can avenge all disobedience by doing what is right. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Lesson 1- Salvation

1. Who are the two spiritual fathers mentioned in **John 8:38**?
Give a scripture reference to support both answers.
 - A.
 - B.
2. How does an individual enter into God's family?
3. Why are people sentenced to die after their physical (or first) birth?
4. List three verses that promise you eternal life.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
5. Write two reasons how a Christian is different from a non-Christian.
 - A.
 - B.
6. God now deals with you as his _____ rather than a _____.

7. Your new relationship with God can be seen through the earthly father and child relationship. List nine ways God deals with you as his child.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

8. Briefly explain the two natures you now possess.

a.

b.

9. What would be the reason for one nature to overpower the other nature?

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 5:12; John 3:3; 1 John 1:9

Note: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. All mankind is part of one large family of God.
2. All mankind must earn their own way to heaven.
3. All mankind can get to heaven through any way they choose.
4. If there is such a thing as sin, it must be confessed to another person or church leader.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these teachings are false and the reason why.

Ephesians 6:10, 11

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Today's Date: _____

