



Online Bible Study Course

Presented by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana

Lesson 2: God's Plan for Saving Man

Man is lost in sin and cannot save himself by himself (Jeremiah 10:23). Therefore, God has made salvation available to all men (Titus 2:11). Men teach many conflicting ideas about salvation, but God's plan for saving man is simple and clearly revealed in the New Testament.

Why We Need a Plan

Because man is a sinner. "For _____ have _____ and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). John said, "...sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Sins are not inherited, but are committed as we violate God's laws.

Because sins leads to death. "For the wages of sin is _____..." (Romans 6:23). The death here is spiritual, that is, eternally separated from God in hell. To avoid this death, our sins must be forgiven by God.

Because goodness alone does not save. Man has to obey the Lord to be saved. Goodness alone did not save Cornelius. From Acts 10:2, list four things which show Cornelius was a good moral man:

We know that Cornelius was not a saved man for he had to hear "_____ whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:14). Only Christ saves, not morality alone.

Because man must do what the Lord commands. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that _____ him" (Hebrews 5:9). Man, being a free moral agent, has the right to choose to obey the Lord and be saved, or to reject what the Lord said and be "... _____ with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

The Divine Side in Salvation

There are some things that God has already done for us to make salvation available to all. Let's look at a few of these.

God sent His Son. “For God so loved the world, that he _____ his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

God bestowed His grace. “For by _____ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus shed His blood. “In whom we have redemption through his _____, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7). “For the Son of man is come to seek and to _____ that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

The Holy Spirit revealed God’s will to man. “How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words; whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now _____ unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...” (Ephesians 3:3-6). This revelation is the gospel. “For I am not ashamed of the _____ of Christ: for it is the power of God unto _____...” (Romans 1:16). This is how the Spirit works today, not by miraculous intervention.

God has done His part and requires that man do his part to complete the process of salvation.

The Human Side in Salvation

Hear the gospel. “...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; _____ ye him” (Matthew 17:5). Romans 10:17 teaches us that hearing the word will produce _____. Faith is not zapped into your heart mysteriously.

Faith in Christ. “...for if ye _____ not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24). Some teach that man is saved by faith alone, but the New Testament does not teach that faith or anything else by itself will save us. James said, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and _____ by faith only” (James 2:24). The faith that saves is the type of faith like Noah and Abraham had. Faith that saves is one which leads to obedience.

Repentance of sins. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to _____” (Acts 17:30). An example of repentance is found in Matthew 21:28-31. What did the boy do when he repented? _____
We must change from the things of the world (sin) to the things of Christ (righteousness). This is not perfection, but a sincere desire of our will to live right.

The confession. “Whosoever therefore shall _____ before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32). “That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9-10). There is an example of the confession being made in Acts 8:36-38. He did not confess his sins. What did he confess?

Baptism. “He that believeth and is _____ shall be _____” (Mark 16:16). Peter said, “The like figure whereunto even _____ doth also now _____ us...” (1 Peter 3:21). The purpose of baptism is to _____ away sin (Acts 22:16); or _____ the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). This is why a person should want to be baptized. Baptism is not just “an outward sign of an inward grace,” but is an act of obedience required of God by God in order to become a Christian. Baptism is a burial, or immersion in water, not a pouring or sprinkling. The word “baptism” itself means immersion. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were _____ into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are _____ with him by baptism into death...” (Romans 6:3-4). Notice in Acts 8:36-39 that they came unto water, went down into the water, the baptism took place, and then they came up out of the water. Here is a vivid description of immersion. It is at this point that the blood of Jesus washes away a man’s sins and we get into Christ (Galatians 3:27). You can clearly see that baptism is essential to salvation.

Be faithful. After one has obeyed the gospel, he then is added to the _____ (Acts 2:47). As a Christian and member of the Lord’s church, one must remain faithful in worshipping God, purity of life, and working for the Lord. Jesus said, “...be thou _____ unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). Many Christians are not faithful. They sin and slip back into the world. Their condition is described in Galatians 5:4 as “... _____ from grace,” for they did not continue to obey the Lord (Colossians 1:23). When a Christian does sin (and they do), God requires that he repent, confess his sin, and pray to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:13-22; 1 John 1:9). We all make mistakes. When we sin publicly, we need to make public confession. Private sins can be taken care of privately between God and ourselves.

This is not our plan, but rather God’s plan for all mankind. Since salvation belongeth unto the Lord (Psalm 3:8), we have no right to change the plan He gave to save us. We need to simply believe and obey it today.