

Discipleship 101 Chapter 04 Salvation 2

Salvation – a step closer to God

Opening prayer and insights through last week.

Romans 5:7, 8 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I have been told that some old cultures had a 'substitution' rule. If a man was caught and sentenced for something, his father or relative could offer to take his sentence for him. We were condemned as mankind for our corrupt state, not just a few things we did wrong. Jesus, not being a mortal man, was the only one who could pay for all of mankind – he is immortal. Comment on this concept.

John 19:30 When he received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished". With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

In his final moments on the cross, what was finished in his death?

John 6:44-46 (Jesus) No one comes to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God'. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

"To the measure you believe you will receive", and "according to your faith it will be done for you", are themes taught. Comment on this and above passage.

Matthew 5:3-10 (Jesus) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus gave a formula to those wanting God but didn't know where to look. He gave directions. Comment on this.

It would be good to stop and have someone to lead in prayer for God to help us change our attitudes because this is what keeps us from drawing closer to God.

John 6:35 (memory) Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

With Jesus' resurrection comes new hope and new life poured into us through the Holy Spirit. He now directs the work of the Holy Spirit through his people from the right hand of the Father in heaven. Comment on the above.

Romans 3:19,20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin.

Proverbs 2:1-11 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you will call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Some people have not had good fathers, but would you like someone who cared for you to be watching over you and guiding you through life? When I first told someone I was 'saved', they asked, 'from what?' After a few moments thought, I answered, 'from myself'. I was my own worst enemy in decisions in life. Discuss this and the passage above.

Romans 6:23 (memory) for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:21-25 So I find this law at work: when I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law, but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Do you find a struggle going on in your life? Comment on this.

Romans 3:21-24 But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

The work of God's Spirit in your life is to strengthen your faith in him as you believe. The more you believe and accept his work in your life, the closer you draw to him.

Consider what you should pray in this regard. What blockages to believe do you have?