

NOTES

The only thing that can threaten our Spiritual Life (Law/Sin) has been taken away, once and for all, through the cross of Christ. Therefore, once Spiritual Life has been established (salvation), it can never be broken again! PTL!

Heb.13:5. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."



Grace Community Chapel
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Sunday's 10:30 am
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SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



101

The ABC's for every new believer

Lesson # 4

What Is The GOSPEL?

"How is anyone saved?"

The Gospel starts in Gen 2:16-17 when God established a law and a consequence for violating that law.

Gen.2:16-17 But the LORD God warned him (*Adam*), "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **If you eat its fruit, you are sure to _____.**"

Right from the beginning, we see the power of Law and Sin in the lives of mankind. This is critical to understanding the provision of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lesson #3 addressed the work of Christ on the cross:

2Cor.5:20-21 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making **his appeal** (*Present Tns, Middle Vc, Indicative Md*) through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us (=reconciliation(a)-removal of the obstacles),** so that in him **we might become** the **righteousness of God.** (=b)-ultimate goal of reconciliation)

The cross was a critical part of the gospel of salvation. Although the cross alone does not bring about salvation, it makes it possible for all to attain the gift (provision) of salvation through faith.

PROBLEM: Rom.3:10 "There is no one righteous, not even _____"

Many religions and self-proclaimed theologians will offer ineffectual ways for us to become righteous...

***Good deeds: Eph.2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - **not by works** so that no one can boast.

Isa. 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous acts** are like filthy rags...

***Keep the Commandments: Gal. 2:16** Know that a man is **not justified by observing the law**, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified

by faith in Christ and **not by observing the law**, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Christ died on the cross _____ us...
***So He could offer His resurrected life _____ us**
So He could live _____ us
For the purpose of living _____ us.

So how did we (mankind) end up with such a need (for spiritual life) in the first place?

What in the world happened?

Gen. 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.**"

There was only _____ Law commanded.
There was only _____ consequence given.

What was the consequence of Adam's sin to all of mankind?

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and **death came through sin**, and so **death** spread to **all** because **all have sinned--**

Rom. 6:23a For the wages of sin is **death**...

DEATH = _____
Spiritual DEATH = _____ separation

What is the greatest need of one who is dead?

Rom. 6:23b ...but the **free gift** of God is eternal **life in Christ Jesus** our Lord.

Does God present this provision of "Life" as something which we have to earn or work towards? Yes or No

Q:How does God present this provision of Life?

A:(As a _____) ...that is "Good News"!

HOW IS ANYONE SAVED?

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, **shall we be saved through his _____!**
(**Life=** (Gk:Zoe)- the absolute fullness of life)

*However, before His resurrected life (which provides the only source of righteousness) can live IN us, we first must be cleansed and ready to receive the holiness of His indwelling life. That is not a work which **we** accomplish. This cleansing work can and must be done, only by the work of Christ on the cross.*

Jn 10:9-10 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. Wherever they go, they will find green pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.

My purpose is to give _____ in all its fullness.

Jn 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures because **you believe they give you eternal life. But** the Scriptures point to **me!** Yet you refuse to come to **me** so that **I can give you this eternal life.**

The Gospel (Good News) is clearly understanding that the one thing that we desperately need (Spiritual Life) is provided and offered to all who choose to accept/receive it by faith.

How do we find this Life?

Jn. 14:6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the** way, *I am* the truth, and *I am* the _____. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Is Jesus really the only solution (provision/ salvation) to our spiritual death?

Jn. 14:6b "... **No one comes to the Father except through me.**"

1Jn. 5:11-12 "And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Acts 4:11:12 Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." **Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**"

What do I have to do to get the Son...Spiritual Life??

Jn 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God

The Gospel of Salvation is an offer to be accepted or rejected. It is not only a mental assent to facts. The proper response to the Gospel offer is not one of, "I understand".

The proper response to the Gospel should be, "***Yes, I accept / receive His offer of Life***"

The only "righteous" standing we can have before God is the righteousness of Christ. Only when Christ's life dwells within us, by accepting/receiving Him, is His righteousness imputed to us. From that moment on, God sees us as clothed/ covered with the righteousness of Christ, His Son.

It doesn't get any better than that!- That's GOOD NEWS!

How can I receive His gift of Life?

It's a simple act of faith, accepting God's precious GIFT of LIFE through His Son, Jesus Christ. Simply agree with God that you are spiritually dead and in need of Spiritual Life. Then agree with God that there is nothing you can

ever DO on your own to attain Spiritual Life. This puts you in a desperate need for a Savior. This is where God meets your need, once for all. By receiving Him, He will come live in you, bringing with Him, Spiritual, eternal life for you. (w/ promise Heb.13:5)

A simple prayer thanking God for His provision & receiving His gift provided for you is all it takes for Him to come live within you and import His "Righteousness" to you.

SPIRITUALLY DEAD

Eph.2:1-3 **Once you were dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins. **You used to live in sin** (*unbelief*), just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. **He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. **By our very nature** (*lost, disconnected*) **we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.**

1Cor.2:14 **The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God** but considers them **foolishness**, and **cannot understand them** because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

SPIRITUALLY ALIVE

Eph.2:4-9 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us (*provided for us*) life when he raised Christ from the dead. **It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!** 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because **we are united with Christ Jesus.** 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

SPIRITUALLY DEAD



Rom.8:9b ...And if anyone **does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.**

SPIRITUALLY ALIVE



Rom.8:16 **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

1Cor. 2:9-12 “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” 10 But it was to us (*believers*) that God revealed these things **by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.** 11 No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. 12 **And we have received God’s Spirit** (not the world’s spirit), **so we can know** the wonderful things God has freely given us.

Jn 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from _____ into _____."

Can a person know they have Spiritual Life?

Can I have a confident assurance of my salvation?

IF... 1Jn.5:11-12 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life.

THEN... 1Jn. 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

Rom. 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life **set me free from** the law of sin and death.

A BELIEF THAT SAVES...is a package that includes believing in the person and work of Jesus Christ & **receiving the resurrected, saving Life He offers.** (cf.Jn.1:12)

A BELIEF THAT DOES NOT SAVE...is a package that may include any doctrinal or religious beliefs but **fails to include the act of receiving the Life of Christ.** (cf.Rom.8:9)

If you ask the average churchgoing Christian today, “*Considering whats happening in the culture, what do we need to do?*” most will respond, “*Well, we just need to go out and proclaim the gospel.*” But exactly what do they mean by “the gospel”? Many Christians today fail to fully understand the gospel, and therefore are unable to share it effectively. I believe this is due to a foundational problem.

We have generations who don’t understand the Bible’s original plot — the beginning. Therefore, they don’t fully understand the subsequent message of Jesus dying on the Cross and being raised from the dead. They also don’t understand why they need to believe in Christ in order to be saved.

When I’ve asked people in the Church, “*What is the gospel?*” I’ve heard people respond, “*Well, its the good news: Jesus died on the Cross and was raised from the dead.*” And while this is true, you can’t really understand the good news of the gospel unless you first understand the bad news found in Genesis. Many in the Church say we need to go out and “*get people saved.*” But consider this — most people don’t even know they’re lost! So, why would they believe they need to be saved? Saved from what? Saved by whom? Saved for what purpose? You see, unless people realize their need for a Savior, telling them that Jesus “loves them” means very little.

Some of today’s research has revealed that a large percentage of our population does believe they’re “sinners,” but only a small percentage believe what Jesus Christ did to deal with our sin issue. To be honest, most don’t even know what sin actually is. Even within our churches, many Christians can’t accurately define what sin really means.

One of the things I always tried to do as a pastor/teacher was to communicate in such a way that those listening would understand. That’s because I wanted them to “get it.” My prayer is that through the explaining the offer of God’s Life, the salvation offer would be understood and responded to with acceptance.

Jn 1:12 **But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**

