



Lesson 17 Summary

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Note: Scripture quotations are from the King James version of the Bible unless otherwise stated. They are emboldened in a font different from the body of this text rather than being placed within quotation marks.

We have looked at the Bible from the Creation of all things to the establishment of the Church in the book of Acts. In this lesson, let's summarize what we have learned.

First, we saw that man was created by God in His Own image. Then man disobeyed God, resulting in what we call the Fall. From this disobedience man was cut off from communion with God and received a sinful nature. He was deserving only of death and hell.

But in Genesis 3:15 God promised a Redeemer, Who came in the Person of Jesus Christ. He died for our sins, and was raised from the dead. It is because of this divine act of mercy that we can have our sins washed away and receive His Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus referred to by being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5). We are thus born again when we are baptized by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and receive the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. In this way we are born again of Jesus Christ.

Paul referred to Christ in this role as **the last Adam** (1Corinthians 15:45). When we were born naturally of Adam's race, we were born to sin and die. But when we are born again of **the last Adam**, Jesus Christ, we are born of a new divine nature, and born to live forever. This is how Christ has conquered death for us. This is how Christ has reversed the effects of the Fall for them that believe and obey Him.

We have strived to show in our lessons the necessity of complying with what Jesus said in John 3:5. He made an absolute requirement of being born of water and of the Spirit. This is shown in the book of Acts to be water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

All of this began at the most natural time that it should— on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). That was the birthday of the Church. That was the beginning of the Church age, of which we are a part. From there, this same message went into the world. And since we are in the same Church age as was initiated on the Day of Pentecost, the same message that was given to them regarding remission of sins and receiving the Spirit is ours to receive. The true message of salvation has not changed in 2,000 years. They asked on that day, **What shall we do?** (Acts 2:37). If we ask the same question, the reply will be the same. Here's the reply of Peter. **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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call** (Acts 2.38,39).

What should this series of lessons have done for us?

This series of lessons should have sparked interest in us to be sure we are saved. They should have helped give us a desire to have what God has made available for us.

If we have not yet turned to Christ in repentance, we should consider this important part of conversion and fully surrender our lives to Him.

If we have not yet been water baptized in Jesus' name, we should make that a priority, since that is how Christians were baptized in the Bible. It washes away sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

If we have not yet received the Spirit of God with the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues, we should desire it, and ask God for it (Luke 11:13).

Nothing greater can happen to a human being than to have his sins washed away and be filled with God's Spirit. That is being born again and it assures us of the hope of heaven. That is Christian salvation which has been made available to us by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

How can I thank God for all He has done?

Christ has gone to great lengths to provide this wonderful salvation. What can we render to Him in appreciation.

David asked the same question in Psalms 116.

12 What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.

The most Christ-honoring thing we can do is receive the salvation He came to bring us. He went to the cross to take away our sins.

The salvation He offers is based on His very blood and victory over death, hell, and the grave. There is no expression of appreciation greater than obeying Acts 2:38— turning to Him in repentance, being baptized in His glorious name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and being filled with His Holy Spirit. That displays the highest appreciation you can give Him.

If there is anything I can do to further assist you in your walk of faith, please feel free to write.

Sincerely,
Jim Maurer
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