

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 7 - The Truth About Sin & Salvation

The doctrine of salvation varies from one religion to another. In regards to salvation some religions require sacrifice and even the infliction of pain upon a believer in order to become holy in the sight of God. Some extreme religions require adherents to beat themselves with whips or rods to show their devotion to God. Some require pilgrims to crawl on their knees a certain distance in prayer in order to earn righteous points with God. A spiritual scale hangs over the head of the individual, with all of the sins they have committed on one side and all of their righteous deeds on the other. The person never knows whether they have been good enough, or prayed enough, or worked hard enough to earn the righteous points needed to counter their earned sins. But the Christian Bible teaches that man is a sinner and could *never* earn salvation by what he or she does.

SIN - THE PROBLEM

1. What is the Biblical definition for sin? [1 John 3:4] Ans. _____ God's Law.

NOTE: We live in a culture where the concept of sin has become entangled in legalistic arguments over right and wrong. When we "sin," we violate the Ten Commandments. This is the most comprehensive definition of sin in the Scriptures. God did not originate sin, but He did originate a remedy for sin.

2. According to the Apostle Paul, how many have sinned? [Romans 8:22-23] Ans. _____

THE WAGES

3. If all have sinned, then what are the wages? [Romans 6:23] Ans. _____

"The Bible is clear. We have only two choices regarding our sins: either we pay for our sins in the lake of fire, or we accept Christ's payment for them on the cross."

4. From what three things does man need to be saved from?

➤ The _____ of sin. [Romans 6:23]

NOTE: Since "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," all men are sinners. And "the wages of sin is death." [Romans 6:23] This death penalty is not the first death. "In Adam all die," saints and sinners alike. [1 Corinthians 15:22] The wages of sin is the second death. This is the death that is eternal, the penalty we should all seek to escape.

➤ The _____ of sin. [Romans 6:14]

If God pardoned a man for the sins of the past and did not save him from the power of sin, and then

allowed the man to live forever, He would have an everlasting sinner.

➤ The _____ of sin. [Romans 16:20]

This test means that sin and its originator, Satan, shall be put down forever and death shall be "destroyed." [1 Corinthians 15:26] There shall be no more sin or suffering. God saves us from the presence of sin and creates a new world of righteousness for us. [2 Peter 3:13] This is God's final act of salvation.

SALVATION - THE SOLUTION

5. What is the name of the plan that affords man these three things? [Revelation 7:10] Ans.

The plan of _____

NOTE: Salvation was used to describe the deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians [Exodus 14:13] and of deliverance generally from evil or danger. It is mentioned 158 times in the entire Bible, 115 times in the Old Testament and 43 times in the New Testament. When thinking about salvation it's helpful to think about what we are saved from, what we are saved to, who we are saved by. It's also helpful to think about our salvation as a past, present, and future happening. Salvation has an impact on:

- The PAST: "He has saved us," [2 Timothy 1:9]
- The PRESENT: "Being saved" [1 Corinthians 1:18]
- The FUTURE: "We shall be saved" [Romans 5:9]

There are a few things we must understand about salvation:

- It was established long _____ sin entered our world. [Ephesians 3:9; Romans 16:25]

NOTE: Somewhere in eternity there was an agreement between the Godhead. It was decided that if sin ever arose anywhere in the entire universe, the Son of God would go to that place and make a sacrifice for the redemption of that world. This agreement was eternal, it was kept as a secret, hidden. It was not revealed until it was needed.

- It is a _____ [Ephesians 2:8]

Christ has done what is necessary for us to be saved, but that gift is not appropriated apart from faith. This is why the Bible says it is by grace through faith.

- It is only found in _____ [Acts 4:12]

The apostle Peter highlights two important things; 1. The _____ to other religions 2. The _____ to one religion. This eliminates all other religions of persons as of little value.

- Everyone will get the opportunity to _____ it. [Luke 19:9; Hebrews 3:15; Rev. 3:20]

When presenting salvation, the New Testament writers carefully chose words that emphasize grace and freedom. As a result, the Bible could not be clearer, salvation is absolutely free, the true gift of God in Christ and our only responsibility is to receive the gift by faith.

- Everyone will have to _____ for themselves. **[Philippians 2:12]**

Working *out* our salvation is very different from working *for* our salvation.

THE MYTHS

5. What are some of the myths about salvation?

- **Myth #1:** "Once saved _____ saved". **[John 10:28]**

Indeed, no one can snatch them out of Jesus' hand, but they can put themselves outside of Jesus' hand. Every promise of salvation in the scripture has a condition. If we fulfil the conditions the promises are ours.

- **Myth # 2:** "All the world will be _____ and _____." **[Isaiah 60:5]**

Such a view runs counter to the teaching of the Bible.

MANS PART

NOTE: To obtain this free gift man has an important part he must play. Notice the following steps carefully and pray that God will give you grace to move forward:

6. How do we receive salvation? [1 John 1:8-10] Ans. By dealing _____ with God.

'God is light, and in him is no darkness at all:" and consequently he cannot have fellowship with darkness. God is light, that is purity: and as the thrice Holy One he can hold no communion with iniquity. God is light, that is knowledge, for all things are known unto the Lord, and with ignorance he has no affinity. God is light, that is truth, for he can neither err, nor break his word, and therefore he cannot smile on anything that is false. Because he is light, he deals with things in the light, treating them as they are. **[Spurgeon]**

A. _____ of every sin. **[Luke 13:3' Acts 3:19]**

"Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. The lament the suffering rather than the sin." **[Steps to Christ, 23]**

When a man truly repents of sin he will give:

- **No** _____ to SIN. **[Deuteronomy 7:26]**
- **No** _____ to SIN. **[Matthew 12:43-45]**

- No _____ to SIN. [Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5]
- No _____ to SIN. [Matthew 15:26-27]

NOTE: Starve it out. When you are allotting your provision to the body, the soul, the spirit, allot nothing to the depraved **old man**. If he says, "What is for me?" say, "Nothing!" Do not give him a morsel; do not even allow him the crumbs that fall from your table. The fallen nature is greedy, and never has enough; and if you give it some provision it will steal much more.

- No _____ to SIN. [John 14:30]

The very day a Christian turns from sin he must enjoin himself a perpetual fast. [Isaiah 58] The eye must fast from impure glances. The ear must fast from hearing slanders. The tongue must fast from oaths. The hands must fast from stealing. The feet must fast from the path of the forbidden grounds and the soul must fast from the love of wickedness. This turning from sin implies a notable change.

- B. _____ every known sin. [1 John 1:9]
- C. _____ every known sin. [Proverbs 28:13]

Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descending from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God." [The Desire of Ages, 172-173]

- D. Make things _____ with your brother. [Luke 19:8; Ezekiel 33:15-16]

Some people have forgotten about this. Confession includes making things right with our fellow men. If a man has taken something that doesn't belong to him, he must restore it.

7. What four things will every creature ascribe to the Godhead throughout all eternity? [Revelation 5:13] Ans. _____, _____, _____, and _____

One day as a painting crew was working at the top of a lighthouse, an accident occurred that will never be forgotten by those who saw it. Suspended on a scaffold 60 feet above the ground, one of the painters stepped back too far, lost his balance, and hurtled through the air to certain death on the rocks below. The workmen hurried down their ladders to the foot of the lighthouse. You can imagine their shock when they discovered a dazed, but apparently unharmed painter sitting on the ground! Beside him was the broken body of a soft, wooly sheep. Instead of being dead, the man was only stunned. But the sheep was dead. Sin, we learn, is the transgression of God's law, and the penalty for it, is death. Man broke that law, thus coming under the death penalty. This could not be ignored. If man was to get out of the web of sin, something had to be done. That stricken painter represents you and me. The dead sheep portrays Jesus, the Lamb of God, and what He did to save us from death.