



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 1 - SALVATION

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

AN ETERNAL DECISION

The Bible makes it clear that everyone will live forever ... the only question is where that life will be. The answer to that is based on each person's decision about Jesus Christ ... to *believe in Him* or to reject Him. With eternity in the balance, no other decision is as important as each person's decision about Jesus.

THE PROBLEM

Simply stated, our sin separates us from God. We are guilty by association with the human race, i.e., imputed sin. We are afflicted with a natural tendency to sin, i.e., inherited sin nature. And on our own, we do wrong things [personal sin] that separate us from Him. Without God's intervention, we would face an eternity away from Him.

THE SOLUTION

On our own, we are incapable of solving that problem ... but God is capable of solving it. Based on love, God took the initiative. He sent His Son to die on the cross in our place. When we believe in Jesus as our personal Savior, His substitution pays for our sins [redemption] ... satisfies God [propitiation] ... changes us [reconciliation] ... and takes our sin away and gives us His righteousness [imputation]. Then God declares that we are righteous [justification]. This salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone. Salvation is neither achieved by a voluntary or involuntary declaration of some creed nor achieved by the signing of some document. It is by faith and not by any personal effort or personal work. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast,"* Ephesians 2:8-9.

THE RESULT

We are born into God's family when we put our personal faith in Jesus. Our good works do not save us ... they do not produce faith. But good works demonstrates real faith. Good works are a consequence of our salvation rather than a prerequisite for our salvation. As Believers, we have the wonderful privilege of knowing that we have eternal life. We are eternally safe because no one can snatch us out of His hand.

SIN ... THE REALITY, THE RESULT, AND THE REMEDY

The Bible makes clear statements about sin. It states that sin is real in our lives. The result of our sin is very serious ... separating us from God ... and on our own to face an eternity away from His presence. However, God provided a remedy. He offers that remedy to us as a free gift.

THE REALITY OF SIN. Sin is anything that does not conform to the goodness of God. It can be a thought, Matthew 5:27-28 ... a deed committed, John 8:34 ... or a deed omitted, James 4:17. The words for sin in the Bible mean missing the mark, transgressing the Law, rebelling, defiance, disobedience, wickedness, evil, and unrighteousness. Sin can be against others or against ourselves, 1 Corinthians 6:18. Ultimately all sins are against God, Genesis 39:9, Psalm 41:4 & 51:4, & Romans 8:7. Three categories of sin are described in the Bible. The first category is imputed sin described in Romans 5:12-21. It is guilt by association with the human race ... in Adam all sinned. The second is our inherited sin nature referred to in Ephesians 2:3 and Psalm 51:5. That is our natural tendency to sin. That natural tendency brings us unavoidably to the third category, personal sin. Personal sins are those that we commit in thought or deed ... in attitude, action, and inaction.

THE RESULT OF SIN. The reality of sin in our lives is unavoidable. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* Romans 3:23. It is also unavoidable that we must deal with the consequences, or results, of that sin. One result is that we are alienated from God. We are His enemies, Romans 5:10. We are separated from Him. *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,”* Isaiah 59:2. We stand before God guilty, judged, and condemned. On our own without God’s intervention, we stand condemned to an eternity *“away from the presence of the Lord,”* 2 Thessalonians 1:9 ... and condemned to *“disgrace and everlasting contempt,”* Daniel 12:2.

THE REMEDY FOR SIN. Sin and its consequential condemnation and punishment are humanly unavoidable. However, God has provided the remedy for sin in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. *“While we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly,”* Romans 5:6. *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,”* 1 Peter 2:24. *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all,”* 1 Timothy 2:5-6. *“Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins,”* Acts 10:43. Everyone will deal with the sin problem in one of two ways: (1) by eternal separation from God, or (2) by God’s solution received through faith in Jesus Christ.

SALVATION ... SIX PROVISIONS

In His great love, God provided salvation through the death of Jesus to all those who *believe in* Jesus. Salvation has different facets ... directed toward God, directed toward sin, and directed toward man. An understanding of salvation is rooted in these different aspects of His great gift. They are described below.

SUBSTITUTION ... JESUS TOOK MY PLACE. Jesus died on the cross as our substitute. All of salvation is based on this one fact. It is more than His dying for our benefit. He died in our place.

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”
Romans 5:6

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3:18

REDEMPTION ... MY SIN WAS PAID FOR. This is directed toward sin. Redemption is buying or delivering by payment of a price. Redemption is a payment for sin. That payment was made to God. The payment was the blood of Christ. The life, or soul, of the flesh is in the blood, Leviticus 17:11. The payment was His life. Jesus Christ gave His life for our sins ... made the payment for us

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.”
Galatians 3:13

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:18-19

“For You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.” Revelation 5:9-10

PROPIATION ... GOD WAS SATISFIED. This is directed toward God. Propitiation means satisfaction. The Bible states that Christ Himself is the sacrifice that satisfies God ... that appeases or placates God’s wrath. The justice of God had to be satisfied.

“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 2:17

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

SALVATION ... continued

RECONCILIATION ... I WAS AND CAN BE CHANGED. This is a change directed toward man. It makes man acceptable to God. Reconciliation brings the two back into harmony ... makes them compatible again. God did not change. God does not need to change. Man needs to be changed. At the cross, mankind was changed ... made savable. And we are changed individually when we believe. Then we are given the ministry and word of reconciliation ... to share the Gospel with the lost people of our world.

“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Romans 5:10

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

IMPUTATION ... DOUBLE TRANSFER. Upon belief in Christ, all of our sin is transferred to Him ... and all of His righteousness is transferred to us. The sinless Christ became sin on our behalf ... and we, the unrighteous ones, were given His righteousness.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

JUSTIFICATION ... GOD DECLARED ME RIGHTEOUS. Justification is a declaration of righteousness. It is God's pronouncement that we are right in our standing before Him. The cross makes us righteous. Justification declares that we are righteous. As a part of our salvation, we are justified by Christ's work on the cross. After we have been saved, our resultant good works justify us ... they declare our salvation, James 2:24.

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:24

“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

“So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, so even through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:18-19

A REVIEW OF SIN AND SALVATION

SIN

Sin is real in every person's life ... and it produces a serious problem as a result. Each person's inherited sin nature [innate tendency to sin] unavoidably leads to personal sin. Then that personal sin separates him or her from God. Without God's intervention, we would pay the debt for our sin. That debt is an eternal separation from God. However, Jesus paid for our sin by His death on the cross. We are born again when we receive Jesus as our Savior by believing in Him. His payment on the cross becomes our payment for sin at the moment of our belief in Him.

SALVATION

When Jesus died on the cross, His substitution propitiated [satisfied] God for mankind ... and redeemed [paid for] sin for mankind ... and reconciled [changed by making savable] mankind.

However, no individual was, or is, automatically saved by this. All of the above was accomplished on the cross ... but no universal salvation consequentially saved all mankind. Each person must individually be born again through personal faith in Jesus.

When you put your personal faith in Jesus a double imputation is transacted for you in that your sin is imputed [transferred] to Jesus and His righteousness is imputed [transferred] to you. You must take a step of faith [Ephesians 2:8-9]. Your personal faith is necessary ... there is no universal salvation.

Then, through faith, His substitution on the cross ... propitiates [satisfies] God for you ... and redeems [pays for] your personal sin ... and reconciles [changes] you. And therefore, you are justified [declared righteous] by God.

COMPLETELY SURE? Are you completely sure that you are eternally right with God? You may love God, talk to Him, go to His House, and give your time and resources to Him ... but have never put your faith in Him. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven," Matthew 7:21. Jesus went on in Matthew 7 to tell of the man who built his house on the rock. It was the rock, the foundation, that saved the man from the storm. Are you completely sure that your foundation is secure. Jesus is the only rock that will save you for eternity. If you want to settle this for all of eternity, you can do that by saying this simple prayer of belief. If ... if it truly expresses the desire of your heart, I invite you to pray it now.

*Dear God,
I admit my need ... I am a sinner.
I repent ... I turn to You from my sin.
I believe in Jesus ... that being God, He died on the cross for me.
I invite Him to be my Savior. Amen*

If you prayed that prayer just now, please send an email to John, the author of this course, to contact@VirtualBibleAcademy.org so that he can rejoice and pray for you.

If you weren't ready to pray that prayer, please visit www.ReadyForEternity.org for a more thorough explanation and some answers to questions about God and the Bible.

ETERNAL SECURITY

The preponderance of verses. There are many verses in the Bible declaring eternal security. And there are a few verses that, when interpreted incorrectly, seem to contradict eternal security. Remember that all verses are true ... and need to be understood so that none are disregarded. To believe that salvation is non-eternal is to deny the words of Jesus in the verses from John listed immediately below.

The Bible states that salvation is eternal. Salvation is a permanent gift from God. It cannot be lost or given back ... once saved, always saved. Your eternal security is based on God's work, not on your work. You are not holding onto Him in your strength ... He is holding on to you in His strength. No one, not even you, is stronger than God. You are held strongly and securely in His hand for all eternity.

Jesus promised, "*And I give eternal life to them, and they shall **never** perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father ... is greater than all; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand,*" John 10:28-29.

Jesus promised, "*He who hears ... and believes ... **has** eternal life, and **does not** come into judgement but **has passed** out of death into life,*" John 5:24.

Jesus promised, "*All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out,*" John 6:37.

Good works do not save you. No good works can add to His payment for your salvation. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast,*" Ephesians 2:8-9. The good work of holding on to your salvation does not save you. The good work of not letting go of your salvation does not save you. The precious blood of Jesus paid the full price. "*You were not redeemed with perishable things ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ,*" 1 Peter 1:18-19. You were saved by His blood plus nothing you add to it.

Justification is a *declaration* of righteousness. Your changed life declares that you are saved ... but does not save you. "*A man is justified by works, and not by faith alone,*" James 2:24. The world cannot see your faith, but it can see your changed life.

Good works are important. We were "*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them,*" Ephesians 2:10. And your works will be judged by fire, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What remains after the fire, determines rewards. If nothing remains, "*he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved,*" verse 15. Salvation can never be lost ... but rewards can be forfeited.

The three tenses of salvation ... past, present, and future. We *have been* saved from the penalty of sin, Luke 7:50, Ephesians 2:5,8. We *are being* saved from the power of sin, Philippians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 1:18, and 2 Corinthians 2:15. And we *will be* saved from the presence of sin, Romans 5:9-10, 13:11. No believer is lost in these three stages. Actually the opposite is clearly stated ... all who have been saved will ultimately be saved, John 6:39 and Romans 8:30.

God's discipline. Hebrews 12:4-13 describes His discipline of all Believers. However, He does not take back our salvation as part of His discipline. And Hebrews 5:11 - 6:8 explains that the atrophied believer needs to grow in faith rather than be born-again again. Hebrews 6:6 adds that the *stumbler* [the meaning of the Greek translated as *fallen away* in verse 6] does not need saving repentance [having already been saved] because that has been done and would insult the work of Christ as insufficient.

The strong conclusion. Nothing and no-one, "*Shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,*" Romans 8:35-39.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF “BELIEVING IN”

Marriage. I met a beautiful and wonderful young woman ... and fell in love. I truly loved her, talked to her almost every day, read her letters, went to her house often, gave her gifts, and told other people about her. But ... we were not married. Then one day, as we had planned, we stood in front of Reverend Love [his real name] to say our marriage vows. He asked, “Will you take this woman as your lawfully wedded wife?” At that moment in time, I had to make my final decision ... would I believe *in her* and not just *about her*? I said my “I do” and Reverend Love declared us to be husband and wife. In a similar way many people *believe about* Jesus. They love Him, talk to Him, read the Bible, go to the church, give Him their gifts of time and money, and tell others about Him ... but have never said “I do” to Him. They really do *believe about* Jesus ... but they also need to *believe in* Jesus.

Parachutes. I believe *about* parachutes. Strap one on your back and jump out of an airplane and it will carry you to safety. That is easy for me to say since I have never done it. I’ve seen it work many times ... but I have never had to put my faith in one. Imagine standing in the open doorway of a plane that has lost its power and is headed to a sure crash against the mountainside. Stepping out of the plane is the moment when *believing about* parachutes changes to *believing in* parachutes. Staying on the plane and *believing about* parachutes won’t save you from final destruction. In the same way *believing about* Jesus saves no one. You must *believe in* Him to be saved. Stepping out of the airplane with a faulty parachute won’t save you either. In the same way believing in a false god won’t save you. Stepping out of the plane is a step of faith ... it is not a good work that you do. All the saving work is done by the parachute ... it carries you to safety. Believing in Jesus is a step of faith ... then He carries you on through life to eternal safety.

Old Testament Circumcision. This was a Hebrew rite instituted in the Law of the Old Testament. But that rite saved no one spiritually. What was needed then was a circumcision of the heart. Jeremiah 9:25-26 describes people who would be judged and condemned by God as those who were “*circumcised and yet uncircumcised ... uncircumcised of heart.*” And one of the clearest statements in the Bible for the need of a heart commitment to God is Jeremiah 4:4, “*Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your hearts.*” Believing in Jesus is not about rituals and oaths ... it is a heart belief in Him.

Other illustrations. There are other *believing in* illustrations that you can develop for explaining the Gospel such as:

Airplanes ... boarding a plane for your first flight.

Open heart surgery ... trusting a surgeon to cut open your chest and heart.

Medicine ... swallowing some chemical concoction to save your life.

The Congo River ... boarding a boat to travel through the Livingstone Falls Rapids.

Lowari Top [Pass] ... boarding a truck as a passenger from Dir to Chitral, Pakistan.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 1 - Salvation ... pages 12 - 18

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Circle or underline the following things that are or can be sin in your life.

A thought A deed committed A deed omitted An attitude

2. Fill in the blank by number from the 3 numbered choices on the right.

Imputed sin is _____. 1. My natural tendency to sin.

Sin nature is _____. 2. My own sin.

Personal sin is _____. 3. My association with Adam.

3. Before salvation, as a result of sin, you are _____
from God, and _____ from Him, and you individually
stand before God guilty, judged, and _____.

Complete these six statements by filling in the blank by letter from the list on the right.

4. Substitution means _____. a. God declared me righteous.

5. Redemption means _____. b. God was satisfied.

6. Propitiation means _____. c. A double transfer.

7. Reconciliation means _____. d. Jesus took my place.

8. Imputation means _____. e. I was changed.

9. Justification means _____. f. My sin was paid for.

10. According to John 3:16, what do you have as your present possession from the moment when you believed in Jesus Christ? _____ .
11. According to John 5:24, when you believed in Jesus, you have three promises:
- a. You have _____ .
 - b. You do not _____ .
 - c. You have passed out of _____ into _____ .
12. According to John 6:37, _____ % of those that the Father gives to Jesus come to Him, and _____ % are cast out.
13. According to John 10:28-29, _____ can snatch you out of God's hand because God is _____ than all.
14. Therefore, if you believe that you can lose your salvation, you believe that you are _____ enough to snatch yourself out of God's hand.
15. In a few words, explain why James 2:24 does not contradict Ephesians 2:8-9 using 2 Corinthians 13:5 in your answer.

A special and most important question: *Are you totally sure that you have put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you are not sure, if you have any doubt at all, you can put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior now and settle it once for all of eternity. Please visit www.911God.org where you can watch a video or read an explanation of how you can be sure that you are right with God.*

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 1 - Salvation ... questions pages 19 - 20

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

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2. Fill in the blank by number from the 3 numbered choices on the right.

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from God, and separated from Him, and you individually
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Complete these six statements by filling in the blank by letter from the list on the right.

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13. According to John 10:28-29, no-one can snatch you out of God's hand because God is stronger than all.

14. Therefore, if you believe that you can lose your salvation, you believe that you are strong enough to snatch yourself out of God's hand.

15. In a few words, explain why James 2:24 does not contradict Ephesians 2:8-9 using 2 Corinthians 13:5 in your answer.

Justified by works (James 2:24) means that you are declared righteous by good works. Good works do not save anyone ... faith alone in Christ alone saves someone. Salvation produces good works (the 2 Corinthians 13:5 test) but good works do not produce salvation.

A special and most important question: Are you totally sure that you have put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you are not sure, if you have any doubt at all, you can put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior now and settle it once for all of eternity. Please visit www.911God.org where you can watch a video or read an explanation of how you can be sure that you are right with God.