

# Discipleship Series Bible Study

## Lesson 1

# Salvation...*Becoming a Christian*

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).*

This lesson is written under the assumption that you have been *saved* or *born again*. If you have not had this experience then it is our prayer that this lesson will be used to bring you to salvation.

### I. WHAT IS SALVATION?

#### A. Passing from Death to Life

*"...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life..." (John 5:24).*

#### B. Escaping Hell (and the Lake of Fire) and Gaining Heaven

*"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).*

#### C. Turning from a Life Devoted to Serving Self to a Life Devoted to Serving God

*"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38).*

#### D. Adoption into God's Family

*"To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. ..." (Galatians 4:5-6).*

### II. HOW DOES A PERSON GET SAVED?

#### A. By Believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...By which also ye are saved...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).*

#### B. By Repenting

*"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19).*

#### C. By Asking the Lord to Save You

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).*

### III. SCRIPTURAL STEPS TO SALVATION: THINGS YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND

#### A. Ye Must Be Born Again

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit..." (John 3:3-7).*

#### B. Jesus is the Only Way

*"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).*

1. Recognize your sinful nature

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

2. Recognize the "wages of sin"

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*

3. Salvation is by grace

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...” (Ephesians 2:8–9).*

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” (Titus 3:5).*

4. Salvation is through the blood of Jesus

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...” (Ephesians 1:7).*

5. Accept salvation on faith

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

6. The condition of repentance (turning away from sin)

*“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19).*

7. Ask God to save you based on Jesus’ atoning death on the cross

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9–10).*

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).*

8. If you understand what you have been studying and realize that you have never truly made a commitment to God of this nature, and if you want to trust Christ now, you should do so by praying a simple prayer such as the following one:

*Dear God,*

*I realize now that I am a sinner headed for eternity in hell. I know that because Jesus paid for my sins on Calvary’s cross, I can be forgiven and have peace with You. I now renounce my life of serving sin and self and ask You to grant me the gift of eternal life. I thank You that You have said whosoever will may come and that includes me. I thank You for saving me based solely on what Jesus did on the cross,*

*In Jesus’ Name,*

*Amen*

#### **IV. WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN I GOT SAVED?**

##### **A. You Became a “New Creature” and a “New Man”**

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

##### **B. You Received New Desires**

*“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalms 37:4).*

##### **C. You Received New Purpose and Goals**

*“Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23).*

##### **D. Your Sins were Washed Away by the Blood of Jesus Christ**

*“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Revelation 1:5).*

##### **E. You Were Justified in the Eyes of God.**

- You may prefer to state it like this: “I was made ‘just as if I’d’ never sinned.”

*“...Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Romans 5:8–9).*

## **V. GOD GETS ME, WHAT DO I GET?**

### **A. Everlasting Life**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life...” (John 5:24).*

### **B. Peace with God**

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).*

### **C. A Life with Purpose and Meaning**

*“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).*

### **D. A Concerned and Loving Father**

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).*

### **E. Forgiveness for All Past Sins and also for All Future Sins**

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

### **F. The Ministry of the Holy Ghost**

*“...the Holy Ghost...he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26). See also John 14:16–17.*

### **G. A New Body for Eternity**

*“So also is the resurrection of the dead...it is raised in incorruption: . . .it is raised a spiritual body...” (1 Corinthians 15:42, 44).*

### **H. Access to the Throne of God’s Grace through Prayer**

*“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15–16).*

### **I. Grace to Live Day-by-Day**

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).*

## **VI. WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM ME NOW?**

- Meditate on the following verses.
- Let God speak to you through the ministry of the Holy Ghost.

*“...Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:11–14).*

*“This is a faithful saying...that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works...” (Titus 3:8).*

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:19–20).*