



Bible Doctrine II

International Alpha Bible Course
by Ralph Vincent Reynolds

BIBLE DOCTRINE

Part II

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INTERNATIONAL ALPHA BIBLE COURSE

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THE ANGELS

A. THERE IS AN INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS

1. Angels are created beings.

Scriptural Reference:

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:16).

The Bible clearly teaches the existence of angels. They are the ambassadors of God and belong to His heavenly court and service. They are multiple in number, and their will is to give God perfect service. They have the advantage over man in that they are the heavenly hosts and are God’s ambassadors. However, when man is born again he is raised above them, enjoys their ministry, and will finally judge them.

It must be noted that angels are created beings. They are not the spirits of the departed nor are they glorified human beings.

2. Angels are spiritual beings.

Scriptural References:

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14).

“Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire” (Psalm 104:4).

Angels are said to be ministering spirits. Although they have been known to appear in visible forms, yet they are spirits. Angels do not have wings with feathers on them as depicted by many artists. This is of Roman Catholic origin. Evidently there is no gender

among the angels, although when referred to in Scripture, the masculine form is used. Study the following references: Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26; John 20:12.

“For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30).

“Neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels” (Luke 20:35-36).

These Scriptures state very clearly that angels neither marry nor die.

3. There is an innumerable number of angels.

Scriptural Reference:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels” (Hebrews 12:22).

The multitude of angels is beyond number. In II Kings 6:17, the mountain around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. Jesus said that He could have called twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).

B. ANGELS HAVE GREAT POWER AND ARE OF VARIOUS ORDERS

1. There are various orders of power and authority among the angels.

Not all angels have the same power and authority, but there seems to be various orders and rank among them. We see this as we study the following:

- (a) Archangels: Michael Daniel 10:13; Jude 9
Gabriel Daniel 8:16
- (b) Cherubim: Genesis 3:24
- (c) Seraphim: Isaiah 6:2

2. Angels have great power

Scriptural References:

“Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord” (II Peter 2:11).

“Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word” (Psalm 103:20).

One angel rolled back the stone from the sepulcher.
One angel smote 185,000 Assyrians (Isaiah 37:36).
One angel has power to lay hold of Satan and bind him for one thousand years (Revelation 2:2-10).

Although angels are mighty, they are not almighty. Their power is delegated. They are the angels of power (II Thessalonians 1:71).

C. ANGELS HAVE AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY

1. Angels had a place in the ministry of Jesus Christ

The coming of the Christ Child was announced to both the virgin Mary and Joseph by angels (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-27). Angels were present at His birth, His resurrection, and His ascension, and will accompany Him at His return in glory (Matthew 24:31). There were also angelic appearances at the temptation in the wilderness and in Gethsemane.

2. Angels have a place in the ministry of the church

Scriptural References:

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” (Psalm 34:7).

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways” (Psalm 91:11).

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:10).

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14).

Note their ministry stated in the above Scriptures:

- a. Encamp around about them who fear the Lord
- b. Charge over them to bear them up
- c. Rejoice when a sinner repents
- d. Minister to the heirs of salvation

3. Angels do not preach the gospel

An angel instructed Cornelius where to go to find a preacher who would speak to him (Acts 10:30-32). The angel gave instructions where he could find a preacher, but the angel did not preach the gospel to Cornelius. This was left for Peter to do.

Angels have never been commissioned to preach the gospel. They are not sinners saved by grace; they have never been washed in the blood of Jesus, baptized in His name, or filled with His Spirit. Only those who have been partakers of the redemption brought to fallen man by the cross of Calvary may tell of His love revealed there. Angels are keenly interested. They watch over our dealing with the unsaved. However, they can never have the privilege of preaching the gospel.

D. THERE ARE FALLEN ANGELS FOR WHOM HELL HAS BEEN PREPARED

Scriptural References:

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (II Peter 2:4).

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains unto darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6).

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

The Bible clearly states that there are many angels who at one time fell and sinned. However, the Bible does not give us much information concerning the nature of their transgression. Actually, the message of the Bible concerns God’s dealings with man. It does not reveal much that transpired before the first verse of Genesis.

It is the writer’s opinion that the fallen angels fell with the devil. It should be noted that they share the same judgment with the devil. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. In their sin they kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. This would give the information that they had been assigned definite powers and a certain glory and dignity with which they were not satisfied. They allowed the devil to lead them into the sin of pride and willful disobedience. They became exalted and rose up in revolt against God Himself.

Their work is to oppose God, do Satan's work, afflict God's people, try to deceive God's people, etc.

Their eternal doom is the eternal fire. There is no hope of redemption for them. It would seem that the saints will have some part in their judgment (I Corinthians 6:3).

Lesson Two

THE DEVIL

A. THERE IS A PERSONAL DEVIL

The Bible teaches that there is a personal devil. Many would teach that the devil is just an impersonal force or influence, the tendency to do evil. However, this is not the case. There is a living, personal devil who is our greatest adversary.

His power and influence should never be underestimated. Although we have no desire to become acquainted with him, we should learn to know our enemy. Knowledge of his motives and his tactics will aid us in our battle against sin and help to give us the victory.

He apparently was created as an archangel of great beauty, wisdom, and power. He undoubtedly was given great authority and possibly was made ruler over part of God's universe. Some believe that he was the ruler of this world before creation as recorded in Genesis. He was lifted up with pride and reached for equality with God. Five times he declared his will in rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-15). Through this pride and rebellion, sin came into being and the devil fell, taking a host of angels with him. He struck at God by causing man to fall and has used man as a pawn ever since in his battle and rebellion against God. He still has access to the presence of God where he accuses the brethren.

The devil is not omnipresent, but his presence is localized. However, he may appear anywhere at any time, and in his absence he has a host of demons and fallen angels to do his evil work under his direction.

B. THE DEVIL IS A MURDERER, A LIAR, AND A THIEF

In the character of the devil is seen a personality that is wicked and perverted, while at the same time extremely clever and subtle. His true character may be seen in the following Scriptures:

1. Thief, one who catches away Matthew 13:19
2. Murderer John 8:44
3. Liar John 8:44
4. Subtle II Corinthians 11:3

C. THE DEVIL HAS MANY TITLES WHICH DESCRIBE HIS CHARACTER

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Angel of Light | II Corinthians 11:14 |
| 2. Roaring Lion | I Peter 5:8 |
| 3. Prince of the power of the air | Ephesians 2:2 |
| 4. Power of darkness | Colossians 1:13 |
| 5. Prince of this world | John 14:30 |
| 6. Great Dragon (cruelty) | Revelation 12:9 |
| 7. Serpent (seducer) | Revelation 12:9 |
| 8. Devil (tempter) | Revelation 12:9 |
| 9. Satan (adversary) | Revelation 12:9 |
| 10. Apollyon (destroyer) | Revelation 9:11 |
| 11. King of the bottomless pit | Revelation 9:11 |
| 12. God of this world
(head of its religion) | II Corinthians 4:4 |

A detailed study of the above titles and Scriptures will help one to understand the true character and nature of the devil.

D. THE DEVIL FELL THROUGH PRIDE AND REBELLION

Scriptural Reference:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in- the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be, brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Here in Isaiah’s prophecy is seen clearly just how the devil fell. He undoubtedly was an archangel of great power and glory. However, he was not content with this God ordained state. He became exalted and reached for equality with God.

Five times he states his determination to be equal with His Creator:

1. I will ascend into heaven.
2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.
3. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation .
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.
5. I will be like the most High.

It should be noted that it is this same sin of pride and rebellion that caused Ad-

am to fall and has constantly been the main sin of the human family. The apostle Paul calls this sin “the mystery of iniquity” (II Thessalonians 2:7). It is the sin of the creature rising up to defy itself. It is the sin of declaring “Not Thy will but my own will be done.” It is this pride and rebellion which caused the fall of the devil and his angels.

E. THE DEVIL IS VERY POWERFUL BUT NOT OMNIPOTENT

Scriptural Reference:

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:11-12).

A person must never underestimate the power of the devil. However, he is not omnipotent. All power is given only to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). Jesus is more powerful and will conquer the devil in the end. The devil is a defeated foe; Jesus is the conquering King.

The devil has many subordinates to do his will. We see under his power, principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places. The forces assailed against the church are tremendous. In Jesus there is glorious victory; apart from Jesus there is only defeat.

A person should also remember that the devil may appear anywhere at any time, but he is not omnipresent. As a rule the battle of the true child of God is with some demon power which is doing the will of the devil.

F. THE WORK OF THE DEVIL IS TO CONSTANTLY ATTACK THE PURPOSES OF GOD

A careful study of the following Scriptures will reveal the work of the devil in constantly attacking the purposes of God and trying to keep the will of God from being accomplished:

1. Seeking whom he may devour I Peter 5:8
2. Sowing tares
(evil doctrine, leaven, etc.) Matthew 13:25-39
3. Blinding minds II Corinthians 4:4

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 4. Sifting as wheat | Luke 22:31 |
| 5. Destroying the flesh | I Corinthians 5:5 |
| 6. Accusing the brethren | Revelation 12:10 |

G. THE DEVIL WILL BE JUDGED AND WILL BE CAST ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

The devil is a conquered enemy. His judgment is certain and will be final. There is no redemption for the devil.

At the present time the devil still has access to the throne of God where he accuses the brethren. Jesus saw him cast out and fall from heaven like lightning (Luke 10:18). Undoubtedly Jesus was speaking prophetically. As the great I AM, He could speak of the future as being already fulfilled.

The final steps in the judgment of the devil can be seen in a careful study of the following Scriptures:

1. Revelation 12:7-9 - He is cast out of Heaven to the earth.
2. Revelation 12:12- He stirs up man against God knowing that his time is short.
3. Revelation 20:1-3 - He is chained by an angel and cast into the bottomless pit during Christ's reign upon earth.
4. Revelation 20:7-10 - After being loosed a little season, he is cast into the lake of fire forever.

Lesson Three

SIN

A. WHAT IS SIN?

Scriptural References:

“Sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4).

“All unrighteousness is sin” (I John 5:17).

“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23).

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

“Of sin, because they believe not on me” (John 16:9).

“An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin” (Proverbs 21:4).

“The thought of foolishness is sin” (Proverbs 24:9).

In these Scriptures we have sin defined. The modern tendency is to look upon sin very lightly. The majority of people takes an attitude of complacency towards sin and looks upon it as the accepted thing. To them sin is just ignorance or a personality flaw which psychiatric counseling can correct. However, such is not the case. Sin is deep seated, embedded in the very heart of man’s fallen nature.

Looking back to the beginning of sin in the fall of Satan and then later in the fall of our first parents, it is possible to summarize in a threefold manner:

- 1. Pride:** This was undoubtedly the original sin as Satan exalted himself and reached for deification (Isaiah 14:12-15).
- 2. Unbelief:** This sin had to be planted in Eve’s heart before she could be deceived in the transgression (Genesis 3:1).
- 3. Disobedience:** This was the natural result of the other two (Genesis 3:6).

Many Hebrew words were used in the Old Testament to express the thought of sin. Some of the concepts of sin are expressed by the list of following words:

confusion	iniquity	perversion	guilt
transgression	rebellion		
vanity	lying	deceit	evil
error	wickedness		
a missing	a failing		

The main New Testament Greek words for sin express the following concepts:

depravity	desire	missing the mark
disobedience	lawlessness	unrighteousness
lust		

In attempting to define sin, we can only arrive at a partial understanding of its true nature. The exceeding blackness and the terrible horribleness of sin can never be fully grasped by our finite minds and limited understanding.

B. GOD HATES SIN

The fact that God is love and that God is light demands that He hates sin. It is impossible for God to love the soul of the sinner without at the same time hating sin. The absolute pure and spotless nature of God revolts at the sight of sin.

God hates sin. Every true child of God should share in this hatred for that which is wrong. The moment that we can smile upon iniquity we are far from God. May the Lord help us to see sin as exceedingly sinful – to look upon it as He looks upon it. May we ever see it as that which nailed Him to the tree. Willful, known sin will separate man from God, hinder his prayers from being answered, and finally will mean eternal damnation. No sin will enter heaven. It must be confessed, forgiven, and remitted.

C. CAN SIN BE HIDDEN?

Scriptural References:

“Thou God seest me” (Genesis 16:13).

“Be sure your sins will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

Sin will always be exposed for the one simple reason that sin is against God, and He sees not only the outward act, but also the inward thought and desire. It is impossible to sin and get by.

D. WHO ARE SINNERS?

Scriptural References:

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin” (Galatians 3:22).

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth . . . all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:10-23).

“And so death passed upon all man, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Every man is a sinner and needs to be saved. If one individual could have made himself righteous by the deeds of the law and his own good works, then every man could also become righteous. Because this could not be, it was necessary for Jesus Christ to provide salvation for man.

E. CAN SIN BE LISTED OR NAMED?

Sin may only be listed in a partial manner, for sin is actually a condition of the heart. The list of sins is too great to ever be listed completely. However, we may begin:

1. Works of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19)

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like

2. Worldliness

Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life, love of money, love of pleasure, etc.

3. Carnality

Pride, malice, envy, selfishness, backbiting, gossiping

4. Sins of Omission

Lack of prayer, church attendance, witnessing, etc.

5. Presumption (Psalm 19:13)

And so the list continues to grow without any apparent end in sight.

F. THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

1. Separation from God

Scriptural References:

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

This separation broke the fellowship between God and man and created a gulf that the grace of God had to span in order to redeem sinful man.

2. Death, Physical and Spiritual

Scriptural References:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

All sin is fundamentally an attitude and an act of rebellion against God. It is a challenge to the supremacy and Lordship of God. This is expressed by the question that Joseph asked while under temptation. “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9).

Lesson Four

MAN

A. MAN WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Scriptural References:

“So God created man in his own image” (Genesis 1:27).

“For in the image of God made he man” (Genesis 9:6).

Scriptures are very clear regarding the creation of man. The Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Man was God’s highest act of creation and was in God’s own image and likeness.

B. TO WHAT DOES “IMAGE OF GOD” REFER?

1. The Moral Nature of Man

Possibly the greatest way in which man resembled his Maker was in his moral nature. Man was created sinless with an absolute purity and holiness. In fact, he was clothed with the righteousness of God. It was because of this fact that he was able to have fellowship with God. It was this that he lost in the fall and caused him to realize that he was naked.

2. The Intellectual Nature of Man

The intellectual powers of man from the beginning prove that man is not evolved from a lower order but was created in the image of his Creator. He was given the intelligence necessary to name all living creatures and have dominion over this earth. He was given the power to reason and to make decisions. He was created a moral agent with a free will. It was because of this God granted man the ability to make the wrong decision and sin in the original transgression.

3. The Physical Appearance of Man

God is spirit and invisible, but it was in the plan and purpose of Deity to manifest Himself in flesh in the incarnation. If the “image of God” has any reference to

man's physical appearance, it was in the likeness of the man Christ Jesus who was to be born at Bethlehem. Let us remember that as far as time is concerned, the advent of Christ took place at a definite point in history, but as far as God who dwells in eternity is concerned, God had it planned and saw it from the beginning.

4. The Trinity of Man

Scriptural Reference:

"I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

Man is body, soul, and spirit. We would not ordinarily introduce this thought here. We do so because some would use this to try to prove that man was made in the image of the Trinity, and therefore another proof that there are three persons in the Godhead. However, the very opposite is true and proven. Even as man is body, soul, and spirit, and yet one person bearing one name, so is the Creator the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but yet one person bearing one name, JESUS.

5. The Unlimited Potential of Man

God has given man unlimited potential. Man can rise higher and sink lower than any other of God's creatures. In Mark's Gospel, chapter 5, we have the story of a man possessed with a legion of demons. This one man was able to contain more demon powers than two thousand swine were able to contain. There seems no bottom to the depths that a man or woman can fall. Likewise, man has the capacity of yielding to God and becoming a vessel filled with the Spirit of God. There seems to be no limits to the heights that man can be lifted by God.

Only God Himself knows the potential of man both for good and evil. No other of God's creatures can come close to the potential of man.

C. THE ORIGINAL CONDITION OF MAN

Scriptural Reference:

"But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou are mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands" (Hebrews 2:6-7).

Man was crowned with glory and honor and made a little lower than the angels. Man was not created an ignoramus nor a savage but a being of lofty intellec-

tual powers and a high moral nature. The theory that man evolved from a lower order such as an ape, is simply imagination, falsely called science, without one fact to prove it.

D. THERE IS A DIVINE PURPOSE IN THE LIFE OF MAN

Scriptural Reference:

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:5-6).

Man is not upon earth by just a mere whim of nature. A child is not born just by an accident of nature. Man is not just the result of a biological urge only. There is a definite purpose of God to be fulfilled in the existence of every man. He may know why he is here upon the earth, the purpose of his existence, and his eternal destiny.

The primary reason for man’s restlessness and dissatisfaction today is the fact that he has been taught that he is only a biological creature. Teaching that man only differs from the brute beasts in that he has more intelligence leaves man in a spiritual vacuum without any real direction.

Before the foundation of the world God had planned a definite purpose in man’s existence:

1. That he might be adopted by Jesus Christ to Himself
2. That he might be to the praise of the glory of His grace

E. MAN IS A FREE WILL MORAL AGENT

Scriptural References:

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

At the very beginning God gave man a clear choice. He placed in the Garden be-

fore man a tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man was given strict instructions not to eat the fruit of it. However, man had a choice. He was created with a God given right of making decisions and choosing for himself.

God longed for fellowship with His creature that He had created in His own image. However, to be of any value, fellowship has to be freely enjoyed. Fellowship that is forced is worthless. It is for this reason God made man like Himself with the ability to choose. God was not interested in having a puppet or a robot in man.

At the close of the Bible it is clearly seen that man still has this power of choice. The water of life is for the "whosoever will." God has never taken from man this wonderful prerogative.

It must be clearly understood that God in His sovereignty will never violate this God given ability to choose. Man is a "free will moral agent" before he is born again; man is still a "free will moral agent" after he has experienced salvation.

This truth settles once and for all the question of what is known as unconditional eternal security. The whole matter of his eternal destiny will depend upon his choices in life. Man has the privilege to choose eternal life or he may choose death.

Lesson Five

THE FALL OF MAN

A. STEPS IN THE FALL OF MAN

Scriptural References:

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1).

“But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die” (Genesis 3:3).

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6).

“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (I Timothy 2:14).

A study of the above Scriptures will show that there were some definite steps that took place in the fall of man:

1. Unbelief: The first step was that Satan was able to plant a doubt, a seed of unbelief in the heart of Eve.

2. Changing God’s Word: After Eve entertained doubt in her heart, she was now ready to tamper with God’s Word. Eve both changed and added to God’s Word. God said nothing about touching the fruit and death was to be certain. Eve’s words, “lest ye die,” left a doubt; it raised a question whether or not death was certain.

3. Disobedience: After the seed of unbelief was sown and God’s Word was changed, an act of disobedience was a natural result. In Genesis 3:6 the steps leading to disobedience are named:

- a. saw
- b. desired

- c. took
- d. did eat.

It is profitable to compare this with Achan's sin as recorded in Joshua 7:21:

- a. saw
- b. coveted
- c. took
- d. hid.

B. THREEFOLD TEMPTATION

Scriptural Reference:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

Both Eve's temptation and the temptation of Christ in the wilderness may be summed up under "all that is in the world."

I John 2:16	lust of the flesh lust of the eyes pride of life
Eve's temptation Genesis 3:6	good for food pleasant to the eyes desired to make one wise
Christ's temptation Luke 4:3-10	stone that it be bread kingdoms of this world cast thyself down – angels

In the temptation Satan said, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." He omitted the important part: They should know good, but not be able to perform it, and that they would know evil, but not be able to avoid it.

It should be remembered that temptation itself is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin. It was when Eve yielded that she disobeyed and sin entered the human heart. Christ was tempted but remained sinless by overcoming and not yielding.

Eve was defeated as soon as she began to tamper with the Word of God. The seed of unbelief, sown in her heart by the devil, caused her to change and add to

God's Word. Thus she fell. On the other hand, Jesus Christ quoted God's Word and thus won the victory. "It is written" will put the devil to flight.

It should be noted that it was Eve who was deceived in the transgression. Adam deliberately chose to sin. Adam disobeyed with the full realization of what he was doing. It was a clear decision of choosing fellowship with the Lord God or with the woman. Adam chose the woman and thus fell.

C. RESULTS OF THE FALL

1. On Nature

- a. The ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17).
- b. The ground was to bring forth thorns and thistles (Genesis 3:18).

2. On The Whole Human Race:

- a. All are concluded under sin (Galatians 3:22; Romans 5:19).
- b. Man became the child of the devil (John 8:44; I John 3:8).
- c. Man shall live by hard labor (Genesis 3:19).
- d. Woman shall bring forth children in sorrow (Genesis 3:16).
- e. Through the fall, man became subject to:
 - i. **Physical death:** This is the separation of the soul from the body, which results in the corruption and destruction of the material frame (Genesis 3:19).
 - ii. **Spiritual death:** This is the separation of the spirit from God, or alienation from the life of God. We come into this state by natural birth (Ephesians 4:18; I Timothy 5:6; Revelation 3:1).
 - iii. **Eternal death:** This is the "second death," spiritual death continued after physical death. Prolonged beyond the death of the body, spiritual death becomes eternal death, or a state of eternal separation from God in conscious torment (Revelation 20:14; Revelation 21:8).

The results of the fall are all around us. The hospitals, prisons, and asylums are full. Misery, crime, and unhappiness meet us at every turn, and all these are direct results of the fall.

D. DEFINITIONS OF LIFE AND DEATH

The student of God's Word should have a clear understanding of the meaning of life and death.

1. **Physical Life:** This is the union of the spirit of man with his body.
2. **Physical Death:** This is the separation of the spirit from the body.
3. **Spiritual Life:** This is the union of the spirit of man with the Spirit of God. This brings fellowship with God and eternal life.
4. **Spiritual Death:** The separation of man's spirit from God's spirit.
5. **Eternal Life:** This is the union of man's spirit with God's Spirit made eternal and never ending.
6. **Eternal Death:** The separation of man's spirit from God's Spirit made eternal and never ending.

NOTE: Eternal life is only to be found in Jesus Christ. The Christian who has Jesus abiding in his heart has eternal life. If Jesus is not there, there can be no eternal life. Actually eternal life refers to a quality of life as much, if not more, than a quantity of life.

Lesson Six

MAN'S NEED

A. MAN'S CONDITION OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

Man is a very needy creature. Outside of Jesus Christ he is depraved, wicked, and without spiritual and eternal life. The following Scriptures describe His condition outside of Jesus:

1. **He is estranged from the womb.**
"The wicked are estranged from the womb" (Psalm 58:3).
2. **He is shaped in iniquity.**
"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity" (Psalm 51:5).
3. **His heart is desperately wicked.**
"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).
4. **He is controlled by Satan.**
"According to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"
(Ephesians 2:2).
5. **The law of sin and death continually works in his members.**
"And bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:23).
6. **He is under a curse.**
"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse"
(Galatians 3:10).
7. **His understanding is darkened.**
"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God" (Ephesians 4:18).
8. **Every imagination is evil continually.**
"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil

continually" (Genesis 6:5).

9. He is filled with all unrighteousness.

"Being filled with all unrighteousness" (Romans 1:29).

10. He is corrupt from head to foot.

"From the sole of the foot even unto the head, there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores" (Isaiah 1:6).

11. He is dead in trespasses and sins.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

B. MAN'S HOPELESS CONDITION OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

Scriptural Reference:

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jeremiah 13:23).

Man, being dead in sins and trespasses, cannot save himself any more than Lazarus, bound in grave clothes and buried for four days, could have saved himself. As far as Lazarus himself was concerned, his condition was hopeless and eternally lost. If man is to be saved at all, he must be saved by a source outside of himself. Jesus Christ is man's one and only hope of salvation.

Man is completely helpless to change his race and color of skin. Man's race is fixed at birth. If he was born an Indian, he will be an Indian all his life. If he was born an African, he will be an African all his life. He is wholly unable to change this. Likewise, a man is born a sinner; he cannot do a thing to change this except to come to Jesus Christ.

If any man could have saved himself, then the greatest blunder of ages was the coming of Christ to be our Savior. If one man could have saved himself, then everyone could have done the same.

C. MAN'S ENTIRE BEING NEEDED SALVATION

Since man's entire being, body, soul, and spirit, were affected by the fall and the original sin, his entire being needed to be saved.

Man is body, soul, and spirit.

It is not difficult to define the body for this is the physical body in which the real man dwells. The body is sometimes spoken of as being:

1. A house
2. A temple
3. A vessel

Although an understanding of the body is readily distinguished from that of the soul and spirit, yet the body is vitally connected with soul and spirit. The welfare of the body **definitely affects the welfare** of soul and spirit. This can be seen when we read Paul's exhortation to the Roman church: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

It is more difficult to understand the meaning of soul and spirit. It is difficult to even understand the difference between soul and spirit, but yet they are different as Scripture shows.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit" (Hebrews 4:12).

By comparing the following Scriptures it is made clear that the meaning of *soul* is "himself."

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

"For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" (Luke 9:25).

A definition of body, soul and spirit may be made as follows:

1. SPIRIT: The part of man by which he is capable of God consciousness and communion with God.
2. SOUL: The part of man by which he is capable of self-consciousness.
3. BODY: The part of man by which he is capable through his senses to have world consciousness or physical consciousness.

A further understanding of the soul of man may be had if we study the story of creation. In this is seen that man became a living soul. Therefore, it is incorrect to

say that man has a soul. The correct understanding is that man is a soul.

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and’ man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).

Man is a very complex being. He is:

1. A physical being
2. A spiritual being
3. An intellectual being
4. An emotional being
5. A social being

It must be noted that every part of man fell into sin and needed to be redeemed. The salvation provided on Calvary’s cross provides salvation for the whole man – for his entire being.

D. WHAT GOD HAD TO DO IN SALVATION

In providing salvation for sinful man, there were a number of things He had to accomplish, among which were:

1. To handle the sin problem in a way that is consistent with His justice and appeasing to His wrath
2. To make man holy without taking away his free will moral agency
3. To bridge the breach between God and man and restore the lost fellowship

All this God succeeded in doing at Calvary.

Lesson Seven

THE LOVE OF GOD

A. GOD IS LOVE

Scriptural References:

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (I John 4:8).

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (I John 4:16).

There are other Scriptures that state what God is:

God is spirit – John 4:24

God is light – I John 1:5

These Scriptures speak of the very essence of His being. It is not correct to think of *spirit* and *light* as attributes of God. God is spirit.

To illustrate this truth let us think of water. Water is H₂O. Water is hydrogen and oxygen, but water is also wet. Wetness is an attribute of water, but H₂O is not.

God is spirit and light, but God is also love. Love is one of the greatest attributes of God. Love cannot be separated from God. The very nature of the personality of God is to love. This love of God is as constant and eternal as God Himself. The love of God is as boundless and infinite as God Himself. There is no such thing as finding where the love of God ends.

B. THE WHOLE WORLD

Scriptural Reference:

“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).

God loves the whole world. This is not an expression of love for the physical universe but love for the entire human race. God is not exclusive in His love. God loves not the Jew only, but also the Gentile. God’s love reaches out to all men re-

ardless of their color, nationality, race, culture, custom, or religion.

The little word *so* is very expressive in John 3:16. One cannot ever fully understand the depth and extent of love expressed by this one little adverb.

C. GOD LOVES THE SINNER

Scriptural References:

“But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).

God does not love sin; but God loves the sinner. This is the marvelous truth that brought about God’s plan of salvation. This is the truth that has dawned upon the heart of countless sinners and brought them to repentance.

The greatest force upon earth is love. Human love can do more than anything else that man can do. When it is understood just how much higher God’s love is to human love, one can begin to appreciate in a measure at least, the power of God’s love for the lost. If it were not for this, there would not have been a Calvary.

D. DOES GOD HATE?

Scriptural Reference:

“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea . . . soweth discord among the brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19).

“Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth” (Isaiah 1:14).

This has been dealt with in a former lesson, but it is necessary to repeat here as the truth of God’s love is dealt with.

The nature of love demands a hatred for that which would destroy the object of that love. God would not love the sinner if He did not at the same time hate sin.

To illustrate this fact, we might consider parents who love a daughter. If they love the daughter, they will hate drugs or anything else which might destroy that

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daughter.

A true love for the sinner will demand a true hatred for sin.

E. CALVARY IS THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE

Scriptural Reference:

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:9-10).

There is no greater evidence of God's love than that revealed on the cross of Calvary. Greater love hath no man than that a man lay down his life for his friends. At Calvary, Jesus Christ lay down His life for the lost. There can be no greater revelation of God's love than this.

Sacrifice is the measure of love. Sacrifice is the measure of God's love for sinners.

The gospel message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is centered around God's love for the lost. The message that can reach the lost and dying sinner like no other message is still the message of God's love expressed at Calvary.

F. CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF FOR THE CHURCH

Scriptural Reference:

"Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

Man is the highest object of God's infinite love. It was mankind that He loved and planned redemption for. No other of His creatures has been the object of such love.

The devil and angels also transgressed and fell, but God never planned redemption for them. Jesus Christ never died on Calvary's cross for the devil and his angels. There is no salvation for them, but to the contrary there is a lake of fire prepared for them.

However, the human race has been such an object of God's love that He planned salvation for them even before the transgression took place.

The church was ordained and predestined from the very beginning and has been the eternal object of God's love. Because of this, the atonement for the sins of all mankind was accomplished on Calvary's cross.

Lesson Eight

THE ATONEMENT PART I

A. THE MEANING OF THE ATONEMENT

Scriptural Reference:

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

The whole doctrine of salvation is built upon the atonement which is accomplished in the sacrificial death of Christ. If man could have been saved in any other way, Christ would never have died the atoning death on Calvary. As a study of the atonement is made, it can be seen just what God did in providing salvation for fallen man. The account of what He did, the incarnation, the ministry of Christ on earth, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, is found in the four Gospels. A study of the Book of Acts will reveal what man must do to be able to receive what God has provided for him.

B. THE ORIGIN OF THE ATONEMENT

Scriptural References:

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (I Peter 1:19-20).

“Whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21).

1. Ordained in Heaven

In the plan and mind of God, Calvary was from the very beginning. It is significant to note the difference of meaning in the two phrases: “before the foundation of the world” and “from the foundation of the world.” The term “foundation of the world” is referring not to the creation of the universe but the chaotic condition that

came into being with the fall of man. It has reference to this world system which is controlled by the spirit of iniquity and rebellion.

Before the fall of man took place, God had ordained the plan of salvation in a lamb being slain. However, no benefit could be derived from this until there was a need for salvation. From that point on, Jesus became a slain lamb, and all could with faith look forward to Calvary.

2. Instituted on Earth

When God clothed Adam and Eve, blood was shed. This was the beginning of the crimson line of sacrifice that runs through the entire Bible.

C. THE NECESSITY OF THE ATONEMENT

1. God's Holiness and Man's Sinfulness

The necessity of the atonement is based upon the facts of God's holiness and man's sinfulness. The reaction of God's holiness against man's sinfulness is known as His wrath, which may be averted by the atonement.

Sin is violence done to the constitution, so to speak, under which God and man live, just as unfaithfulness does violence to the covenant under which man and wife live. Sin is essentially an attack on God's honor and holiness. It is rebellion against God; for in willfully sinning, man chooses his own will rather than God's and for the time being becomes a law unto himself. But should God permit His honor to be attacked, He would then cease to be God. His honor calls for the destruction of the one resisting Him; His righteousness demands satisfaction of the violated law; and His holiness reacts against sin, this reaction begin described as *wrath*.

God's wrath is governed by personal considerations. He is not hasty to destroy the work of His hands. He pleads with man. He waits to be gracious. He delays judgment in the hope that His goodness shall lead man to repentance. However, man misunderstands the divine delays and scoffs at the thought of judgment.

The crucifixion revealed the awfulness of sin and pictures the dread penalty upon it. The cross of Jesus declares that He never was, is not and never can be, indifferent to man's sin.

2. Separation from God

Scripture Reference:

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

God is holy in nature which means that He is righteous in character and conduct. In order to maintain fellowship with God, it is necessary to be holy. Man’s sin has broken that fellowship and created a great gulf between God and man. The atonement is the bridge that spans that gulf. The *at-one-ment* restores fellowship with God.

3. The Wages of Sin Is Death

Scripture Reference:

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

The judgment of sin is death. Life is in the blood and when blood is spilled, life is given. This explains the necessity of shed blood for the remission of sins.

When blood is shed it actually is the giving of life. Therefore, the wages of sin is being paid.

D. REDEMPTION

The word *redeem* in both Old and New Testaments means:

1. To buy back by the paying of a price
2. To loose from bondage by the paying of a price
3. To buy in a market and to take from a market

Jesus is a Redeemer, and His atoning work is described as redemption. A redeemer must have the following qualifications:

1. He must be kin to the man.
2. He must be willing to redeem or buy back.
3. He must have the price.

Jesus measured up to all three of these qualifications.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 1:18-19).

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20).

We are bought with a price. What is the price that was paid? There is only one answer: the blood of Jesus shed on Calvary’s cross.

Study the following references:

Leviticus 25:47-49 Titus 2:14
Matthew 20:28 Revelation 5:9
Galatians 3:13

E. RECONCILIATION

Scriptural References:

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself” (II Corinthians 5:18-19).

“We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son” (Romans 5:10).

“And you . . . yet now hath he reconciled” (Colossians 1:21).

The apostle Paul does not say that God was reconciled to man, but that God did something in order to reconcile man to Himself. This act of reconciliation is a finished work; it is a work that has been done in the interest of men so that in the sight of God the entire world is already reconciled. It remains for the evangelist to proclaim it and the individual to receive it. Christ’s death has made the reconciliation of all mankind possible; each individual must make it actual.

Lesson Nine

THE ATONEMENT Part II

A. THE EFFICACY OF THE ATONEMENT

The meaning of the word *efficacious* is “producing or sure to produce a desired result.” What does the atonement produce?

1. Pardon of Transgressions

Study the following references:

John 1:29 Ephesians 1:7 Revelation 1:5
John 5:24 Hebrews 9:22-28

2. Freedom from Sin

Not only free from the guilt of sin but also free from the power of sin (Romans 6:14).

3. Deliverance from Death

“That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

“Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:26).

Death is the result of sin.

4. Gift of Everlasting Life

“Should not perish, but have eternal life . . . should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:14-16).

5. Victorious Life

Christ conquered Satan on our behalf. Christians have the victory over the devil as long as they have the victor over the devil.

Study the following references:

Luke 10:17-20 Colossians 2:15
 Hebrews 2:14-15 Revelation 12:11

B. THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

The word *atonement* in the Hebrew means literally “to cover,” and is translated in our Authorized Version by the following words: *make atonement, purge, purge away, reconcile, make reconciliation, pacify, pardon, to be merciful, put off.*

Atonement includes the covering of both the sins and the sinner. To atone for sin is to cover sin from God’s sight so that it loses its power to provoke His wrath.

Study the following references:

Psalm 78:38; Leviticus 5:18

When the blood was applied to the altar by the priest, the Israelite was assured that the promise made to his forefathers would be realized for him. “And when I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13).

What were the effects of the atonement or covering?

1. Sin blotted out – Jeremiah 18:23; Isaiah 43:25
2. Sin removed – Isaiah 6:7
3. Sin covered – Psalm 32:1
4. Sin cast into the depths of the sea – Micah 7:19
5. Sin cast behind God’s back – Isaiah 38:17
6. Sin pardoned – Psalm 78:38

C. SUBSTITUTION

Scriptural References:

“For he hath made him to be sin for us” (II Corinthians 15:21).

“Who his own self, bare our sins in his own body on the tree”
 (I Peter 2:24).

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were substitutionary in nature; they were reckoned as doing on the altar for the Israelite what he could not do for himself. In like manner, Jesus did for us on the cross what we could not do for ourselves. Having taken human nature, He was able to identify Himself with mankind and so

suffer their penalty. He died in our stead; He took the penalty that was ours in order that we might escape it. One who was sinless by nature and who had never committed a sin in His life became a sinner (or took the sinner's place).

Just as the ram caught in the thicket was a substitution of Isaac on Mount Mariah, even so was Christ a substitution for us. Just as Barabbas was set free by the death of Christ, even so may we be set free. Read and study carefully Isaiah 53.

D. PROPITIATION

The word *propitiation* is believed to come from a Latin word *proper* meaning "near." A sacrifice of propitiation brings man near to God, reconciles him to God by atoning for his transgressions and winning divine favor and grace. To propitiate is to appease the righteous wrath of a holy God by the offering of an atoning sacrifice. Christ is described as such a propitiation (Romans 3:25; I John 2:2). Sin keeps man at a distance from God; but Christ has so dealt with sin on man's behalf that man may now "draw nigh" to God "in His name."

The word *propitiation* in Romans 3:25 is the same word in the Greek used to translate the word *mercy seat*. In both Hebrew and Greek, the word conveys the thought of an atoning sacrifice.

The consistent Bible view is that the sin of man incurred the wrath of God. That wrath is averted only by Christ's atoning sacrifice. From this standpoint His saving work is properly called propitiation.

All sin must be judged, and it is here that the sins of all mankind have been judged. Christ paid the full penalty for the sins of every man. If our sins are not judged here, they will be judged at the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

E. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ATONEMENT

The incarnation was for the purpose of the atonement. Jesus partook of flesh and blood in order that He might die. He was manifested to take away our sins (I John 3:5; Hebrews 2:14). Christ came into the world to give His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). The faith of the atonement presupposes the faith of the incarnation. The incarnation is certainly a declaration of the purpose on the part of Jesus to save the world, but how was the world to be saved if not through the atonement?

The atonement is the scarlet cord running through every page in the entire Bi-

ble. Cut the Bible anywhere and it bleeds. One out of every forty-four verses in the New Testament speaks of the atonement and the death of Christ is mentioned 175 times.

The importance of the atonement may be seen by the fact that:

1. Moses and Elijah were interested in the death of Christ
– Luke 9:30-36
2. The Old Testament prophets searched deeply into this great subject – I Peter 1:11.
3. The theme of the song in heaven is that of Christ's death

Revelation 5:8-12

F. UNSCRIPTURAL VIEWS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

To some minds the death of Christ was just the death of a martyr. To others Christ's death was an exhibition to a sinful world of God's great love. To others, He was an "Example" only. Still others see it in the light of the fact that God being holy, deemed it necessary to show to the world His hatred for sin, and so His wrath fell on the Christ of Calvary. Modern thought fails to see the necessity of Jesus dying.

Stephen died a martyr and Saul of Tarsus watched him die. But Paul did not preach forgiveness of sins through Stephen's death (Acts 13:38). Light and erroneous views of the atonement come from light and erroneous views of sin. If we regard sin merely as an offence against man, a weakness of the human nature, or a mere disease, we shall not, of course, see the need of the atonement. We must see sin as the Bible depicts it, in its exceeding sinfulness, that

which must be punished, and guilt which needs expiation, then and only then, will we understand the reason for the cross of Christ.

G. EFFECTS OF CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE UNIVERSE

Just as the entire world was affected by the fall of man, even so does the death of Christ have an effect on the entire universe (Romans 8:19-23). Jesus Christ is the center of a universe which revolves around Him and has now been reconciled by His death. "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or in heaven" (Colossians 1:20).

The propitiation reaches to the farthest bounds of the universe and as far as sin

goes. In other words, the remedy is as great as the need. Through the death of Christ, Satan's power has been neutralized (to be made of none effect). The lifting up of Christ meant casting down of Satan. Men need no longer be a slave of sin. Calvary brings to the needy a remission of the past, present, and future sins. Now it is not so much a question of what shall I do with my sins; but rather what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it at the cross" (Colossians 2:14).

Study the following references:

John 12:31-32

Romans 3:25-26

Hebrews 9:26

Lesson Ten

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS Part I

A. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION

Scriptural References:

“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it” (Acts 2:24).

“And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:15).

“Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).

“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Philippians 3:21).

The resurrection of Christ is essential to our salvation. Christianity is the only religion that bases its claims of acceptance upon the resurrection of its founder. In the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians the apostle Paul makes Christianity answer for its life and for the literal truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain . . . ye are yet in your sins . . . we are of all men most miserable” (I Corinthians 15: 13-19).

All is vain if Christ’s body is not raised from the dead. Remove the resurrection from Paul’s gospel and his message is gone. The early church constantly affirmed the resurrection. The apostles preached it in the face of the fiercest opposition.

The resurrection is spoken of more than 100 times in the New Testament.

If Jesus Christ had remained in the grave, the story of His life and death would have remained buried with him. The New Testament is an effect of Christ’s resurrection. The resurrection does not grow out of the story of His life, but the beauti-

ful story of Christ's life grew out of the fact of His resurrection. The New Testament is the book of the resurrection.

In other words, the resurrection of Christ's body from the tomb proves the deity of Jesus and the efficaciousness of the atonement to save sinners.

Study the following scriptural references:

Acts 4:10

I Peter 1:21-23

Acts 13:30-34

I Corinthians 15

B. PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

Scriptural References:

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

"Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mark 16:6).

The number of the witnesses to the resurrection was many. The weight of their testimony is quite conclusive. Both friends and enemies testified to the resurrection of Christ: the women, the disciples, the angels, and the Roman guards.

The soldiers were bribed to tell the story of Him being stolen from the tomb (Matthew 28:11-15). Note verse 13: "Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept." If they were asleep, how could they know what took place? We have the testimony of angels that Jesus had risen as was foretold (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6).

The apostle Paul lists a number of witnesses to the resurrection in the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians:

1. Cephas (Peter)
2. The Twelve
3. Above five hundred brethren
4. James
5. The apostles
6. Paul, himself, on the road to Damascus

C. PERSONAL PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

All the proof that we need of the resurrection is the fact that Jesus Christ saves sinners, heals sick bodies, and abides within the hearts of His saints today. He not only has appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road, but to each of His blood-washed children on their respective roads. The reality of the resurrection is proven by the reality of His living presence today. We may sing in the words of Rev. Alfred H. Ackley:

“You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.” -*He Lives*

It is possible to experience the power of His resurrection in our lives today. In fact, we must experience this if we are to be members of His church and in His kingdom. The resurrection of Christ made the power of the atonement effective.

It took His death, burial, and resurrection to provide salvation for us. Likewise, it takes death, burial, and resurrection on our part to become recipients of the salvation provided for us.

D. THE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST AFTER THE RESURRECTION

It is necessary to read the account of the resurrection in the four Gospels to get the story as it happened. Undoubtedly, His appearances were as follows:

1. The women at the tomb saw the angels.
2. The women hurried to tell the disciples. Peter and John lived quite close; the other disciples were a greater distance from the tomb.
3. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John, being younger, outran Peter but stopped at the door of the tomb. Peter went on past John and entered the tomb first.
4. Mary followed, returning to the tomb, lingered there, and saw Jesus.
5. Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
6. Jesus appeared to Peter.
7. Jesus appeared to the ten apostles with Thomas absent.
8. Jesus appeared to the apostles with Thomas present.
9. Jesus appeared to the apostles and a multitude on the mount.
10. Jesus appeared to the apostles on the shores of Lake Galilee.
11. Jesus appeared to James.
12. Jesus appeared to the apostles at the ascension.
13. Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus.

Lesson Eleven

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS Part II

A. THE MESSAGE OF THE EMPTY TOMB

Scripture References:

“Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself” (John 20:6-7).

“And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go” (John 11:44).

One of the greatest messages of the empty tomb was told by the grave clothes and the napkin. In the resurrection of Lazarus, he came forth from the tomb bound hand and foot with the grave clothes. It was necessary to loose him from these by unwinding the grave clothes. What was so startling to Peter and John in the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the fact that the grave clothes and napkin were in their place, untouched, like they had been when the body was there, but now the body was gone. It was not necessary to unwind any grave clothes for Jesus to arise. The stone was not rolled back to make the resurrection possible; it was rolled back to show the world the empty tomb.

The lesson to be learned here is that it will not be necessary for the graves to be opened to allow the saints to rise in the first resurrection, but rather the graves will be opened as a testimony to the world that the resurrection had taken place (Matthew 27:52).

B. THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

By studying the scriptural record of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the following facts will be proven to be true:

1. Christ rose literally from the grave.

It was the same body that had been placed in the tomb. "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39).

2. Christ arose with a real body, not a ghost or phantom.

It was a body composed of flesh and bones. His body could be touched. "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing" (John 20:27).

3. His body bore the marks of his passion.

"Behold my hands: and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side" (John 20:24-29).

4. Christ ate and drank in the presence of His disciples.

"Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead" (Acts 10:41).

5. Jesus could pass through barred doors and vanish.

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in their midst" (John 20:19).

6. Christ's body can no more taste of death.

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Romans 6:9).

7. Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20).

There are two facts that should be carefully noted from the above study of the nature of the resurrection:

- a. We shall be like Him and receive bodies like unto His when the resurrection takes place. If we would like to know just what the bodies will be like which the saints will receive in the kingdom, then we may study the verse below.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2).

- b. Jesus is the first one to come forth in the resurrection. Although the graves were opened at His death, the saints did not come forth until after His resurrection.

“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matthew 27:52-53).

C. THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION TO US

Scriptural References:

“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19).

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25).

1. The resurrection brings assurance of justification. In the Old Testament the people waited outside the Temple for the high priest to come out of the holy place, for they knew then that all their sins were borne away. Our high priest came out of the grave, and by this, we know that our sins are atoned for. The resurrection validates the atonement. At Calvary the price was paid for our salvation, but it is the resurrection that gives its value. We might illustrate by a check that is written out; it is the signature that validates the check. In like manner, the resurrection gives value to the atonement. This brings the assurance of our justification.

2. The resurrection brings assurance of our resurrection. Because Jesus arose from the grave, we also may have hope of the resurrection.

3. The resurrection of Christ makes coming judgment certain.

4. The resurrection of Christ makes eternal life certain. Because He lives, we shall live also.

D. THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Scriptural References:

“And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:51).

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

The birth of our Lord was miraculous, and it was not surprising that His exit from this earth would also be in a miraculous form. The resurrected body of our Lord was not subject to natural laws, no longer subject to death, and could not abide on this earth if He were to fulfill His ministry. Since Elijah and Enoch were translated, it would seem that it would be natural that Jesus should ascend.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for a period of forty days. He gave them the Great Commission and commanded them to remain in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost. He then lifted up His hands and blessed them. They saw Him ascend slowly from their midst and disappear into clouds. He ascended in a body of flesh and bones, not a body of flesh and blood. In His ascension He passed through the heavens and overcame all evil forces which might try to hinder Him.

E. JESUS IS NOW OUR HIGH PRIEST

Scriptural References:

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession” (Hebrews 4:14).

After His resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ entered a new phase of His ministry:

1. **He is now the mighty Baptizer.** He baptizes believers into His body and indwells them by His Spirit.
2. **He is making all necessary preparations for the coming of His bride, the church.**
3. **He is our High Priest, ever making intercession for His saints.** Just as the devil is constantly accusing the saints, Jesus is ever pleading their cause.

Lesson Twelve

THE DOUBLE CURE

A. DIVINE HEALING WAS PROVIDED IN THE ATONEMENT

Scriptural References:

“Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:17).

“I am the Lord that healeth thee” (Exodus 15:26).

1. What Is Divine Healing?

Divine healing is healing of the body apart from all remedies. It is the power of God manifested in a miracle of healing. It is the Spirit of God quickening our mortal bodies.

2. What Is Meant by the Double Cure?

When Jesus died, He bore not only our iniquities, but also our sicknesses. In the atonement is salvation for the soul, and healing for the body. This is known as the double cure: salvation and healing.

A beautiful type of this is seen at Marah (Exodus 15:23-26). The tree that was cast into the bitter waters is a type of sin. With the sweetening of the waters was given a promise of health and healing.

B. THE CAUSE OF SICKNESS

In order to study the cause of sickness, we shall divide it under two headings:

1. Primary Cause

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve in perfect health. Sickness and death were unknown and obedience to God’s commands would have insured the permanence of this blessed condition. As a result of disobedience, death came to the human race and with it, sickness. Here is seen the original cause of sickness.

One must be admonished not to take an extreme radical view that if a person is sick, he must have sinned to have brought it. This, of course, is wrong, for even godly saints who are walking in all the light they have are often ill. However, it must be remembered that sickness and suffering may come as the direct result of wrong doing.

2. Secondary Causes

- a. Sickness is sometimes brought upon an individual by sin. In Deuteronomy 28:58-61 it is mentioned the sickness that would come upon Israel if they disobeyed His commandments. "If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law . . . he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt . . . also every sickness, and every plague until thou be destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:58-61).
- b. Sickness can also be traced to the agency of Satan. An example of this may be seen in the experience of Job. Another example is the woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years. "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16).
- c. Sickness is permitted that the works of God may be manifested. "That the works of God should be manifest in him" (John 9:3).

C. SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION FOR DIVINE HEALING

There are many Scriptures which definitely teach the truth of divine healing. A few of the main Scriptures are given here:

1. "I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).
2. The book of Job—Here we have the source of sickness and the source of action which brings healing.
3. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3).
4. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows . . . and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

5. "Took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17).
6. "These signs shall follow them that believe . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).
7. "Is any sick among you? . . . and the prayer of faith shall save the sick" (James 5:14-15).

D. JESUS CHRIST, EVER THE SAME

Scriptural Reference:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The fact that Jesus Christ does not change is one of the greatest proofs we have that Jesus heals today. During His ministry upon earth Jesus healed all that were brought to Him (Matthew 8:16). If He bore our pains in His own body on the cross, surely He will do for His children today as much as when He was here on earth. The Scripture in Hebrews 13:8 is sufficient evidence for each of us to accept Him as the Great Physician.

E. ALL OBJECTIONS TO DIVINE HEALING ARE EASILY REFUTED

There are many objections brought against the truth of divine healing, all of which may be readily refuted with a proper explanation. We shall content ourselves with examining only a few of these objections.

1. The age of miracles is past. It is said that Jesus used miracles to establish the church but that miracles are not needed today. This statement is far from being true. If ever there was a time when the world needs a gospel with signs following, it is today. This is still the same church dispensation. There is only one church, whether it be in the time of the apostles or now. If Jesus is the same and we receive the apostolic experience, then definitely the age of miracles is not past.

2. Medical science is God's means today for healing. It is not the purpose of the writer to say a word against the skill, knowledge, or ability of medical science today to minister to the sick. It is clearly recognized what medical science is accomplishing today. However, God has a better plan. The Creator never makes a mistake in diagnosing an illness. He is able to remove cancer without surgery. Why be content to rely upon the weak arm of flesh when it is God's plan to heal completely in a moment's time?

3. It is presumptuous to pray for healing. It is true that we should always pray for the will of God and be willing to surrender to it. However, we must recognize that it is God's will to heal. When we pray for healing, we are praying according to His will.

4. Many false cults practice healing. This is admitted. Whenever there is a genuine, there is always a counterfeit. Just because there is the counterfeit, we should never refuse the real thing. As the serpent of Moses swallowed the serpents of the Egyptian magicians, the miracles that follow the ministry of the true child of God should defeat that which is spurious.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson One

1. State whether the following are true or false.

- _____ a. Angels were commissioned to preach the gospel.
- _____ b. Angels are born with a father and mother like human beings.
- _____ c. Angels are ministering spirits.
- _____ d. Salvation has not been provided for the fallen angels.
- _____ e. Gabriel is an archangel.
- _____ f. Angels fly about with wings of feathers like birds.

2. Write a paragraph explaining the part angels have in the ministry of the church.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Two

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

pride	seducer	liar
omnipresent	lightning	personal
subordinates	archangel	five
bottomless	accusing	enemy

1. The devil is not _____.
2. The devil is a conquered _____.
3. The Bible teaches that there is a _____ devil.
4. The devil has many _____ to do his will.
5. Jesus saw the devil cast from heaven like _____.
6. The devil was an _____ of great power and glory.
7. The devil fell through _____.
8. The devil is a _____.
9. The meaning of the title "Serpent" is _____.
10. _____ times he declared his will against God.
11. The devil is constantly _____ the brethren.
12. He is cast into the _____ pit during Christ's reign on earth.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Three

1. Why does God hate sin?

2. Why must all sin be judged?

3. Quote one Scripture with its reference to prove that sin cannot be hidden.

4. Name two main consequences of sin:

a.

b.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Five

1. State the three steps in the fall of man:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Compare the temptation of Eve with that of our Lord in the wilderness.

3. Define:
 - a. Physical life
 - b. Physical death
 - c. Spiritual life
 - d. Spiritual death
 - e. Eternal life
 - f. Eternal death

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Six

1. Define:
 - a. Spirit
 - b. Soul
 - c. Body

2. What did God have to accomplish in providing salvation for sinful man?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

3. Quote one Scripture with its reference to prove man's hopeless condition outside of Jesus Christ.

4. Write an explanation of the meaning of Ephesians 2:1.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Eight

1. Explain the difference between the two terms "before the foundation of the world" and "from the foundation of the world" in reference to the atonement.

2. When was the atonement instituted on earth?

3. Name the three qualifications of a redeemer:
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

4. Explain why it took the shedding of blood to atone for sin.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Nine

1. Define:
 - a. Efficacious

 - b. Propitiation

2. Give one example of a substitutionary death
 - a. In the Old Testament

 - b. In the New Testament

3. Write a paragraph explaining the following statement: "The faith of the atonement presupposes the faith of the incarnation."

4. How do we know that the Old Testament prophets were interested in the atonement?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Bible Doctrine II

Lesson Ten

- 1. List the witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus as given in I Corinthians 15:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

- 2. List the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection in proper order:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.
 - i.
 - j.
 - k.
 - l.

