

HOW MEN AND WOMEN ARE SAVED

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Sometimes in our lessons we repeat a Subject because it is such an important one. We look at it from a different angle, even using some of the same texts, yet gaining a different perspective about the “subject”. This lesson is similar to, but not the same as, “God’s Plan to Save You From Sin”. It becomes important to repeat this lesson because of the teachings of the various Churches and Religions around the world about how God’s people are Saved.

Some believers walk over red hot coals, some hang weights from their faces and other parts of their bodies, while others teach we are “saved” because of the “good works” we perform. But our concern is, “What does The Bible teach about “How we are Saved”?

Matt 16:26

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own Soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his Soul”?

Jesus poses a very valid question here; HE asks, “What are possessions when compared with our Life”? And HE means Eternal Life, if we look at His statement. The Greek word translated in this text as soul, is “psuche”, and it has been translated in 58 places as soul, 40 places as Life, three times as MIND, and once each as Heart & Heartily. (Young’s Analytical Concordance to The Holy Bible, page 88, of the Greek Lexicon. “psuche”).

The Context of this verse is found in verse 25, to be saving or losing Life, (psuche) and verse 27, brings in Eternal Life in connection with The Second coming of Jesus. Therefore the only way one can understand or interpret this verse is to replace “Soul” with “Life”. Paraphrase:- “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his Life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his Life? (For Eternal Life, that is.) In other words, Jesus was simply asking, “How can we compare gaining material things, or possessions, with Eternal Life”?

Because of the importance of what we have just learnt, later in our lesson series we will do a very in-depth study of the Greek and Hebrew words that are translated in The Bible as “Soul & Spirit”. You will enjoy that lesson immensely, I can assure you.

Rom 6:23

“For the Wages of sin is death; but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

Because of our sins we deserve to die, that’s our “wages”; but instead, The Father and Jesus Christ offer us “The Gift of Eternal Life”, when we comply with God’s Conditions. What are these “Conditions”? We’ll look at just a few of them in the texts that follow, shall we?

Jn 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that HE gave His only Begotten, [Chief], Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life”.

Many people read this text, without realising that there is a very definite “condition” in it. The “condition” is, that we “believe in Him”. (that is, in Jesus). If we don’t “believe in Jesus”, then we will not have God’s Gift of Everlasting Life.

That’s not what I say, but what The Bible clearly states. Let me make it very clear, “We are Not “Saved” by believing in Jesus, or that would mean that we are “Saved by works”. We are “Saved” by the Blood of Jesus; but we are “Judged” by our Works. (See Rev 20:12,13). That is, we are “Judged” to be “Worthy of Eternal Life by the things we do; by the way we Live after we Believe in Him”.

“Believeth”, is another word which we need to fully understand, because when we check Acts 5:36,37, “..... as many as “Obeyed” him were scattered, even as many as “Obeyed” him, were dispersed”. We find that the “margin” suggests that “Obeyed” would be better translated as “Believed”, which is another way of saying “Believeth”.

Therefore, when we read Jn 3:16, it must read as meaning far more than just “Believeth”, we must understand it as “..... whosoever “Obeys Him”, should not perish, but have Everlasting Life”; because that is what is implied by the original Greek words.

If you want more information on the understanding of the word “Believeth”, ask me for the lesson “Believeth and Faith, in Jn 3:16”, in which we look at another twelve or thirteen ways that “Believeth” could have been accurately translated and understood.

Jer 12:17

“But if they will Not Obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith The Lord”.

The “condition” is clear in this verse, - “Obedience to God”. We must teach The Bible as it is written. God said, “If they will Not obey Him; then HE will destroy them”.

1 Jn 1:7

“But if we walk in the Light, as HE [Christ] is in The Light, we have Fellowship one with another, and The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin”.

There can be no doubt that the “condition” in this verse is, that we need to “walk” in the same path that Jesus Walks if we want the Blood of Jesus to cover, or cleanse us from all our sins.

Jn 8:24

“I said therefore unto you, That ye shall die in your sins: for if ye Believe not that I AM HE, ye shall die in your sins”.

Again Jesus makes it plain, Believe in Him, or “die” in your sins.

1 Cor 15:3

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to The Scriptures”;

Paul only taught what God had instructed him to teach, “Christ died for our sins”, which is consistently taught in The Scriptures, and in so dying, HE fulfilled many Prophecies of The Old Testament. In other words, by His Atoning Death on the cruel cross; Jesus demonstrated that “Prophecy Proves The Bible True”, and that we can be, and will be Saved, by “The Blood Of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Saviour”.

Jn 5:24, KJV

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that Heareth MY word, and Believeth on Him [The Father] that sent ME, hath Everlasting Life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto Life”.

According to Jesus, we not only have to Hear His word, but we also must Believe in The Father Who sent Him. That is another “condition”. If we live up to that “condition” then we have Everlasting Life, (please note, that’s present tense), which is supported further by the fact, that we have “Passed from death to Life”, (which could be understood to read as past, or present tense). Praise God!

May I give a word of caution here regarding the use of Modern Versions of The Bible. The Greek word translated as “Condemnation” in Jn 5:24, in the King James Version, is correctly translated in some instances as “Judged” or “Judgment”; but in the “context” of this verse, it is incorrect to do so, because then it would mean that there is a class of people who will not be “judged”, or come into “Judgment”. That would mean that The Bible contradicts Itself, and that is not possible.

1 Pet 4:17, states clearly, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at The House of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey Not The Gospel of God”? That means that both the Good, and the bad, come into Judgment.

2 Cor 5:10 & Rom 14:10

“For we must all appear before The Judgment Seat of Christ;”.

Everyone, both Good and bad, must stand before The Judgment, that is what The Bible Teaches and we cannot alter that to suit our own beliefs. I have checked 31 Versions, and Translations, and found that 26 of those Modern Versions say that “believers do not come into Judgment”. Matt 16:27 & Rev 20:12,13, each state quite clearly that everyone is going to be judged.

So that, unfortunately means that any text which teaches contrary to the rest of Scripture on that same subject, is not at all trustworthy. These versions are not true Translations; in spite of the claims of the translators, but are instead, “Mini-Commentaries”, and poor ones at that. Please do not misunderstand my reasons for pointing out that fact. I merely point out the need to be very careful when you read your Bible, that it is a correct and safe Version to use for study, or for learning doctrine.

What is the good of a Bible that is easy to read and understand, if it teaches error? It could cost you your Salvation.

2 Cor 5:21

“For HE [The Father] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; [this could only refer to Jesus] that we might be made The Righteousness of God, in Him”. [That is, “in” Jesus], all emphasis mine.

One of my favourite Authors stated this verse very well I believe, in “The Desire of Ages”, page 25. “Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as HE deserves. HE was Condemned for our sins, in which HE had no share, (quote contd)

“that we might be Justified by His Righteousness, in which we had no share. HE suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive The Life, which was His. With HIS stripes we are healed”.

Acts 3:19

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when The Times of Refreshing shall come from the presence of The Lord”;

“Repent”, be genuinely sorry that you have sinned, and turn away from those sins, and be Converted. Live differently from the way you did before believing in Jesus. Then your sins will be blotted out when Jesus comes again. (or, “at the times of refreshing”). In future lessons, as we learn more about the plan of Salvation together, we will cover the Blotting out of sins in more detail. I like that thought, don’t you?

Prov 28:13

“He that covereth his sins shall Not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have Mercy”.

There is no future in trying to hide our sins, God knows about them, and HE will not prosper those who try. It is imperative for us to not only confess them, but to forsake them, or turn away from committing them again.

1 Jn 1:9

“If [means conditional] we confess our sins, [and also forsake them], HE is Faithful and Just to Forgive us our sins, and to Cleanse us from All Unrighteousness”.

No matter how horrible the sin, if we are genuinely repentant, and confess it, then Jesus will forgive that sin and we will be “Just as if we had Never Sinned”. And I’m sure you will agree, that is Very Good News!

Rom 1:16

“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”.

Another Condition; we cannot afford to be Ashamed of The Gospel of Christ if we want to be Saved. That is, we must share our Faith in Christ, and our Love for God. Dr. Wand translates this verse in his Version of the New Testament Letters. Page 107, – “For I am not Ashamed to Proclaim The Gospel”. Which supports what I said earlier. (All emphasis throughout is mine).

Heb 5:8,9

“Though HE were a Son, yet learned HE Obedience by the things which HE suffered; And being made Perfect, HE became the Author of Eternal Salvation unto all them that Obey Him”;

Once again we learn that Salvation is only given to the obedient, and we also learn one more Condition - that Jesus had to “Suffer” to be our Saviour. Finally, from these verses we also learn, that Salvation is only through Jesus Christ. The thing I love about Bible study is that, each of the writers of The Bible teach the same thing, in other words, they complement each other, and help us to understand the things most important things.

1 Jn 2:3-5

“And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we Keep His Commandments. He that saith, I Know Him, and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar, and The Truth is not in him. But whoso Keepeth His Word, in him verily is The love of God perfected: Hereby know we that we are in Him”.

The Bible is very frank and to the point; John said that if we claim to know God and don’t Keep His Commandments, then we are LIARS. I’m glad it was John who wrote that, and not me. If I had said that, people would say that I was being a bit tough, but when John says it under inspiration of God, then no one can argue with it, can they?

Once again a Bible writer clearly gives Commandment Keeping as a condition of Salvation. In fact, that is how we know if we love God, and that is how others know if we love God.

Eze 36:26,27

“A New Heart also will I give you, and a New Spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an Heart of Flesh. And I will put MY Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in MY Statutes, and ye shall Keep MY Judgments and Do them”.

God takes away our Hard and Stony Heart and gives us an Heart of Love like HE has. Notice that God is the only One who can give us The New Spirit, we cannot do it ourselves. No, it will be God’s Spirit that enables us to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

Heb 10:16,17

“This is The Covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith The Lord, I will put MY Laws into their Hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more”.

What Ezekiel wrote in The Old Testament, Paul supports all the way. When he wrote in The New Testament; That God will fill our Hearts and Minds with His Wonderful Ten Commandments, and the many other Commandments that He has given in His Bible.

That is how Jesus enables us to overcome the temptations of satan, and to not fall into sin. That is God’s Plan for us; so if there is any problem, it will not be God at fault, if we lose out on Salvation, the problem will be with ourselves.

I hope that you have seen that there are Conditions to be met if we are to be Saved by The Grace of God, and also that God is going to make it possible for us to Overcome Temptation, and live up to those “Conditions”.

May God grant that we will be amongst the Saved on that Great and Glorious Day when Jesus Christ The only Saviour of mankind, comes to take His people Home.

In a future lesson we will go into a lot more detail about the “Time Factor” for God to Remember our sins no more”. Over the years there has been considerable confusion on this subject. Let me say here that this is such an important truth, that there will be people who will Not be Saved, because they have not taken the trouble to understand these truths.

We’ll do our revision, to see what we have learned this lesson:-

1. That God has a Plan to Save mankind
2. That there are “Conditions” to Salvation.
3. That one of those Conditions is to Believe in, and Obey Jesus.
4. That God leaves us in no doubt, that HE will destroy those who are Not Obedient.
5. That God will help us to be Obedient if we ask Him for His help.
6. That we all deserve to die for our sins, because we are all sinners.
7. That is why Jesus died, so that we can be forgiven the sins we have committed.
8. That we must both Confess and forsake our sins, if we want to be Saved by God’s Grace.
9. That we must also live our lives according to God’s Plan, and share our Faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.
10. That Jesus asks us to Keep His Commandments, which is a sign to Him, and to others, that we are following our Saviour.

We have spent a lot of time this lesson talking about Keeping God’s Commandments. So next time I come, we will begin another series of lessons that will answer for us questions such as; “Do we still have to keep God’s Commandments”, or, “do we only have to keep some of them now”? “Did Jesus change them in any way”? And as always, we will let The Bible be our teacher, and not go by what some man has said. Do you have any questions?

Once again it has come the time for me to leave. May I say that, I always enjoy my visit to your home, and I hope you do as well. Till we meet again, may God richly bless and keep you and your family faithful, and safe in His Love and care, as he watches over you and your loved ones. ‘Bye for now.