**God’s Plan for Me Lesson 2: Salvation in Christ**

Our terrible condition in sin would be hopeless were it not for the great love God has for us. God’s love made a plan to deliver us from the bondage, power, guilt, and results of sin, turning us from the way of eternal destruction to the way of eternal life. This plan is the gospel. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek”* (Romans 1:16).

The gospel is God’s power for salvation because it presents the facts concerning Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God and Savior of the world. The central theme of the gospel is God’s amazing love for humanity shown in the giving of Jesus Christ to die on the cross. His blood made salvation possible for all who obey Him. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him”* (Romans 5:8-9). For more information, please read Matthew 27:29-50, Mark 15:15-38, Luke 23:27-46, and John 1:29, 12:32-33, 19:13-37.

Blood has always been necessary in God’s plan of salvation (Hebrews 9:22). The only blood having the power to deliver us from sin is that of Jesus Christ, due to the sinless nature of His life and, therefore, the completeness of His sacrifice. For more information, please read Hebrews 4:15, 5:8-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19, and 1 Peter 2:21-22.

Jesus Christ is the central figure in world history, and His death is the central theme of the gospel. Therefore, it is easy to understand why Paul summed up his work of preaching the gospel by declaring, *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:2). However, we must realize that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross would have been in vain were it not for the fact that He won over death by His resurrection (Romans 4:25). Therefore, the power of the gospel for salvation involves the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as His crucifixion. As Paul said, *“…if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:14).

How is our escape from sin described in the word of God?

**Salvation**

In sin we are all lost; so, we need to be rescued, or saved. Jesus is the Savior of mankind from sin; He is the only one who can save us from our sins. *“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost”* (Luke 19:10). “*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). For more information, read Romans 8:1, 1 Timothy 1:15, Hebrews 7:25, and 1 Peter 2:25.

**Redemption**

This word refers to a ransom or something used to buy back an object or person. Sinners are in bondage to sin and Satan (Romans 6:16). Nothing we can do has the power within itself to redeem us from this bondage. The price which has been paid for our redemption is the precious blood of Jesus shed on the cross, “…*in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”* (Colossians 1:14). For more information, read Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Hebrews 9:12. In redeeming us from the bondage of sin, Jesus did away with the power and work of the devil.

**Justification**

This word means to make things right. When we are saved and redeemed by the power of the blood of Christ, we are counted as just, or righteous, people before God, acceptable to Him. “*Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:24). For more information: Acts 13:38-39, Romans 5:1-9, Titus 3:7.

**Reconciliation**

This word is defined as “to restore friendship after separation.” When we commit our first sin, we become separated from God. But when we are saved, redeemed, and justified in Christ, we are reconciled to God, and the friendship is restored. “*And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach”* (Colossians 1:21-22). “*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation”* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Also see Ephesians 2:16-17.

**Forgiveness**

In order to stand excused before God, we must have our sins forgiven, which means that we must be pardoned of our sins against God. When one’s sins are forgiven, or pardoned, they are removed or blotted out, as if they had not been committed. It is through the blood of Christ that God forgives all sins against Him. “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace”* (Ephesians 1:7). For more information, read Acts 5:31, 13:38, 26:18, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 1:14, 3:13, 1 John 1:9, 2:12.

**Cleansing**

Sin makes our soul dirty, just as dirt and grime make our body dirty. As we use water to wash away the filth of the body, so we are immersed into Christ to reach His blood. Thus the soul is cleansed from the filth of sin. *“But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7). For more information, read Romans 6:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:11, and Revelation 7:14.

**Grace**

Grace is God’s gift of salvation. *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and sealed us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 2:4-7). For more information, read Acts 20:32, Romans 3:24, Titus 2:11, Titus 3:7, Hebrews 2:9.

Sinners do not deserve justification and salvation; indeed, we deserve the loss of our soul in everlasting hell (Romans 1:32). Moreover, there is nothing we can do that has the merit to remove the guilt of sin from our soul so that we can stand approved before God. The merciful, loving Heavenly Father, however, sent His Son to die on the cross in order to obtain salvation for lost mankind. So, when we receive salvation by means of the sacrifice of Jesus, being redeemed by His precious blood, we are given what we do not deserve (Ephesians 2:7). Also see Romans 6:23.

Since Jesus freely gave Himself to His Father’s will in leaving His state of blessedness in heaven, He accepted the miseries and hardships of human life. By His suffering and death, He made possible our freedom from sin: “*Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor”* (2 Corinthians 8:9).See also Philippians 2:5-8. *“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are”* (Acts 15:11).

Jesus Christ is the hope of the world! If we want to escape from our sins and have a place in the everlasting kingdom of God, we must be certain that we have come to God by way of Jesus Christ and His blood (John 14:6). But if we neglect so great a salvation, we will lose our souls in everlasting hell.

*“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard”* (Hebrews 2:1-3).

**True or False (write T or F in the blank):**

\_\_\_ 1. The gospel shows us the way to be saved.

\_\_\_ 2. To be justified is to be counted as righteous before God.

\_\_\_ 3. We are saved because we deserve it.

\_\_\_ 4. Jesus Christ is one of many ways leading to salvation.

\_\_\_ 5. Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood.

\_\_\_ 6. When our sins are forgiven, God still remembers our sin.

\_\_\_ 7. Jesus gave his life voluntarily for our sins.

\_\_\_ 8. The gospel teaches that Christ died for our sins.

\_\_\_ 9. Sinners deserve to be lost in hell.

\_\_\_ 10. God’s plan can be changed by religious leaders.

**Multiple Choice (write the letter in the blank):**

\_\_\_ 11. The central figure of the gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

 **a - Paul b - Peter c - Christ**

\_\_\_ 12. *“And I, if I am lifted up from the \_\_\_\_\_, will draw all men to Myself”* (John 12:32).

 **a - grave b - earth c - mountain**

\_\_\_ 13. *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world!”* (John 1:29).

 **a - sin b - troubles c - sickness**

\_\_\_ 14. *“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save \_\_\_\_\_”* (1 Timothy 1:15).

 **a - sinners b - money c - the environment**

\_\_\_ 15. *“But God demonstrates His own \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

 **a - grace b - mercy c - love**

\_\_\_ 16. *“Much more then, having now been \_\_\_\_\_ by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him”* (Romans 5:9).

 **a - punished b - saved c - justified**

\_\_\_ 17. *“How will we \_\_\_\_\_ if we neglect so great a salvation?”* (Hebrews 2:3).

 **a - escape b - be saved c - overcome**

\_\_\_ 18. *“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their \_\_\_\_\_”* (Matthew 1:21).

 **a - dog b - sins c - death**

\_\_\_ 19. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_”* (John 3:16).

 **a - many children b - forgiveness of sins c - eternal life**

\_\_\_ 20. *“…being \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:24).

 **a - justified b - saved c - forgiven**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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