

# CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES

for New Church Members

by Bill Wakefield

~ 1963 ~

THE BAPTIST CENTER MALATE, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

## LESSON TWO -

### SALVATION

#### INTRODUCTION

All people of the world feel the guilt and fear the consequences of their sins. They are seeking ways to pay for their sins and be saved from the punishment that they know they rightly deserve. They hope for forgiveness so that after death they may go to be with GOD in Heaven. It is tragic that in our world today, most people are seeking the wrong way to Heaven and salvation. Many feel that they cannot be sure they are saved until the judgment of the LORD. But the Bible tells us that we can be saved in this life and have the assurance of salvation right now. We can have our sins forgiven and know that we will go to be with GOD after this life. Salvation is from GOD, so let us look in His Word to know the true and only way of salvation.

#### I. MAN NEEDS TO BE SAVED

Why do all men need to be saved?

##### A. BECAUSE MAN HAS SINNED

The Bible records for us the story of the creation of the world. In Genesis 1 we read that GOD created all things, and that He called His creation good. His greatest creation was man, who was made in GOD's own image (Genesis 1:27). Man was without sin, and he had fellowship and communion with GOD. But man disobeyed GOD, and by this act of disobedience sin came into the world and man was separated from the fellowship in GOD. Sin came between man and GOD. (Genesis 3). In Romans 3:23, we read that "**all have sinned and come short of the glory of God**" (Romans 5:12, Isaiah 53:6).

##### B. BECAUSE THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH (Romans 6:23)

GOD told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and thus sinned, they would surely die (Genesis 2:17). Through the man Adam, sin and death came into the world. (I Corinthians 15:21-22). In Romans 5:12, we read that "**Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin.**" Death is the result of sin because man is separated from GOD by his sin, and away from GOD there is no life. GOD is life. By Him and through Him all things live and breathe and away from Him there is no life. The result or wages for our sin is death and separation from GOD.

## **C. BECAUSE THIS DEATH IS HELL, ETERNAL PUNISHMENT AWAY FROM GOD**

**"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." -- Revelation 21:8.**

All men experience the physical death of one's body, but the second death, the death of the soul, the separation from GOD comes as the wages for sin to those whose sins are not forgiven. This is Hell. See also Luke 16 and Revelation 20:11-15. From these descriptions we learn the horrible reality of the second death.

## **II. SALVATION -- THE GIFT OF GOD**

We can be thankful to GOD that the story does not end here. There is a way of escape from Hell provided for man. Man can be saved. For GOD not only created man, but He also loves man. He does not desire that any should perish. He does not want any to experience eternal punishment and separation from Him. He desires that all should be brought back to Him in fellowship and obedience (II Peter 3:9). What did GOD do so that man could be saved?

### **A. HE MADE A PROMISE**

Though sin had entered the world, and the whole human race must suffer for the act of disobedience, GOD promised to send a Deliverer to save the world from sin. He said to the serpent, "**And I will put enmity between thee and the woman,**" (Please read Genesis 3:15). We see that GOD is here declaring that there will be constant war between good and evil in the world, but that someday there would come One who would overcome the serpent -- One who would "**bruise [the] head**" of humanity's enemy and put an end to sin and death. This One was to be His SON, Who was to give Himself that the serpent might be overcome and the lost world be brought back to GOD.

### **B. HE FULFILLED OR KEPT HIS PROMISE**

For centuries after GOD made His promise to send His SON to conquer sin and death, GOD prepared the way for the coming of JESUS His SON. One night almost two thousand years ago, GOD sent His SON JESUS into the world as a baby. Though JESUS was with GOD in the beginning and is GOD (John 1), He took upon Himself the form of man and was born as a baby in the manger in Bethlehem (Philippians 2:5-8). In the Gospels we can read the story of His three years of living and working among the people on earth. He taught them, preached to them, and in every way demonstrated to man that GOD loves him, showing him what GOD is really like, for JESUS is GOD. Then He died on the cross for the sins of man. He Who was without sin became sin that we who are sinners might have eternal life and be made free from sin. He paid the wages of sin for us by taking our place and dying, so that we would not have to die (John 3:16, 17). After He died, He was buried and after 3 days He rose again to life. Through this death, this burial and this resurrection, He conquered sin, death, and Hell and through Him we have eternal life (I Corinthians 15:1-4). This is the gift of GOD which is offered to all people.

### III. WHAT MAN MUST DO TO BE SAVED

Even though CHRIST died for all men to save them from their sins, not all men are saved. Before a person can be saved there is something that he must do.

#### A. HE MUST REPENT OF HIS SINS

JESUS said, "**Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**" (Luke 13:3). In Acts 3:19, we read "**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.**" What does repenting of our sins mean? It means:

(1) that we know that we are lost. We know in our own heart that we are a sinner and that we have sinned against GOD and our fellowman, and that our sin has separated us from GOD and Life. It also means:

(2) we are sorry for this sin, the Bible calls it a "**godly sorrow**" (2 Corinthians 7:10) "**For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.**" We are sorry enough that:

(3) we turn to GOD while turning away from our sin; we give it all to Him who nailed it upon His cross (Proverbs 28:13, Isaiah 55:6, 7). To whom do we confess our sin? We confess our sin to GOD, for it is against Him that we have sinned, and He is the only One able to forgive our sins. We can pray directly to GOD and ask His forgiveness (Luke 18:13, Psalm 32:5). We have the promise of GOD, that if we confess our sins to Him, He will have mercy and forgive our sins (1 John 1:9) wherein we maintain the fellowship we were given when we first believed.

#### B. HE MUST BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

"**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). "**He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**" (John 3:18). "**He that believeth on the SON hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the SON shall not see life, but the wrath of GOD abideth on him.**" (John 3:36). The Bible tells us over and over again that we must believe on JESUS if we would be saved and have eternal life. (Acts 16:31, John 5:24, John 1:12). If we do not believe on Him, the wrath and punishment of GOD rests upon us.

What does it mean to have faith or believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST? It means that we know and believe in our hearts that JESUS is the only way to be saved. We believe what He has done for us by dying on the cross for our sins, and we open our heart to Him and receive Him by faith as our own SAVIOUR and LORD. We place our whole life in His hands and trust in Him and Him alone. This means that we will not trust in the church, our baptism, the saints, Mary, our own good acts or works, or any other thing for salvation. For salvation comes from GOD, and we can not earn it, only receive it - as a gift; we can only receive it through faith in CHRIST. (Acts 4:12, Ephesians 2:8-9).

Our faith is counted as righteousness in the sight of GOD. "**But to him that worketh not, but**

**believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness"** (Romans 4:5). When the people who were following after JESUS asked what they might do to do the work of GOD, He said, **"This is the work of GOD, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent"** (John 6:29). It is not enough that we say we believe in GOD and JESUS with our mouths. We must believe in our heart, then He comes into our heart and saves us.

### **C. HE MUST CONFESS**

After we have confessed our sins to GOD, and believed in JESUS CHRIST as our own personal SAVIOUR, we should confess CHRIST publicly.\*\* If one is really saved he will gladly confess his LORD before men. He will want to share CHRIST with others and tell others what the LORD has done for Him. The Bible tells us that we should do this. Romans 10:9-11: **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the LORD JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that GOD hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."** And in Romans 10:11 we read, **"Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed."**

## **IV. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE SAVED?**

What does the Bible tell us happens when we believe in JESUS and are saved?

### **A. OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN (I John 1:7; 2:12)**

**"In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."** (Colossians 1:14). JESUS CHRIST died on the cross and shed His blood, paying the price of sin, in order that our sins might be blotted out and forgiven.

### **B. WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**

**"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand"** (John 10:28). **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of GOD is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 6:23). The moment we have received CHRIST as SAVIOUR, we are saved. We have eternal life right now, we have already passed from death unto life (John 5:24). This means that we do not have to wait for the judgment to know if we are saved. We already have eternal life. It is GOD's gift to us. We will never come under the condemnation of sin and death again (Romans 8:1).

### **C. WE ARE BORN AGAIN**

JESUS told Nicodemus in John 3:3 that except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of GOD. In this same chapter He tells us that this second birth is of the SPIRIT, from GOD. When we take JESUS as our SAVIOUR, He enters into our heart, transforms us by His power, and makes us new creatures. We are born anew by the SPIRIT OF GOD. **"Therefore if any man be in CHRIST, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new"** (II Corinthians 5:17; I Peter 1:23; 2:2).

### **D. WE BECOME A CHILD OF GOD**

When we are born again of the SPIRIT OF GOD, we become a child of GOD. We no longer belong to Satan and the world. We are now in the family of GOD. **"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of GOD, even to them that believe on His name."** (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1).

#### **E. WE BECOME THE HOME OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

When we are saved, the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD comes into our heart, and lives with us to guide, to comfort, and to strengthen us. **"Know ye not that ye are the temple of GOD, and that the SPIRIT OF GOD dwelleth in you?"** (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20).

#### **V. CAN WE BE SURE THAT WE ARE SAVED?**

The Christian can be sure in this life that he is save because ...

**A. GOD PROMISES AND GIVES ETERNAL LIFE** (John 3:16; John 3:18; John 3:36; John 5:24; John 6:47)

**"And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life."** (I John 2:25) **"In hope of eternal life, which GOD, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."** (Titus 1:2).

**B. WE ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD AND NOT BY OUR OWN POWER** (John 10:28; Jude 24)

If we were depending on ourselves, we would not be sure of salvation. (BBB Note: If it were up to me, I could not keep myself saved for five minutes.) But the same one who is able to save us, JESUS CHRIST, is also able to keep us saved by His own power. **"Who are kept by the power of GOD through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."** (I Peter 1:5).

**C. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD**

**"Who shall separate us from the love of CHRIST? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

**"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, or things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature (BBB Note: we are creatures), shall be able to separate us from the love of GOD, which is in CHRIST JESUS our LORD."** (Romans 8:35-39)

**D. GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES TO US THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD**

**"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."** (Romans 8:16). The HOLY SPIRIT, Who comes and dwells in our hearts when we are saved, daily talks with us and gives us an assurance that we are the children of GOD. As we daily listen for His

voice, and strive to follow His leading, He will speak to us, and we will know that we are saved.

**"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:13).**

Salvation is for all men, for it is the gift of GOD through JESUS CHRIST to all men who will believe on His name. No matter what our condition in life, whether poor or rich; no matter what our race or color; no matter how great a sinner we may be, we can all know the forgiveness of sins and the joy of knowing CHRIST as our SAVIOUR. If we had to work or pay for it, none could do enough or accumulate enough to do it. But we cannot work or pay for it, for it comes purely by the grace of GOD. We must only receive and believe. Thanks be to GOD for His gift of salvation!

Foundational Bible truths are so important that they really should be given much attention. It is a sad thing, and we are all prone to this error, when we base our doctrinal views on what we think the Bible teaches as opposed to what the Bible really teaches.

To this end, we Fundamentalists have been shunned and basically repudiated because we are more concerned in knowing and understanding the "**Thus saith the LORD**" and standing for what we understand to be the facts of the matter at hand than at having fellowship with others at the cost of doctrinal purity.

There is a concept that love is nonexclusionary - but that simply is not true. Those that often speak the loudest on love are also the ones that will accuse the Fundamentalists of hate because of what they deem to be their "argumentative spirit." It is just that our love for the Word of GOD supercedes human affiliations. We desire more the approval of GOD than that of man. We simply will not tolerate views that are not clearly supportable by Scripture.

To each of us is given a gift of the HOLY SPIRIT. GOD, through the years has shown me that mine is that of a teacher. It is no easy matter to be a teacher of the Bible - for, according to the Word of GOD, if we get it wrong James tells us that we will receive the greater condemnation.

Look through Bible History and it is very apparent what GOD thinks of His Word, that is to say, His way. Look at Uzzah who was killed for merely touching the ark of the covenant, or Uzziah that was given leprosy for entering into the priest's office, which appertaineth not to him. Consider Moses, who in defiance of GOD's revealed Word smote the rock a second time and was sentenced to die without entering Canaan. What of Ananias and Sapphira who thought they could get by with just one little white lie to the HOLY SPIRIT? Other illustrations fail me at present - but the Word of GOD is filled with those that tried to bend the Word of GOD a little. One other example is the old prophet who was warned of GOD not to go turn back and reenter a town - he did, and he died as a result of it. And without question, we all know the end of those that presume to earn salvation in any way other than that which the Word prescribes - the blood and finished work of CHRIST upon the cross.

The Fundamentalists' fault is not one of pride (although it can become that), or arrogance (it can be that too) or even an attempt to limit the HOLY SPIRIT (or as some claim, blasphemy of the

HOLY SPIRIT) - but of being right - of rightly dividing the Word of GOD. To this end we are not blessed with many friends - because we are unbending in our faith, our system of doctrinal values.

We will not allegorize the Bible - although we will often seek to find application - but we recognize that every verse of the Bible has only ONE interpretation.

We will not build a doctrine from a single verse - for no Scripture is open to private interpretation. Rather we seek the whole counsel of GOD on a subject. Ours is a systematic theology - built line upon line, precept upon precept.

We do not isolate verses (especially those verses that are not so clear as are found in Hebrews 6 and Hebrews 10 regarding losing one's salvation [in fact, there are some verses in Hebrews 5 that are just as unclear regarding the Deity of CHRIST])

Our beliefs are not based upon our emotions.

We do not believe that GOD reveals new truths to us contrary to His Word - the closed canon of Scripture. However, I do believe that GOD does speak to our hearts - through that Word - certainly that is the HOLY SPIRIT's ministry in the area of illuminating the Word to us.

I just felt like I need to say something on this issue.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

\*\*\*