

# **NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON**

## **WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW**

### **Part Two**

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the rejected (not believed in) King, has died on the cross for the sins of the world, was raised from the dead for our justification, and that by Him all that believe are justified from all things.

***John 3:16 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 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.***

In our last lesson we learned about justification and what it means to be justified (our debt paid for). God, the Father, desires to fellowship (have a friendship) with his creatures, the human race. But, as we know, the human race is born in sin. Therefore, God had to design a plan that would pay the price for sins and create a perfect place for Him to have fellowship with humans. The Judge, God the Father, had to condemn sin and could not overlook sin! That's where Jesus comes in. He paid the price for the sins of all mankind and, now, by believing in His work on the cross, we can fellowship with God, the Father!

***Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.***

Our "good" deeds are like filthy, smelly, poopy rags- can you imagine what our BAD deeds are like? YUCK!! How good would we have to be to be equal to God? Perfect you say? You are right! Are you perfect? Do you know any perfect people? Well, then, if we think that our "goodness" comes anywhere close to God's perfection, we are wrong! Don't forget, even our good deeds are like smelly poopy rags!!

***1 Samuel 2:2 There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.***

A meeting place is a place where two people can gather together in peace, without animosity (hatred), where great love and rapport (both on the same wavelength) can be enjoyed. For example, when we

celebrate the Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, etc.) most people gather together in a “place” where they are free to celebrate with people they love. They all gather together with one purpose in mind, to celebrate the Holiday. We have learned that God wants to fellowship or meet with His creatures, but how can God “meet” with us when we are sinners? God had to do something for this to be possible.

**Habakkuk 1:13** *Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?*

In the Garden of Eden there was perfect harmony and no fighting over who was the boss. They had knowledge (were smart), righteousness, and holiness because they were created perfect and taught by God every day. So, you may say they were perfect but it was never put to the test until.....they were tested and we know the story, right? Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and Adam followed right along. This was disobedience to God and, therefore, SIN! How could God possibly meet with His creatures now? We learned from **Habakkuk 1:13** that He cannot be in the presence of sin and evil. **Romans 6:23a** says, “For the wages of sin is death..”

Anything that isn't from God's perfect righteousness is offensive (yucky) to His perfection, therefore, He “hates” it with infinite (never ending) hate. (**Psalm 11:3-7**) God is right in hating sin!

Man's only way to be declared righteous (justified) is a matter of faith alone in Christ alone. The Old Testament believers looked forward to the cross, the people who were alive when Jesus walked the Earth saw the cross! Now, we as church age believers (those who believe in Jesus after Jesus was raised from the dead) look backwards to the cross. It has always been and will always be “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.” **Acts 16:31**

All people are sinners and God is perfect and can't approach the other ... there has to be a mediator (middle man). Jesus Christ is the “middle man” who creates a meeting place for God and Man to have fellowship. God's judgment against man requires a “payment”. Such payments are always made with blood alone.

**Leviticus 17:11** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.*

**Matthew 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**

**Colossians 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

Whether in the Old Testament or the New Testament, redemption always means a payment for sin that God demanded. Thank God He did all of the work for us! He made a plan that is so unique and so perfect that it allows us to be His friend. The God of the universe wants to be YOUR friend! WOW! Think about that for a few minutes. Then, think about this. He wants to be your friend so badly that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price FOR you! You just have to believe in His person and His work. Pretty cool huh???