

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

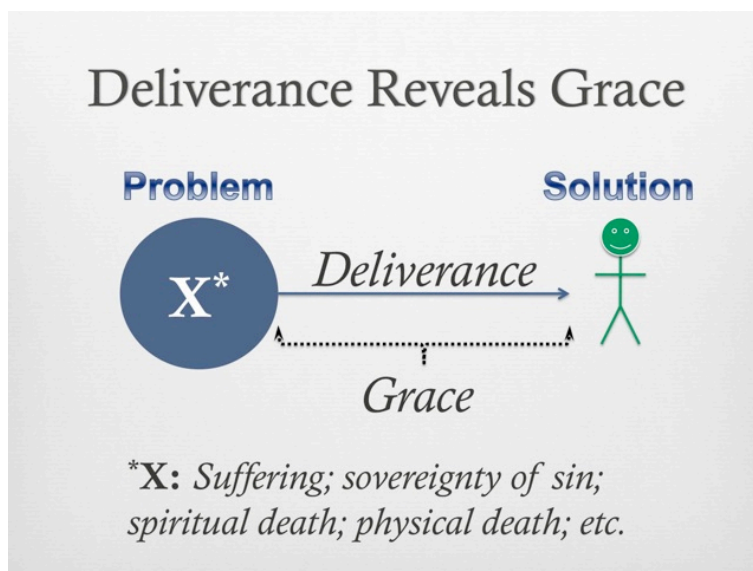
WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part Four

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

Let's look at the work of salvation through the eyes of each person of the trinity. First of all, what is the trinity? God is ONE in essence, THREE in persons! For example, let's think of an egg. It has a shell, a white and a yolk. Three distinctive parts and, yet, it is ONE egg. God is ONE God and three distinctive persons. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This isn't easy to FULLY understand in our human mind and if you think about it too long, your head may EXPLODE! LOL. Now, let's look at how each person of the trinity sees the work of Salvation for all mankind. Salvation, to us, means that we are delivered from being an enemy of God. We are able to spend all eternity with Him because of this salvation plan.

God **the Father** is the "architect" of the salvation plan. Architects are people who design buildings and structures and make sure that they are not going to collapse once they are built. God **the Son** (Jesus Christ) is the one who executed, or acted out, the plan. God **the Holy Spirit** is the one who teaches the Plan and gives the Power to execute, or act out, the Plan.



In our last lesson we learned that our sin is presented to the Judge in a Court Room setting in Heaven. God is the Judge and He either says, "CONDEMNED" or "FORGIVEN". There has to be a decision once sin is presented to the Judge. Can you imagine someone being sent to court for breaking the law and the Judge says, "Well, I can't decide....just wait here FOREVER"? How silly. **The** Judge, God the Father, requires payment for sin. Such payments are always made with a blood sacrifice. So, when we are presented to the Judge and Jesus steps in and says "PAID IN FULL" to Him, He can then say "FORGIVEN". WOW!

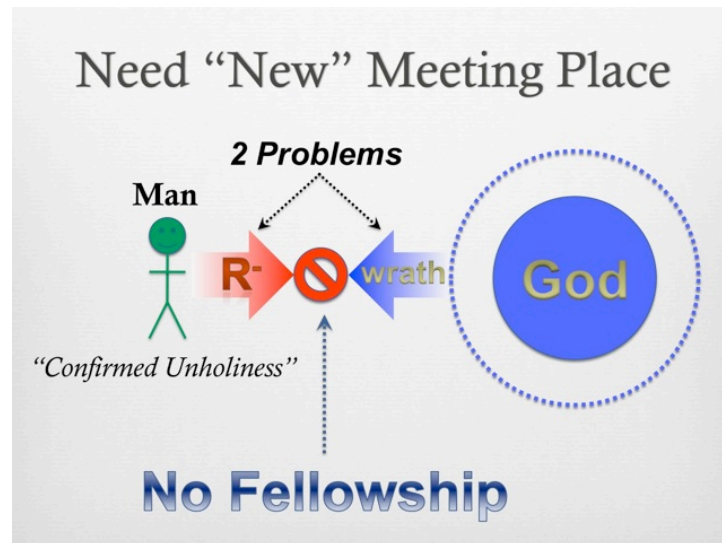
Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Jesus made the payment and God states that we are justified because we believed in Him. Not only should this make **you** crazy happy, it makes God crazy happy, too! He can now have fellowship with you! The gavel comes down in the Supreme Court of Heaven and He says, "Justified by the blood/saving work of Jesus Christ! Now I can fellowship with them because they are IN CHRIST and perfect"! We should stop for a moment and think about what this means to GOD. Just think, God wants to have a friendship with little ole' YOU!!

God in eternity past (before time before anything was made, don't think about this too long your head may explode again! LOL) had to design a plan, as the architect, that satisfied His desire to fellowship with His creatures. But, at the same time, He had to honor man's free will to choose and He couldn't go against His own perfect justice! As you can imagine, only God could do such a perfect work!

Remember, Adam and Eve were made perfect but sinned in the Garden of Eden, which was man's first "meeting place" with God. He told them they could eat of all of the trees except for ONE! What did they do? They ate from the ONE forbidden tree! It's funny but we do this every day. God blesses us in so many ways. He says "YES" to so many things, but we have to go and do the thing we know we shouldn't. Right??? Why? Because Adam and Eve are our great, great, great, great, great,...(You get it) grandparents. We are born into this sinful state and, therefore, we sin. A dog barks and God is not surprised! A cat meows and God is not surprised. A cow moos and God is not surprised. Do you think God is surprised when sinners sin? How silly we are to think that God expects us NOT to sin! Not only does He expect us to sin, He knows each and every sin you have committed and each and every sin you WILL commit! So, now that we have that out of the way, now what? God designed a perfect plan to pay for ALL of the sins of ALL mankind! Now, sin is no longer the issue! The only issue in the Supreme Court of Heaven is if you believe in Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross?

Simple! Perfect! Only God could do such a beautiful thing! Now, when we believe in Jesus Christ there is a NEW meeting place.



In our last lesson we also mentioned "The blood of Christ". Are we talking about His actual blood? No, actually it refers to the complete work of Jesus Christ, both His physical and spiritual death. Both spiritual and physical death occurred in the Garden of Eden—"physical death" (*Genesis 2:17*) is what the human body experiences due to "spiritual death", which means separation from God! So, the blood of Christ is a way to say in one phrase, "The entire salvation work of Jesus Christ so we can have fellowship with God the Father forever". The blood of animals was used in the Old Testament but this was only a teaching aid to those who believed BEFORE Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice. He gave His Life on the cross as a sacrifice for us and human "life" is in the blood! He was our substitute! He died for ALL sins so anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will live forever and never die. He met the demands of God for payment for the sins of all mankind! This is called Redemption.

The word redemption has the root word "redeem". Do you ever see coupons in the paper? Does your mom or dad cut out coupons before going to a store? These coupons have a "value" and when you go to the store you can use them. If it is a \$1.00 coupon towards buying milk, when you buy your milk you get \$1.00 off! So, you "redeem" the coupon. Jesus "redeemed" us. He is the payment for sin but, in this case, He paid 100% of the price. That's like getting a coupon for free milk, but much better! So, He died on the cross and paid the price in full. Since the payment for sins of man has been made, it is a free gift just sitting there waiting for us to accept. All we have to do is CHOOSE to believe that we need a savior and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. FAITH alone in the saving work of CHRIST!

His death also reconciled us with God. To reconcile something means to change someone from being an enemy of God into being at peace with God. When we believe in His Son, He "reconciles" us. God cannot change (**IMMUTABLE** is the big word for that). So, He had to "change" us without violating our free will. He has been and always will be perfect. We are born in a state of sin and need someone else to save us! He provided salvation so that when we believe we become "new creatures" – "born

again” believers. Now that we have a “NEW” nature (His nature in US) we can fellowship with Him.

We have also been justified. Justification is a big word that is used as a legal courtroom term. To justify means to declare righteous. This righteousness must be perfect and therefore must be that given by the grace of God. When we believe in Jesus Christ we are “DECLARED RIGHTEOUS”! Jesus now is inside of us and God sees His very OWN Righteousness within us. WOW!! That is a lot to think about, huh?