

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Salvation Part 4

2 Corinthians 5:14 *“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;”*

When we learn about the love of Christ and how He offered us the free gift of salvation, we want to tell others about it. This all starts with a mental attitude of gratitude for what The Lord Jesus Christ has done for us! In other words, the love of Christ motivates us in our minds. There must be the same attitude of grace towards both unbelievers and believers!

2 Corinthians 5:15 *“..and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”*

Jesus was judged for our sins and died as a substitute for us so that we would never have to face spiritual death, separation from God. We will never know what being separated from God is like. Even unbelievers are able to bask in the blessings of God. Oxygen, light, gravity, trees, etc. etc, are all blessings from God and though we live in the devil's world, we still get to live in the presence of God, as its Creator. To be totally apart from God is what is described as hell. Hell will be the opposite of all the qualities of God. Since God is light, hell is darkness. Since God is eternal life, hell is constant dying. In God's presence there will be no more sorrows and no more pain. So, in hell there will be constant sorrow and regret and pain. Sounds horrible, huh?

2 Thessalonians 1:9 *“They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,”*

Once believers truly understand God's grace plan, they start thinking differently towards others and start living more like Jesus, in an unselfish manner. He was the ultimate demonstration of this lifestyle and He is our Lord. He is the one that lived this spiritual life, as a human, to show us that it REALLY works. We are to follow His example by learning the Word of God. So, we are to no longer live for ourselves but truly live for others, just like Jesus did!

2 Corinthians 5:16 *“Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.”*

We are told to live for others but we are not to “know them” by our sinful standards or their sinful behavior. We are to know them as being the object of God's love! We cannot do this in OUR sin nature; we have to do this through

God's power inside of us and through our new nature. So, in learning to live for others with an attitude of love, we stop focusing on others' sinfulness. Just as Christ, Himself did. Though He was quite aware of our sinfulness, He loved us to the point of death on the cross. [READ THAT ONE AGAIN, PLEASE :)]

1 Corinthians 2:14 ***"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."***

Even before the Gospel makes its way into the believer's soul and the gift of salvation is accepted, people are unable to understand something as incredible as God's grace. It is beyond our human understanding. But, that changes once we are saved because then we are changed, drastically!!! God, the Holy Spirit, steps in and makes the Gospel understandable and then we can choose to believe it!

2 Corinthians 5:17 ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."***

The term "in Christ" in the Bible is a reference to the amazing relationship believers have with Christ. We are in UNION with Him; we have an eternal relationship with Him. We are actually indwelt by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This means that they are present inside of us and we have become the physical temple for them to dwell in. The Old Testament believers had to go to a physical temple to fellowship and communicate with God, but the Holy Spirit makes us ONE with Jesus. WOW!

John 15:5 ***"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."***

When you believe in The Lord Jesus Christ, you become a new creature, "in Christ", this you know but you do not really feel it. Living the spiritual life is a result of proper thinking, not emotions.

2 Corinthians 5:18 ***"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."***

The word reconcile here refers to the barrier between God and man. This barrier is made up of sin, where the penalty of sin (spiritual death) is on one side and God's absolute righteousness is on the other side. This barrier cannot be passed through, gone around, or jumped over. However, the work of Jesus Christ on the cross is able to remove this barrier once and for all. When sin is removed, we receive redemption. He paid the price and now we are His. When the cross removed the barrier, man was reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 “...that God was in reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

This verse shows us that we become an ambassador the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We became a personal representative of the Lord Jesus on the Earth. We are part of a family, the family of God. Jesus is no longer here on Earth physically, so it is up to His Bride to be the light of the world and the communicators of the Gospel. Just remember it is our job to present the Gospel as clearly as possible, but not to pressure people. It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict the unbeliever and make the Gospel understandable. We were given free will to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, so we must remember to respect the free will of others.

2 Corinthians 5:21” He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

This verse explains how salvation is accomplished. Jesus Christ was without an old sin nature, without personal sin, without Adam's sin. He was born PERFECT and stayed PERFECT. Because He was without all of these things, He could go to the cross and be made sin for us, a perfect sacrifice.

The result is that we see the greatest act of transformation (change) in all of history. We go from being totally disqualified to fully qualified, as a result of the work completed on the cross by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have His perfect righteousness deposited to our account. we can do nothing to earn or deserve it but, because of His love, He was willing to do whatever it took to save us from a life of sin and an eternity without Him.

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.”