



Truth For These Times



8. THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

God loves you – no matter who you are or what you have done. He loves every person in this world. His love extends to all men even murderers, adulterers, liars, and even atheists. This love was demonstrated by the fact that Jesus Christ was prepared to come to this world and pass through the agony of Calvary to redeem lost mankind. Salvation has been offered to every person in this world, but not all will receive it. People are asking, “How can I get right with God?” and “How can I keep right with God?” The way to everlasting life is so simple to understand, but very few are enlightened as to how to come to Christ, and experience happiness, peace of mind and a hope for the future. This study shows the Bible’s answer for victorious Christian living.

Romans 3:23 For ALL HAVE SINNED and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;”

Here is outlined our hopeless condition. We are sinners. No person can claim to be right with God through his own merits, because all have sinned, which means nobody has the right to eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For the WAGES OF SIN *IS* DEATH, but the GIFT OF GOD *IS* ETERNAL LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The only outcome for the sinner is eternal death – this he truly earns, but eternal life is free – it is a gift – but only if we accept the gift. Our way of life will indicate whether we have a genuine conversion or not.

Acts 16:30,31 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?” So they said, “BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

The question asked by so many who are seeking life everlasting is, “What must I do to be saved?” The answer is clear – “Believe in Jesus”. This does not mean just to believe He existed, but to believe Him to the point of doing what He says. Even the devils believe and tremble, but the Christian’s belief will be more than this. The born-again Christian will have faith in Jesus and live a life of obedience to Him.

There are definite steps to take on the path to eternal life:

1. BELIEVE

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM should not perish but have everlasting life.

The convicting power of the Holy Spirit will bring us to the point of decision. We can choose to believe in Jesus or choose not to – God does not force. But if we choose to believe, the wonderful promise of everlasting life will be the reward.

2. REPENT

Acts 3:19 **REPENT THEREFORE** and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Luke 13:3 **I tell you, no; but UNLESS YOU REPENT YOU WILL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.**

True repentance is a gift of God. It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance and not something sinful man seeks after. But again man is given the choice to repent or not to repent, and in this Jesus is most definite – repent or perish. However, there are two types of repentance, genuine and non-genuine. For example, a little boy may be very repentant for his wrong because he is going to get the strap. He is sorry he is going to be punished, but he is not sorry for the wrong he has done. So a person may be sorry for the results of sin, but not sorry for the sin itself – this type of repentance is not genuine. True repentance is manifest in genuine sorrow for sins committed.



Philippian Jailer asks what must do to be saved.

Psalms 51:7,10 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **WASH ME, AND I SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW.** Create **IN ME A CLEAN HEART,** O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

King David was truly sorry for his dual sin of murder and adultery and pleaded with God for a cleansed life. He knew God's forgiveness would wash away his sins. His repentance was genuine for he was not just satisfied to have his past sins forgiven – instead he prayed that he would not fall again and said, "Create in me a clean heart O God". To genuinely repent means we will not seek or desire to sin in the future.

3. CONFESSION

Proverbs 28:13 He who **COVERS HIS SINS WILL NOT PROSPER,** but whoever **CONFESSES AND FORSAKES THEM WILL HAVE MERCY.**

The next important step is to confess our sins to God in prayer – not to a priest or a minister – but to God in private. Be specific, do not generalise, but confess the actual sins you have committed, and thus forsaking them you will find the forgiveness of a merciful God.

1 John 1:9 **IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS,** He is faithful and just to **FORGIVE US OUR SINS** and to **CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**



If we confess our sins – Jesus promises to forgive us.

Our part is to confess our sins. God's part is to forgive them. So many feel their life has been too sinful for God to forgive them, but here is God's promise for all who fulfil the conditions. The promise is to cleanse from **ALL** unrighteousness.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the **LORD,** "Though your **SINS ARE LIKE SCARLET,** they shall be **AS WHITE AS SNOW;** though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

4. NEW BIRTH or Conversion

John 3:3-7

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **UNLESS ONE IS BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD....** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.**’”



An amazing conversion took place in the life of Peter after the resurrection of Jesus.

If the first three steps have been taken, genuine conversion or the new birth experience has taken place. Unless these conditions are met, the kingdom of God will not be seen. Some feel that a conversion must be miraculous or instantaneous, and with some it appears this way, but it could be due to the previous workings of the Holy Spirit and suddenly one is brought to the point of

decision. Others have a sunrise type conversion and cannot pinpoint an exact time for conversion, but they are just as genuine as the one who came to Christ suddenly. How it came about is not as important as the fact that it has actually happened – but it must happen.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a NEW CREATION; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Here is the evidence of true conversion – a changed life. The things he once loved he now hates, and things he once hated he now loves – he is a new creature – he has been born again. His first birth was carnal, his new birth is spiritual. This does not mean he will not have any temptations, or will never sin again. The power of evil will endeavour to regain lost property. There will always be a conflict between his sinful nature and the spiritual desires as long as he lives – but while he looks to Jesus for strength, he need never fail. His delight, as a new creature, will be to do the will of God.

5. OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will **PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

If one is genuinely converted it will be seen in his obedience to the will of God. Here is where so many fail. They are prepared to render lip service and make a profession, of Christianity, but do not live by God’s standard of righteousness. The new covenant promise is that God will put His laws into the minds and hearts of His followers.

1 John 5:2,3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For **THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.** And His commandments are not burdensome.



Jesus gives us power to overcome and be obedient to Him.

The test of love to God is obedience to His commandments.

1 John 2:3,4

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. HE WHO SAYS, "I KNOW HIM," AND DOES NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, and the truth is not in him.

These are very strong words, but it shows the separating factor of the sheep and the goats. To make a profession of Christianity, and not follow the commands of God is actually living a lie – hypocrisy. Unless this step of willing obedience is taken then we will never see the kingdom. See Matthew 7:21.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but CHRIST LIVES IN ME; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.



As Christians we die to the old way of life and in this sense are crucified with Christ.

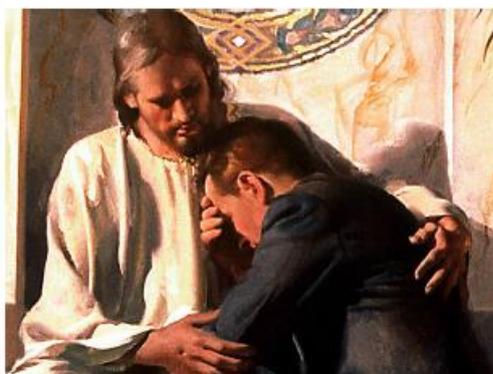
Obedience is not accomplished by our own efforts; it is achieved by the power of Christ living within. Nevertheless we co-operate willingly on the side of obedience. All of our victories over temptation, and our achievements in Christian living can only be credited to Him. Self has nothing to boast. Unless Christ lives within, we are nothing, but when He dwells within we are His precious treasure.

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So we can have absolute confidence in the promise of eternal life. The battle over sin has been fought and won at Calvary, now all we have to do is submit our lives to Him and the victory and the reward becomes a reality.

My friend, everything has been provided for you to receive the gift of salvation. Jesus paid a high price to redeem you, and all He asks in return is your life. If you keep it to yourself you will lose it for eternity, but if you give it to Him today, you will experience true satisfaction and happiness now, and a life without end hereafter. Friend, will you accept Him into your heart today?



Review Sheet – The Way to Eternal Life

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. How many human beings have sinned? Romans 3:23
For __ _____.
2. What is the punishment for sin? Romans 6:23
For the __ _____.
3. How can we receive eternal life? Acts 16:30,31
So they said, “ _____ , _____
_____.”
4. What step must follow belief and acceptance of the Lord Jesus? Acts 3:19
“ _____ and be converted.
5. How important is repentance according to Jesus? Luke 13:3
But _____.
6. After we repent of our sins, what must we do? 1 John 1:9
If we _____ He is faithful and just to _____.
7. When the sinner believes, repents and confesses his sins he is converted. What does Jesus call conversion?
John 3:3-7
I say to you, _____ he cannot see the kingdom of God.
8. How does the Bible describe the converted man? 2 Corinthians 5:17
If anyone is in Christ, he is a __ _____.
9. How is genuine conversion revealed? 1 John 5:2,3
For this is the love of God _____.
10. If one claims to be a Christian, but does not obey God, what does the word of God call him? 1 John 2:3,4
He who says “ _____ ,” _____ , _____ , _____ , _____.
11. How can the new Christian live a life of victory over sin? Galatians 2:20
it is no longer I who live, _____ ;
12. If we have by faith followed God’s requirements, can we be certain we have eternal life? 1 John 5:13
That you may know that _____.

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? _____.

Is it your desire to ask Him to guide your life from this day onward? _____.