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Bible Basics One Lesson 1

Salvation

SALVATION ... AN EXPLANATION

Definition: Salvation is God's deliverance of man from the power and consequences of sin through the work of Christ on the cross.

Before you were saved, your sin separated you from God. You were alienated from Him ... spiritually dead in your sins ... and headed for an eternity without God. However, He has provided a solution to this problem. He offers that solution to you as a free gift. That gift, offered in love, is eternal life.

This gift is free to you ... but it was not free for Jesus. He had to pay for your sins by His death on the cross. No gift has ever been more costly. He took your sins onto Himself. He took your place. He did that so you might die to sin (stop living for sin) and live for righteousness. Because of His love, God sent Jesus to die on the cross.

There is nothing you can do to pay for your own salvation ... the cost is too high. The only solution is to accept God's free gift. The Bible states that the way to accept that gift is by believing in Jesus. By believing in Jesus you are saved ... you will never perish ... you have eternal life.

Wonderful changes take place at the moment you receive Jesus as your personal Savior. You become a child of God. In addition, you have God's promise that you will never perish. You are born again to a living hope, guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. Because He conquered death, you will live even if you die.

Sin was paid for in full by the blood of Jesus. When you believe in Jesus, His payment is applied to your sins. Then you receive forgiveness of sins. With your sins forgiven, you are no longer separated from God. He gives you the free gift of eternal life ... an eternal relationship with Him.

SALVATION ... A WORKSHEET

Directions: Carefully answer each question below. Answer each one from the accompanying verse or verses ... but please use your own words if possible.

1. Verse: *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God."* Isaiah 59:2

Question: Before you were saved, what separated you from God?

2. Verse: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23

Question: What was the spiritual result of your sin?

Question: What did God give to you when you believed in Jesus?

3. Verse: *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

Question: What has Jesus done for sinners?

Question: What does this demonstrate to you about God?

4. Verse: *"And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."* 1 Peter 2:24

Question: What has Jesus done for you?

Question: Jesus did that so you could do what two things?

5. Verse: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (Note: This is a good verse to memorize.)

Question: What motivated God to send Jesus?

Question: Because you have believed in Jesus, you will never do what?

Question: What do you now have?

6. Verse: *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."* John 1:12

Question: By receiving Jesus as your Savior, what have you become?

Question: Receiving Jesus is the same as what?

7. Verse: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* 1 Peter 1:31

Question: What has happened to you because of God's mercy?

8. Verse: *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses."*
Ephesians 1:7

Question: Your redemption (payment for sin) is through what?

Question: What has happened to your sins?

9. Verse: *"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life."* John 6:40

Question: Having believed in Jesus, what do you now have?

10: Verse: *"And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."* John 17:3

Question: Eternal life is more than just living forever ... what is it?

11. A personal question: Are you sure about your relationship with God?

SALVATION ... ARE YOU SURE?

By putting your faith in Jesus, you become God's child. As His child, you are eternally secure. However, the Bible includes a very challenge for you in 2 Corinthians 13:5: "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" God gives you an internal confirmation when you are born again, 1 John 5:7-13. His Spirit authenticates that fact in your heart. Why not examine yourself right now? Do you have that internal confirmation? Are you sure that you have truly invited Jesus to be your Savior? If you would like to be sure that Christ is yours, this would be a good time to settle it once and for all. Invite Him to be your Savior right now. The prayer that follows is a good way to do that. Pray it now if it expresses the sincere desire of your heart.

Dear God,
I admit that I am a sinner.
I turn to You from my sin.
I believe that Jesus, being God, died on the cross for me.
I invite Him to be my Savior.
Thank You for saving me.
Amen

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2. Verses: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 Note: Ephesians 2:8-9 are good verses to memorize.

Question: By what are you saved?

Question: Through what are you saved?

Question: Your salvation is not because of whom?

Question: Who has given you the gift of salvation?

Question: It is not because of whose works?

3. Verse: "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." John 6:37

Question: How many of those given to Jesus by the Father will come to Him?

Question: What has Jesus promised He will never do to you?

4. Verse: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

Question: What three promises has God made to you as one who has believed?

5. Verses: "And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:28-29

Question: Are you holding on to God or is He holding on to you?

Question: Who can snatch you out of God's hand? Why?

Question: Are you stronger than God is?

Question: Therefore, when could you perish?

6. Verses: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39

Question: What are some of the things that ... and who are some of the people who ... cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus?

7. A personal question: How does this make you feel?

ETERNAL SECURITY ... AVOIDING CONFUSION

Many very clear verses state that you are eternally secure. Do not doubt the many clear verses because of a few other verses that you do not yet understand. Do not let a few difficult verses confuse you. In addition, do not confuse verses on other subjects with those on eternal security. Examples of those other (non-eternal security) subjects are:

Judgment of Believers. This is a rewards-judgment only, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Salvation is not at stake ... see verse 15. You may lose your rewards, but you will never lose your salvation.

Justification. James 2:24 states that, "a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone." Justification is only one aspect of salvation. It is God's declaration that you are saved. Your good works declare that you are saved. However, your good works do not save you, Titus 3:4-7.

Discipline. God promised that He will discipline each of His children, Hebrews 12:4-13. However, this is not for punishment ... Jesus took all our punishment on the cross. Discipline is for training. At times, His discipline may be severe, but it never affects a believer's eternal destiny.

Do not be confused about your eternal security. The Bible is very, very clear ... you are eternally secure. Nothing can ever change that fact.

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Bible Basics One ... Lesson 3 of 4

Prayer

PRAYER ... AN EXPLANATION:

Definition: Prayer is talking to God and includes ... offering praise to Him for who He is ... thanking Him for what He has done ... confessing sins ... and making requests to Him.

Prayer is the special privilege that you have to talk to God. The Psalmist wrote, "Let everyone who is godly pray." Psalm 32:6.

The Bible includes many prayer promises. However, these are also prayer conditions. Meet God's conditions ... and He will answer your prayers. God is not looking for some magical combination of your words and phrases. He is looking for your righteousness and your obedience. Abiding in Jesus Christ is the first condition for effective prayer. You must dwell in Christ. You must be rooted in Him and draw your strength from Him. And His words, the Bible, must abide in you. Then, as your will conforms to God's will, you can pray with confidence.

God is receptive to the prayers of the righteous. However, He turns away from those who do evil. Therefore, your prayers are more effective when you are pleasing to God ... when you obey Him ... and when you bear fruit (that is, help someone find Christ). A husband's prayers are more effective when he treats his wife with honor and understanding. Praying in unity with other believers is also very important. You should pray in faith, believing that God will answer. Jesus taught that prayer should be directed to the Father. In addition, prayer should be in the name of Jesus ... that is, in unity with Him.

Your prayers are more effective if you meet all of God's conditions. God always keeps His promises. He will answer your prayers. Then your joy will be made full. He wants you to talk to Him. God wants you to pray.

PRAYER ... A WORKSHEET

Directions: Carefully answer each question below. Answer each one from the accompanying verse or verses ... but please use your own words if possible.

1. Verse: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

Question: Abiding in whom is the starting point of prayer?

Question: And what should abide in you?

2. Verse: "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." 1 John 5:14

Question: What must you do to have confidence in prayer?

3. Verse: "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12

Question: What two things are true about the righteous?

Question: What is true about those who do evil?

4. Verse: "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 John 3:22

Question: Doing what two things will help your prayers?

5. Verse: "That you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you." John 15:16

Question: What happens to your prayers when you bear fruit (that is, help others find Christ)?

Question: To whom should your prayers be directed?

Question: In whose name should you pray?

6. Verse: "You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way ... and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7

Question: What two things must a husband do so that his prayers are not hindered?

7. Verse: "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 18:19

Question: Is it advantageous to pray in unity with others?

8. Verse: "All things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you." Mark 11:24

Question: Is it important to believe that God will answer your prayers?

9. Verses: " I say to you, if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full." John 16:23-24

Question: To whom should you pray?

Question: What happens to you when God answers your prayers?

A reminder: These are prayer promises and prayer conditions. God always keeps His promises. It is up to you to meet the conditions for answered prayer. "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." James 5:16

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER

God wants you to talk to Him. Be devoted to prayer, Colossians 4:2. Be open and honest with God. Do not pray with hypocrisy and meaningless repetition, Matthew 6:5-8. The Biblical pattern for prayer includes the following four elements:

PRAISE expresses your admiration and exaltation of God. Your praise honors and glorifies God for who He is, Psalm 34:1-3. Continually offer up your praise to Him, Hebrews 13:15.

THANKS expresses your appreciation to God for what He has done. Thank Him, Psalm 107:1. Have an attitude of thanksgiving, Colossians 4:2. Give thanks in everything, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:20.

CONFESSION is the acknowledgment of your sins and the wrongness of your sins to God. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

Note: 1 John 1:9 is a good verse to memorize.

REQUESTS are the things you ask God to do for you and for others. God invites you to make your requests known to Him, Philippians 4:6. Ask with the right motives, James 4:2-3. And trust God's answers, Matthew 7:7-11.

These four elements (praise, thanks, confession, and requests) should be in your prayer life. However, not all four have to be in every prayer.

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Bible Basics One ... Lesson 4

The Bible

THE BIBLE ... AN EXPLANATION

Definition: The Bible is the inspired, true, and authoritative word of God, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments.

The Bible is the preeminent book. No other book is like the Bible. It is a book from God ... not simply a book about God. The Bible is much more than inspiring. It is inspired ... it is God-breathed. It is actually His word; therefore, it is different from all other books. God's word is pure. It is accurate and without error. His word does not need to be purified, refined, or filtered. In addition, the Bible is a source of great joy and understanding.

Jesus said that God's word is truth. God's word can sanctify you (that is, make you holy). Moreover, the Bible is not only true, it is also everlasting. It is not bound by time. It does not age. It does not become outdated. The Bible is relevant today just as it was when it was written. In addition, Jesus said that God's word can be trusted to the finest detail ... to the smallest letter or stroke of a letter. You can trust the Bible. It is God's true, everlasting word.

The Bible is powerful and practical. It provides great benefits. It enlightens you and gives you understanding. It gives you God's direction for your life ... for each step and for each path. The Bible and its promises revive you when you are afflicted. Treasuring His word in your heart helps you resist sin. The Bible is the only book that can give you all of these benefits.

It is very important that you learn God's word. You should read the Bible ... study it ... meditate on it ... and memorize it. However, it is not enough only to take in God's word. You must also obey it. The blessings and benefits come from hearing and obeying God's word. Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32.

THE BIBLE ... A WORKSHEET

Directions: Carefully answer each question below. Answer each one from the accompanying verse or verses ... but please use your own words if possible.

1. Verse: "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." Psalm 12:6

Question: Whose words are pure as the purest silver?

2. Verse: "The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Psalm 19:8

Question: What word describes the Lord's precepts?

Question: What word describes His commandment?

Question: What two effects do they produce?

3. Verse: "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17

Question: What can sanctify you (that is, make you holy)?

Question: How did Jesus define truth?

4. Verse: "The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting." Psalm 119:160

Question: What characteristics of God's word are given in this verse?

5. Verse: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8.
Note: Isaiah 40:8 is a good verse to memorize.

Question: How long will God's word last?

6. Verse: "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished." Matthew 5:18

Question: To what level of detail is God's word trustworthy?

7. Verse: "The unfolding of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple", Psalm 119:130

Question: What does God's word give you?

8. Verse: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Question: What does God's word do for you?

9. Verse: "Thy word I have treasure in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11

Question: What does this (your answer to the previous question) mean?

Question: How can you resist sin?

10. Verse: "This is my comfort in my affliction, That Thy word has revived me." Psalm 119:50

Question: What revives you when you are suffering?

11. Verse: "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." James 1:22

Question: In addition to being a hearer of God's word, what should you be?

12. Verse: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it", Luke 11:28

Question: Doing what two things will give you God's blessing?

BIBLE STUDY SUGGESTIONS

Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. Those are good words for us. We should make Bible reading and Bible study an important part of every day. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15. It takes time to learn God's word ... so spend time in your Bible every day. It takes careful effort to learn to handle His word accurately. Therefore, be sure to put what you study in the correct, full context of its paragraph, chapter, and book. As you study, answer these three questions:

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How can I make this part of my life?

To answer this third question, use 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Look for *teaching ... for reproof ... for correction ... and for training in righteousness*.

Be sure to study the Old and New Testaments. Start with some easier books like Mark, John, and Colossians. You might want to keep a study notebook ... it can be very helpful.

CONGRATULATIONS

You have completed Bible Basics One. If you feel that you need to review these four lessons again, please do so ... it's important that you start out with understanding. And please don't stop at this point ... you've really just begun your walk with God. When you have mastered Bible Basics One, press on in your study of His Word. Revisit www.MyDisciplemaker.org and continue growing by studying the two courses of Level 2 - Becoming His Disciple.

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