

A COURSE FOR CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

BASIC COURSE



BASIC



BASIC LEVEL

(A COURSE FOR CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION)

COURSE MATERIALS

*THIS BASIC FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL
COURSE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS, A & B*

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Duration Two Weeks Maximum

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LESSON 1
THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Aim: To present the nature of man and his need for repentance

Text: Romans 3:23; 6:23; Isaiah 59:2

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear".(KJV)*

Introduction

The problem of sin has been one of the most perplexing conditions of man since creation. Sin is a reality. That all men are sinners cannot be denied, regardless of tribe, race or colour. One thing is sure, that God is not the author of sin though He is the Creator of all things. Sin came into the world through Satan who is the author and the perpetrator of sin.

I. The Problem Of Sin

Sin is the transgression of the law of God. It refers to doing something that displeases God. No one is righteous, for all have sinned. See Ps. 51:4,5; 78:8; Romans 3:10; Gal.3:19; Col.2:13; Eph2:5; 1 John3:4.

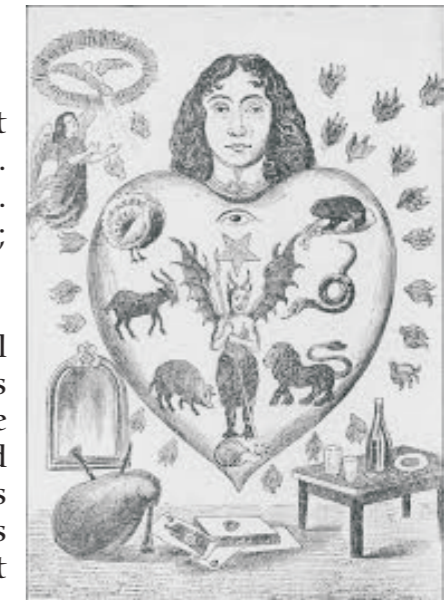
The main problem about sin is that it is natural to please ourselves. When we now do this natural thing as a result of the selfish nature with which we were born, we inevitably sin and displease God (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from God and His glory. As a result, God's purpose of creation, which is fellowship, cannot be fulfilled.

"The powerless, hopeless condition of fallen man is a result of sin now enslaved by Satan. Sin then becomes a way of life (Eph. 2:3, Titus 3:3). The conscience is dead and man now swims and stinks in sin, deceiving himself and enjoying it."

II. The Consequences Of Sin

Every act has its consequences, so is sin. Sin has brought so many ills to human race. Here are some of them:

- a) It grieves God (Gen. 6:5-7)
- b) It breeds crime (James 1:15)



- c) It brings guilt (Psalm 51:3-4)
- d) It separates man from God and His glory (Isaiah 59: 1-2)
- e) It brings judgement and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46)
- f) It enslaves (Rom. 6:17)
- g) It causes spiritual death (Eph. 2:1)
- h) It corrupts (Titus 1:15)
- i) It condemns (James 5:12)

III. How To Deal With Sin

Having seen some of the consequences of sin, it is important to know the ways of escape from facing these consequences. To escape from God's wrath and punishment for sin we must:

A. Repent From Our Sins

Repentance means to have another mind, or to change course after further insight (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15); to turn back or to make a "U" turn in an experience (I Kings 8:47; Ezekiel 14:6) It also means having a godly sorrow for what we have done. It is a complete about-turn in thought and action. It is the responsibility of man to repent and of God to forgive. Repentance is by one's volition and not by coercion (I John 1:7-9).

B. Accept God's Plan of Salvation

Before sin was committed by the first man who was created perfectly in the image of God, God already knew and He had made adequate provision for the salvation of man from sin. This plan of God centres around the work of a mediator Jesus Christ (Read Job 9:32-33, 1 Timothy 2:5) who died, was buried, rose and is alive forever more for our justification. Thank God for giving us Jesus, who bore the penalty of our guilt.

LESSON 2 THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Aim: To emphasize the need to be born again and thereafter help the students explain the plan of salvation to others.

Objective: At the end of this lesson, the students must have had the assurance of the salvation of their souls.

Memory Verse: *Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" KJV*

I. What Is Salvation?

Salvation is God's plan, whereby man may know Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. Man must accept that he is a sinner, and that he needs Jesus. Consequent to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, man can receive forgiveness for his sins, and live now and forever with Him.

A. It is the Only way to heaven (John 14:6)

Man has devised for himself, several ways by which he intends to reach heaven, but the only way approved by God is through Jesus Christ. He bore our sins on the Cross and bought us from the slave Market of sin.

B. Salvation is By Grace (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Grace is described as God's provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot help themselves. It is that provision made by God to be saved through Jesus who is appointed by God Himself. It is the gift of God and begins where the law failed.

Grace is bestowed and imputed unto man that he can be saved from sin. Grace brings access to God and makes full provision for growth, victory, peace and power to the fallen man. All that the sinner needs is faith in order to have the Grace of God which brings salvation. (Read Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31 John 1:12 and Rom. 5:1, John 5:24, Heb. 11:1)

It is through Christ's death and resurrection that we can obtain salvation from sin and we can start our journey to heaven. Grace is acronymed as 'God's Riches At Christ's expense'



G OD'S
R ICHES
A T
C HRIST'S
E XPENSE

C. Salvation is Through Faith

Faith is simply believing God's word. It is based on the finished work of Christ as revealed in the scriptures (Heb. 10:17) According to Hebrew 11:1, faith is the:

- a. Substance of that yet unrealized
- b. Proof of that which is yet unseen.

Without faith, no man can please God (Hebrews 11:6)

Saving faith can be seen as follows:

- * Committing one's life to God
- * Believing in Jesus (John 3: 15; Rom. 10:9-10)
- * Believing the Scriptural Claim (II Tim. 3:16-17)
- * Putting ones trust in God (Heb. 2:13)
- * Inviting Jesus into one's life (Rev. 3:20)

1 John 5:11-14

11. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. NIV

II. Who Planned Salvation?

A. God The Father Planned Salvation

Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, everyone born in the human race has been born a sinner. It is hard to believe that a sweet baby could have sinned in his life, he does. Though he has no tooth, that baby has all of the buds in his mouth when he is born. They will surely grow and nothing can stop them. That is just the way it is with sin. Just as the baby has tooth buds in his mouth so he has sin in his life. When he is a baby, he does not understand it as you and I do. Some day, he will grow and be taught that he must accept Jesus as his own Saviour.

How happy we should be to know that God, our heavenly Father, has made a way for us to be saved from the punishment of sin. Due to man's sinful nature, God has planned ahead by releasing His Son Jesus as our propitiation

offering (Gen. 3:15). Then, many prophets of God came and wrote the Old Testament, speaking of the time when Jesus the Saviour would come to earth to finish God's plan of salvation.

B. God The Son Purchased Salvation

God promised to give His son and Jesus came. He was born a little babe in the town of Bethlehem. He grew up as any other little boy and at the age of 12, He was found in the synagogue teaching the wise men of the day. Jesus continued to grow until He became a man. At the age of 30, He began His public ministry. He called busy men from their works to follow Him. Immediately, they left and became His disciples.

For three and a half years Jesus lived with His friends the disciples. During this time He performed many miracles and taught about His heavenly father and heaven. Then one day, Jesus was hung upon the cruel Cross (see picture of Calvary) because sin had to be punished, Jesus took punishment for our sin. Later His loving disciples took Him down from the cross and placed Him in the tomb. Three days after, they were met by an angel who gave them the news that Jesus has risen from the dead (Matthew 28:6). The death and resurrection of Jesus bought or purchased eternal life for us. This was a part of God's plan.

C. God The Holy Spirit Reveals Salvation

Today the Holy Spirit who is a person, works and moves in the heart of people all over the world. The Holy Spirit came after Jesus was taken up into heaven, convincing men and women to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, as well as show them that Jesus is the only One who can forgive their sin and give them a new life.

III. Why Do We Need Salvation?

A. Because We Have All Sinned.

Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned" We have all done wrong and because of this we are separated from God, When we ask for forgiveness we can be saved from the punishment of sin.

B. Because Salvation is the Only Way To Heaven

Only when we have asked for forgiveness and accepted Jesus as our Saviour can we have eternal life in Heaven. There is no other way but through Jesus who said, "I am the way..." [John 14:6)

IV. Who May Receive Salvation?

A. All sinners

A sinner is anyone and everyone who has not confessed his sin to Jesus, the One who forgives and forgets our sins. There are no big or little sinners, no good or bad sinners ...all have sinned. (Rom. 3:23)

B. Whosoever Will

God offers us salvation. We individually have right to take or reject it. But he wants us to take it (John 3:16) 3.

C. As Many As Believe

Salvation is for anyone and everyone regardless of age nationality or race. It is for those who believe that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, and as a result of his belief, accepts Him as Saviour. (John 1; 12; Acts 16:31).

V. What Are The Step To Salvation?

A. Hear The Gospel

Faith comes by hearing the word of God, which is the Bible. (Romans 10:17). We must hear that God loves us and that Jesus died for us before we are able to believe in Him.

B. Believe

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ...” (Acts 16:31).

C. Confess

To confess means to admit or tell who you are. This third steps is to confess to God our wrong doings. Admit to him that you are a sinner and that you need forgiveness for your sins. It is important that we repent or tell Him we are sorry for our sins. God is always ready to forgive us when we confess our sins to him in prayer. (1 John 1:9; Romans 10:9, 10).

D. Receive

Many people believe the story of Jesus and what He had done for everyone in the world, but they have not accepted nor received Him as their very own personal Saviour. They have not confessed their sins to God and have not told God that they want to become His children. This forth step is very important. (See John 1:12).

E. Thank Him

We have so much to be thankful for. We should be thankful to God for giving Jesus His Son, to die on the cross so we could have forgiveness of sin, Let us not forget to give thanks for all that Jesus has done and for what he will continue to do for us throughout our life with Him.

GROUP B OUTLINE

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- How will I know I have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit?	17
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