

THE TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S SALVATION

CONTENTS

Lesson No.	Lesson Title
Lesson One	Man's Creation
Lesson Two	The Tree of Life
Lesson Three	Man's Fall
Lesson Four	The Results of Man's Fall - Sin (1)
Lesson Five	The Results of Man's Fall - Sin (2)
Lesson Six	The Results of Man's Fall - Death (1)
Lesson Seven	The Results of Man's Fall - Death (2)
Lesson Eight	God's Salvation - Christ's Redeeming Death of the Cross (1)
Lesson Nine	God's Salvation - Christ's Redeeming Death of the Cross (2)
Lesson Ten	God's Salvation - Christ's Redeeming Death of the Cross (3)
Lesson Eleven	God's Salvation - Christ's Life-giving Resurrection (1)
Lesson Twelve	God's Salvation - Christ's Life-giving Resurrection (2)
Lesson Thirteen	How to Be Saved - from Sin (1)
Lesson Fourteen	How to Be Saved - from Sin (2)
Lesson Fifteen	How to Be Saved - from Death (1)
Lesson Sixteen	How to Be Saved - from Death (2)
Lesson Seventeen	The Need to Be Baptized - To Be Saved from This Crooked Generation
Lesson Eighteen	The Need to Be Baptized - To Be Delivered Out of Satan's Kingdom and Transferred into God's Kingdom
Lesson Nineteen	How to Contact the Lord - by Calling on the Lord's Name
Lesson Twenty	How to Contact the Lord - by Prayer unto Fellowship
Lesson Twenty-one	How to Contact the Lord - by Prayer with Petition
Lesson Twenty-two	How to Contact the Lord - by Reading the Bible (1)
Lesson Twenty-three	How to Contact the Lord - by Reading the Bible (2)

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Acts 4:12

- I. God's Creation and Man's Fall [one lesson]
 - A. Man was made in the image of God, a vessel to contain God - Gen. 1:26; 2:7; Zech. 12:1; Rom. 9:23-24
 - B. Man was put in front of the tree of life to receive God as life - Gen. 2:8-9
 - C. Man believed Satan's lie, disobeyed God's word, and became fallen - Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-8
- II. The Result of Man's Fall [eight lessons]
 - A. The problem of sin - Rom. 3:23 (*Gospel Outlines*, Subjects 11, 12, 16)
 1. Constituted sinners due to Adam's disobedience - Gen. 3:11; Rom. 5:19
 2. Having a sinful nature, Satan's poison is in us - John 8:44; Rom. 7:15, 17, 19-20
 3. Becoming sinners in practice, under God's condemnation, going to the lake of fire eternally - Rev. 20:10; 21:8
 4. Separated from God and hiding from God due to sins - Gen. 3:8; Isa. 59:2
 - B. The problem of death - Romans 6:23a (*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 14)
 1. Cut off from tree of life - Gen. 3:22-24; Rom. 5:12; James 1:15
 2. The spirit being deadened so man cannot contact God - Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1, 5a
 3. The result of Satan's plot to keep man from God's life - Eph. 4:18
 4. Eternal separation from God, the second death; to miss the New Jerusalem, the tree of life, and the water of life - Rev. 20:15
- III. God's Salvation [twelve lessons]
 - A. The source of salvation is God's love - Eph. 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-7
 1. God's love was manifested in sending His Son into the world to be our Savior - John 3:16; 1 John 4:9
 2. God's love caused His Son to die for our sins - Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10
 3. God's love makes it possible for us to be His children - 1 John 3:1; 1 Peter 1:3
 4. God's love is eternal and nothing can separate us from this love - Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:35-39
 - B. The provision of Christ's redeeming death on the cross
 1. Cleansing and forgiveness of sins is by the blood of Jesus, God's Son - Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22b; Rev. 1:5b; Matt. 26:28; 1 John 1:9
 2. Redemption by the blood is to be purchased, bought, so that we are not our own any longer, we belong to God - 1 Cor. 6:19b-20a; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
 3. Justified by His blood is to be accepted by God according to His standard of righteousness - Rom. 3:24; 5:9
 4. Reconciled by His death is to be brought back to God and to be secured in His salvation - Rom. 5:10a
 - C. The provision of Christ's life giving resurrection
 1. Conquers death, the Devil (the one who has the might of death), and Hades (the place of death) - Acts 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:54b; Heb. 2:14
 2. Releases the divine life and causes the believers to be regenerated by God - John 12:24; 1 Peter 1:3
 3. Christ becomes the life-giving Spirit in order to enter into us as life - 1 Cor. 15:45b; John 20:22
 4. Opens the way for Christ to live in us to be our life - Eph. 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:4a

IV. How to be Saved [eight lessons]

A. From sin

[These points relate to points 1. to 4. in III. B. above]

1. By confessing our sins - 1 John 1:9
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subjects 196 and 197; Hymn 1008)
2. By believing in Jesus, the Savior who died for us sinners - Rom. 5:6-9; John 3:18
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 109; Hymn 1048)
3. By receiving Christ as our righteousness, God's gift - Isa. 61:10; Jer. 23:5-6; Phil. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:30
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 140; Hymn 295)
4. By repenting and returning to God - Luke 15:11-24
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 91; Hymn 1052)

B. From death

[These points relate to points 1. to 4. in III. C. above]

1. By believing in the resurrection of Christ - Rom. 10:9-10
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 157; Hymn 123)
2. By being born again - John 3
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 100; Hymn 1019)
3. By calling on the Lord's Name - Rom. 10:13; Matt. 1:21b;
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 158; Hymn 1083)
4. By receiving Christ as life - John 1:12
(*Gospel Outlines*, Subject 97; Hymn 1017)

V. The Need to be Baptized [four lessons]

A. To be saved from this crooked generation [one lesson] - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:40-41 (*The Mystery of Human Life*, p. 16)

1. Baptism is a testimony before men that we have been saved
2. All believers must be baptized in order to be saved not only before God, but also before men

B. To be delivered out of Satan's kingdom and transferred into the kingdom of God [two lessons] - John 3:5; Col. 1:13

1. The world is Satan's kingdom - 1 John 5:19b
2. The world and its ruler (Satan) have been judged by the cross of Christ - John 12:31
(see footnotes on this verse)

[These two points may be illustrated by Israel's slavery in Egypt (Exo. 1:11-14; 3:7, 9), and by Pharaoh and his armies being drowned in the Red Sea (Exo. 14:26-28)]

3. The world crucified the Lord Jesus - 1 Cor. 2:8
4. The world is an enemy to God
 - a. to love the world and the things in the world is to not love the Father - 1 John 2:15-16 (see footnotes)
 - b. whoever determines to be a friend of the world is constituted an enemy of God - James 4:4
5. The world is passing away - 1 John 2:17

C. To terminate our old life and walk and begin a new life and walk [one lesson] - Rom. 6:3-4, 6; Gal 3:27

- VI. How to Contact the Lord [*Two weeks for each topic, cover the meaning and teach them how to practice using the verse given until they have really contacted the Lord in their spirit*]
- A. By calling on the name of the Lord (*Life-Study of Genesis, Message 25; and the booklet Calling on the Name of the Lord*)
 1. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him - Psalm 145:18
 2. The Lord is rich to all who call upon Him - Rom. 10:12
 - B. By pray-reading the Word (the booklet *A Time with the Lord*)
 1. Eating the Lord's word makes it the joy and rejoicing of our heart - Jer. 15:16
 2. The Lord's words are spirit and life to us - John 6:63
 - C. By prayer (Lesson 4, "Prayer," *Life Lessons, Witness Lee*)
 1. Prayer brings us into the enjoyment of the Lord's living presence - Psalm 16:11
 2. The Lord answers our prayers - 1 John 5:14, 15
 - D. By reading the Bible (Lessons 5 and 6, "Reading the Bible," *Life Lessons, Witness Lee*) [*set up a Bible reading schedule for the young people*]
 1. The Father's word is truth - John 17:17
 2. We live by the word of God - Matt. 4:4

It is crucial to cover sections I. to VI. slowly and thoroughly to bring the young people into a genuine experience of salvation, baptism, and contacting the Lord in their spirit. The following lesson on the Lord's Table should be given prior to the newly baptized ones joining the Lord's Table meeting of the church.

VII. How to Go On

- A. With assurance of salvation - Heb. 13:5b
(Lesson 1, "Knowing That You Are Saved," *Life Lessons, Witness Lee*)
 1. What God IS - John 10:28-29
 2. What God SAYS - 1 John 5:13, 19b
- B. In the security of our salvation, safeguarded by
(*New Life Lessons, p. 6*)
 1. The love of God - John 13:1
 2. The power of God - John 10:28
 3. The redemption of Christ - Heb. 7:25
- C. At the Lord's Table
(*"The Bread Breaking Meeting" (1) and (2), Life Lessons, Witness Lee*)
 1. The meaning of the bread
 - a. the Lord's physical body broken on the cross
 - b. the Lord's mystical body, the church
 2. The meaning of the cup
 - a. the Lord's blood for the forgiveness of our sins
 - b. the Lord's blood for securing all the blessings of the new covenant
 3. By eating and drinking we remember the Lord
- D. In the fellowship of the church
(*"Knowing the Church," Life Lessons, Witness Lee*)
 1. The Assembly of called-out ones (practice) - Matt. 16:18
 2. The Family of God (relationship) - Eph. 2:19; Gal 6:10
 3. The Body of Christ (nature) - Eph. 1:22-23
 4. The Bride of Christ (love and satisfaction) - Eph. 5:25
 5. The Warrior to defeat God's enemy (warfare) - Eph. 6:11-12
 6. The House of God (mutual dwelling) - 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:21-22