

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION NOTES

Lesson 5

Review JUSTIFICATION (last weeks lesson). As God the Righteous Judge looks down from heaven, what is the verdict? Are you guilty or innocent? sinful or sinless? righteous or unrighteous? Can you find a verse in the Bible that proves that all men are sinful?

Because of our sin, what is the penalty? What is the punishment that God requires? If God were to pay you for the way that you have lived your life, what would that paycheck be (see Romans 6:23 "wages"). Would you want this paycheck?

Explain the problem: How can sinful man be saved? Is it true that God must punish sin? Then as a sinner, you are in great danger, are you not? Can God overlook sin? Can God forget about man's sin? Will God ignore sin? Can God the righteous Judge let sin go unpunished? How can a holy God save sinful man? How can God save and forgive a guilty sinner and at the same time remain a fair and just Judge?

Explain the solution. How did God solve this problem? Sin must be punished, so how was sin punished? (God punished His own Son, Jesus Christ, who died in our place).

Missile illustration: On a piece of paper, draw a simple stick figure of a person which can represent one of the students in the class (or all of the students). Then, taking your pen, have the students imagine that your pen is a deadly missile which is headed in the direction of the stick figure which you just sketched. If the missile hits the stick figure, then the person will be destroyed. Let the stick figure represent the guilty sinner. Let the missile represent the punishment against sin (it's the missile of death). "Class this missile represents the wrath and anger and judgment of God against sin (see Romans 1:18 etc.). If this missile were to strike you, then this would mean that you would be judged and destroyed in hell forever. Here's my question for you. Does God hate sin? Must God judge sin? Can God overlook sin or ignore it or forget about it? The missile must strike. God must judge sin. Sin must be punished. Does this mean doom to you? If the missile were to strike you, you would be doomed in hell forever.

instead of striking you, WHERE DID GOD'S MISSILE STRIKE? Where did God's judgment fall? (The teacher should have another paper hidden away with a picture of a cross on it. When the students finally get the right answer, the teacher can bring out this paper and show the pen striking the cross). The judgment of God against sin fell on Jesus Christ when He died on the cross. The Judge says, THE SINNER MUST DIE. Jesus Christ says, "I'LL DIE FOR THE SINNER. I'LL DIE IN HIS/HER PLACE!"

Not only does God take away our judgment, but He even does more. He gives us HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. See 1 Cor. 1:30 and 2 Cor. 5:21. He received my penalty and I receive His righteousness. Of course, this is only true of the person who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

At this point the teacher may want to help the students understand the three great imputations taught in the Bible. To make it easy for the juniors, these could be referred to as the three great "PUT ONS."

- 1) The sin of Adam was put on the entire human race.

See Romans 5:12 and 1 Cor. 15:22.

You have all heard about the terrible destruction that a forest fire can bring about. cf. James 3:5--BEHOLD, HOW GREAT A MATTER A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH. How can a big forest fire start? (from a little match or from a little camp fire or from a little bolt of lightning etc.).

As you all know, you can take one little match, light it, and throw it to the ground, and as a result of that one act, the entire forest would be doomed. Because one match fell, every tree in the forest would likewise fall.

In like manner sin entered the world. Because of Adam's one act of disobedience, the entire forest of humanity fell and was ruined. Adam lit the match and everyone of us has been burned. It's amazing and tragic what one man brought about. See Romans 5:12.

The whole human race was infected with the terrible disease of sin and death. We all caught this disease from Adam.

When Adam sinned we all sinned. When Adam fell, we all fell. When Adam died, we all died (1 Cor. 15:22). Just like when that match fell, the whole forest fell.

Back in the old colonial schools here in New England they used the New England primer. In teaching the alphabet, they would teach the children a brief rhyme to help them to remember each letter. Here's what they learned for the letter "A": "IN ADAM'S FALL, WE SINNED ALL". The juniors might be interested in some of the others:

Heaven to find the Bible mind.

Christ crucified, for sinners died.

The Deluge (Flood) Drowned, the earth around.

Elijah hid, by raven's fed.

The judgment made Felix afraid.

In Adam's fall, we sinned all. Note how Romans 5:18,19 teach this also.

Adam got us into trouble, but Jesus Christ gets us out of trouble!

2) Man's sin is put on Jesus Christ.

See Isaiah 53:6. See also 1 Peter 2:24 and 3:18.

3) God's perfect righteousness is put on the sinner who believes in Christ.

See 2 Cor. 5:21

(These justification truths are presented on page 9 of the notes. The students need to see this contrast: IN ADAM I AM CONDEMNED; IN CHRIST I AM RIGHTEOUS AND JUSTIFIED.

Many people think that it is unfair that Adam's sin should be put on all of mankind. Someone once said to D.L.Moody, "It's not fair! Why should a-man-named-Adam I be condemned just because a man named Adam sinned about 6000 years ago?" Mr. Moody answered something like this: "There will be no one lost in hell because of Adam's sin alone. Here's an illustration. Suppose I am afflicted with some terrible disease and I am given up by the doctors, who say that I must die. Then suppose that a friend came to my home and said, 'I

know that there is a sure cure for your disease.' I reply, 'I don't believe there is any such remedy; I've tried all the leading doctors and they all say there is no hope.' 'I tell you there is a cure!' he insists. 'Twenty years ago I was as far gone as yourself, and was given up by all the doctors to die, but I took this medicine (and he holds it out to me), and it cured me. Listen now--here is the medicine, it will cost you nothing; just take it, and you will be well.' Now if I do not take it, though I have every reason to believe the man is speaking the truth, to be sure I shall die of the disease, BUT THAT IS NOT THE REAL REASON WHY I SHALL PERISH; it is actually because I SPURNED THE REMEDY! And so if men die eternally it will not be Adam's fault and it will not be God's fault, but because they have refused to take God's remedy. It is because they refused and rejected God's Saviour."

A terrible disease is not so terrible as long as you know that there is a wonderful cure and remedy for it. So also, Adam got us into a big mess but God has a wonderful solution thanks to Jesus Christ. What have you done with God's solution? Have you taken the medicine? (This might remind the students of the Sally illustration used a couple of weeks ago--see page 4 of the notes and see John 1:12).

Let's go to page 9 of the notes. How righteous does a person need to be to get to heaven? What kind of righteousness will God accept? See 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (the unrighteous will not be admitted). See Romans 3:10. Are you unrighteous or righteous? See also Isaiah 64:6. Do you have the kind of righteousness which God requires? How can you get this kind of righteousness (Romans 3:22)?

How does God see the believing sinner? Does he see you IN ADAM (a sinner) or does He see you IN CHRIST (righteous)? (see notes, top of page 9).

What is God's verdict (decision) toward you now? Instead of giving you the death penalty, what does God give you? (ETERNAL LIFE--Romans 6:23).

God's grace (see Romans 3:24) is that which God gives me which I do not deserve (eternal life, forgiveness of sin, God's perfect righteousness, etc.

God's mercy (see Titus 3:5) is that which God does not give me which I do deserve (I deserve God wrath and anger and judgment because of my sin--Romans 1:18; etc.).

God does not have to give me what I deserve (death) because God has already given Christ what I deserve when He died on the cross.

How is a person not justified? (see page 9)

Not by keeping the law. If a person were to be saved by keeping the law, how well would he have to keep it? (perfectly) Has anyone kept God's holy law perfectly? Has anyone kept the 10 Commandments perfectly? Have you? Are you a law keeper or a law breaker?

Not by good works. Have any of us been as good as we need to be to earn our way to heaven? Can anyone earn their way to heaven by his own goodness? It's not my good works that counts before God. What really counts is that good work what Jesus Christ my Saviour accomplished on the cross. I must not trust in MY WORKS. I must trust in the WORK WHICH HE DID.

Work the illustration at the bottom of page 9. The students need to see themselves place in Christ Jesus. How does a person get there? (by faith in Jesus Christ!) Are you in Christ? (2 Cor. 5:17)

How does God see a person in Adam? How does God see a person in Christ? Use Romans 5:12 and the verses following to illustrate this.