

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Pages 13 and following

Lesson 7

(Teacher Helps)

Review page 13.

Here are four young people. Who knows for sure which of these are saved and which are not (who has the seal of the Holy Spirit and who do not)? (see 2 Timothy 2:19--"the Lord knoweth them that are His") Who is the only One who can see their hearts? Can we see the Holy Spirit living in someone? Can we see a person's faith? Can we look at a stranger in the grocery store and see whether or not this person is a true believer in Christ? (believing is something that takes place within a person and it cannot be seen)

According to 1 John 3:10, what two families are there in the world? Does every person belong to one of those two families? Can you belong to both at the same time? Can a person be both a child of God and a child of the devil at the same time? Can a person be a child of the devil and then become a child of God? How does a person become a child of God? See John 1:12 and compare Galatians 3:26. How does a person become a child of the devil? What does a person need to do to become a child of the devil (nothing-- he was born that way!) We are that way by nature (Eph. 2:1-3).

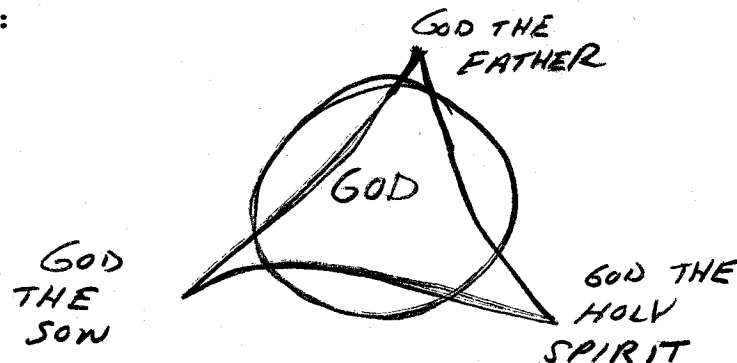
Even though we cannot see the hearts of people and cannot see faith and cannot see the seal of the Holy Spirit, is there any way that we can tell who people really belong to? (see the picture again on page 13) Do people show who they belong to by the way they live, the way they act, the way they speak, the way the dress, etc.? If we really belong to God our life should show it! How should it show it? In what ways? How are God's children to be different than the devil's children? How is this difference to be seen in the home? in the local assembly? in the public school? in the neighborhood? etc.

Let's move on to page 14. Have the class read Ephesians

1:12-14. Then have the class read the three paragraphs on the top of page 14 about Sally and Sam. This is to illustrate the meaning of the word "earnest" which means "downpayment, guarantee." Ask them some questions about what they just read to make sure they understand the illustration:

- a) What did Sally and Sam want to buy?
- b) How much did they cost?
- c) What arrangements did they make with the store owner?
- d) How much of a down payment did Sally and Sam make?
- e) What would happen if they did not come back?

Now do the rest of page 14. The answers for the bottom of page 14 are as follows: The Holy Spirit is the down payment. God will come back for every believer (who is truly born again) or He will lose the Holy Spirit. Can God lose ~~the~~ the Holy Spirit? NO! Why? because God is three in one (1 in essence and 3 in personality):



God cannot lose what is part of Himself!

Draw a picture of a person. What happens to this person when he is saved? (the Holy Spirit comes to live within his heart--draw a triangle/circle). Will the Holy Spirit ever leave (see John 14:16)?

What did God do for you? He gave me His Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Romans 8:9 etc.).

What will God do for you? He will come back for me so that I will live with Him forever (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).



GOD THE
HOLY SPIRIT

GOD PURCHASED ME (1 Pet. 1:18-19) BUT HAS NOT PICKED ME UP YET. HE SEALS ME WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (DOWNPAYMENT) AND SOMEDAY WILL COME BACK FOR ME (JN. 14:3).

Go on to page 15 which is meant to help the students understand the term INHERITANCE. Have the students work through the page (this is self-explanatory). Have them think about the blessings that belong to every person who belongs to Christ. Another way to illustrate this is to wrap up a box so that it looks like a gift. Make sure the box has a lid on it. Inside the box you should have different pieces of paper on which you write some of the blessings that belong to a person when they receive Christ as Saviour (such as eternal life, forgiveness, peace, a new heart, God's righteousness, etc.). Explain to the class that this gift represents salvation (see Romans 6:23--"the gift of God" and Eph. 2:8-9 "it is the gift of God"). God offers this gift freely to every person in the world. Who paid for this gift? (Jesus Christ when He died on the cross) Do we need to pay for it? (No, it would not be a gift if we had to pay for it. Do you have to pay for your gifts at Christmas time? Do you have to pay for your gifts at birthday time?) What must a person do in order to have this gift? Why do some people not have this gift? (because they don't receive it)

When a person receives God's gift of His Son he discovers that this gift is a big package with many other gifts inside of it. When he gets Christ he gets all these other gifts too! (then the teacher opens the lid and begins to pull out some of the other gifts and some of the other blessings that come in our salvation package).

Let's go on to page 16. The top of the page brings us once again to the matter of ASSURANCE ("I'M SURE THAT I AM SAVED!") Since God cannot lose us this means that we cannot be lost. A true believer cannot be lost. A saved person cannot be lost. A saved person cannot become unsaved (or this would mean he was never really saved). A person cannot become a child of God and then stop being a child of God and start being a child of the devil again (God does not kick people out of his family; He does not disown His children). A person cannot be sealed with the Holy Spirit and then unsealed! (The Bible talks about being sealed with the Holy Spirit but it never talks about being unsealed). God does not give a person eternal life and then decide to take it back!

The Holy Spirit cannot (and will not) LEAVE but the Holy Spirit can be GRIEVED. This word is explained on page 16. The illustration is meant to show that the Holy Spirit lives in my heart and there are certain things that I do that can grieve Him. Some of these are listed (sin, forget to pray, etc.) but others can be added (disobey parents, worry, jealousy "I wish I were like her", lying, etc.). The teacher could have the students read from Ephesians 4:30 and then have the students look at the verses following and the verses preceding Ephesians 4:30 and see if they can find some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit.

It should be pointed out that the word GRIEVE is both a love word and a hate word. God is grieved and pained because He loves His child and He hates the sin of His child. The same is true in the human level. A policeman may hate drugs. He may give his life to helping people see the dangers of illegal drugs. He may give his life to arresting those who sell or buy drugs, etc. He hates drugs and wants to fight against drug abuse. But one day Mr. policeman learns that his own son has been caught with drugs. Now he is grieved (because he still hates drugs and the harm that they can cause, but he loves his son). The teacher could think of other illustrations of this.

Sin grieves the HOLY Spirit because HE IS HOLY (and hates sin). What should the child of God do when the Holy Spirit is grieved? (see 1 John 1:9 etc.) If the Holy Spirit is grieved, does He make this known to the believer? (Yes, he convicts the believer, bothers him, makes Him miserable, chastens him or whatever else is necessary so that the believer will see his need for confession and cleansing).

Let's go on to page 17. Do the first two paragraphs. When are you saved? RIGHT NOW (Note: people may not know exactly when they were saved--the exact hour, day, week, month or even year, but the important thing is for a person to know that he is saved right now! "I know that I am trusting Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour right now!" Most people do not even know the date of their birthday except for the fact that their parents told them or they have a birth certificate. But apart from this they would not really know the exact date and

they would not need to know. One thing that they know for sure: I KNOW THAT I AM ALIVE! I MUST HAVE BEEN BORN BECAUSE NOW I AM ALIVE! So it is in the spiritual realm. A believer may not know when he was saved, but he should be able to say, "I KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE! I KNOW THAT I AM ALIVE AND THAT I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE" (1 John 5:12-13)! And if I am alive then I must have been born again even though I may not know the exact day when this happened.

The Holy Spirit seals my life (see page 17)

Why? BECAUSE I RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVOUR!

Now we are ready for the letter illustration.

The bottom of page 17 explains a normal letter. Have the students think about this. Perhaps you could even bring a real letter or two that came in the mail this past week. Show them the address (deliver to). Show them the return address (who the letter is from, the owner). REMind them that a letter must be SEALED (the glue must be licked and fastened). Why must a letter be sealed? This is for protection of the contents! An unsealed letter is not very safe. As it is handled it is possible that the contents might fall out and never get to you. You might receive a letter and find it unsealed and look inside and find nothing in it!

Now we are ready for page 18 (the spiritual application). The teacher should follow the directions on page 18 (bottom). Under number 3, it says "He makes me SAFE AND SECURE". At this point you can add the words: "I am His to keep safe; I am His to keep safe for God's good and great and glorious will" The directions for the teacher continue on page 19.

After the students have done this exercise, ask them the questions on page 19: WHO IS SEALED? the believer WHO IS THE SEAL (this is better than "WHO DOES THE SEALING"). God the Father does the sealing and God the Holy Spirit is the seal (this is best seen in 2 Cor. 1:21,22). WHO OWNS THE PERSON SEALED? the living God WHO IS THE BELIEVER DELIVERED TO? The Lord Jesus Christ.

It should be pointed out that when a person has been fully delivered into the presence of God, there will never be a problem with assurance of salvation. Those in heaven are never worried about their salvation or about losing their salvation. Those in heaven do not say, "I wonder if I am really saved. I wonder if I really belong to God." No, once a person is in heaven it is settled forever. Today people are worried and concerned about whether or not they will get to heaven, but those who get to heaven have no worries or concerns. Everyone in heaven has complete assurance of salvation! Everyone in heaven is a KNOW SO believer! Their salvation and their eternal safety is very obvious! Also there is no more sin to fall into ever again! Also there is no more devil to deceive them and led them astray! Also there is no more old sinful nature! Also there is no more the pull of the world. All of these things belong to time but not to eternity.

Is there a sense in which believers are in heaven EVEN NOW (Eph. 2:6-7)? If we really believed this fact, would this help us with assurance? Those who are in heaven are safe! Those who are IN CHRIST are in heaven! (seated there with Him!) Therefore those who are IN CHRIST are very safe!