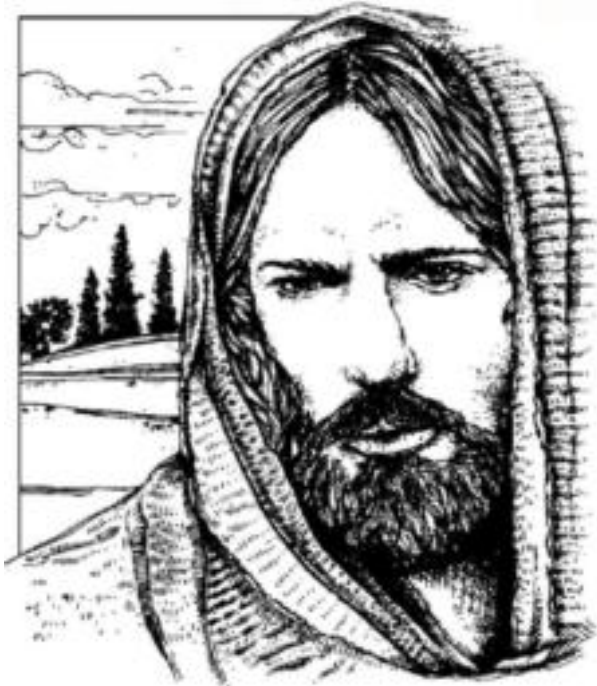


## LESSON 2



## SALVATION—OUR PART OBTAINED

*Scripture Texts: John 3:3; John 14:6; Isaiah 55:6-7; Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 22:17*

We have seen that God has made abundant provision for us to be saved from sin's damage and given eternal life. The saved life is full and free and wide, but the entrance to it is narrow. There are certain conditions that one must meet if he is to be saved, to escape from sin's damnation into the freedom of salvation. We cannot save ourselves. It takes faith, on our part, in the shed blood of Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*John 3:5*

### The First Requirement

**John 3:3** When sin comes into a life a death takes place. A new life must take the place of the one that was lost. **Be born again.** The new birth is this new life. It is a work done by God within a person. It is done the moment one meets the conditions for being saved. It is real, strong, can be felt, and changes the whole life, making it new. This is the first requirement for one to obtain salvation. Through salvation one can begin living all over again.

**John 14:6 I am the way . . . but by me.** Denying Christ, refusing or ignoring Him, is shutting oneself off from God. The next requirement for salvation is to recognize the fact that Christ is the one and only Way to God. Unbelievers sometimes call Jesus a way-shower, a proclaimer of truth, a guide for life. This lowers Christ Who came not just to point to, but to BE the way, truth, and life. Note the vast difference. No one receives salvation except he comes unto the Father, and Christ is the only way through to the Father. No pope, priest, preacher, amount of money, or attainment of works can get one through to the Father, nor can the experience of one's mother or father get one to Him.

### Be Serious

**Isaiah 55:6-7** Several requirements for obtaining salvation are found in these verses. **Seek ye the Lord.** He is already seeking us (Luke 19:10). Our seeking consists in looking to Him, desiring Him. **While he may be found** signifies that a time is coming when we will seek but cannot find Him. **Call ye upon him**—A cry for help, as a young child cries out for his parent, a cry of helplessness. It is an acknowledgment that we cannot save ourselves and we are casting ourselves upon Him, believing that He can. **While he is near**—a warning to us of the coming time when He will be far away and will not hear us.

**Let the wicked forsake his way.** The wicked, all sinners, must stop sinful actions. This is a change in outward life. Forsaking is repenting, a letting go, a rejecting of sinful ways.

**The unrighteous man his thoughts**—The professing backslider and the one attempting to live by his own self-

righteousness must let go of sinful desires and plans and things that are keeping him from salvation. This is in the inner life, in the heart. It is a surrender of one's self. Some stop here, thinking a reformed life is all God asks. Soon they find that this ground is impossible to hold. It is only a crossing. If we do not go forward we soon fall back into sinful attitudes and on into sinful practices. Self-righteousness never saves.

**Return unto the Lord.** We have done all we can. Now He does the work on our souls. He has **mercy**. He will **pardon**. Cast yourself wholly upon Him. Accept Him. Focus your faith in Him. He forgives and washes the sin away and gives power to live holy. Only He can do this.

### Belief Brings Action

**Matthew 7:13-14** Our part is to believe, to **enter ye in at the strait gate**. Notice, not straight, but an exact, gate. We must believe and enter in by Christ. It is not to make ourselves righteous. It is doing what He has given us to do (which He will not do), and trusting Him to do what we cannot do. It is more than thinking that the Bible is true, that God and Jesus exist and are good, and that Jesus died for us and rose again. We must believe this by acting on it, by obeying every Word, and by seeking Him while He may be found. We **must believe . . . that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him** (Hebrews 11:6), that is, that He takes away our sin and makes us live (John 6:47). If we really believe this we will not rest until we have Him. Believing is trusting Him with our all.

### Heed the Invitation

**Revelation 22:17** **The Spirit and the bride** (church) **say, Come**. Who is invited to come? What is the requirement? Only to be **athirst**. Sinners are to **come**, saints are to **say, Come**. **Whosoever will** is to come and **take the water of life freely**. There is action for each to take, moves that each must make.

It must be obvious by now that we cannot save ourselves, but Satan binds and blinds. One error that is widespread in religious belief is to think that we can make Heaven by our own efforts. We may turn to right living, but we cannot wash away the past sins. We may do good works, but they are outward and do not change the heart. We trust in sacrificing or penance, but it is not good enough. It takes the sinless One to atone for sin. It takes the holy One to make us holy. It takes the One who is Life to give life. It takes the death of Jesus Christ.

There is also a belief that we are given our choice among life, death, or neither. Thus, if we choose neither (or choose not to choose) we think we can remain neutral, leaving religion alone. No, the choice is actually between LIFE or REMAINING DEAD. For **he that believeth not is condemned already** (John 3:18). No one can escape making this choice. We only have one relationship to God. Which is it—life or death, union or separation?

## JUST A THOUGHT

**The sinner needs more than to know the law.  
He has already disobeyed it.**