

*WitnessKit Bible Study:  
Bible Doctrines As a System  
of Thought*

*Class 5: God's Law, The  
Human Sin Nature, and  
God's Grace*

# We can find right standing with God

## Three basic ideas

when we adequately understand  
three basic ideas:

1. **God's law**
2. The human sin nature
3. God's grace

# We have mentioned God's Perfect Goodness. Everything Good Is from God.

God's law is a reflection of His perfect goodness.

Because His law is totally good, it is good for us to obey it.

Because God is our King forever, it is right to obey His law here.

Often we jump over God's law to reach grace, but really we have to go THROUGH law to be able to understand grace.

# We can appreciate God's law

Value of  
God's law

By

1. **Understanding its benefits**
2. Understanding its purpose
3. Remembering its meaning and obeying.

# The Benefits of God's Law

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, and the theme of Psalm 119 is the benefits of God's law. Psalm 19 ALSO has as its theme the benefits of God's law.

Here are some benefits Psalm 19 lists:

Restoration of the soul, making us blameless.

It is sure testimony, imparting wisdom even to the simple.

It has right precepts, causing the heart to rejoice.

# The Benefits of God's Law

- It produces clean fear of the LORD, the eternal right standing of reverence and awe.
- It has true judgments.
- It is completely righteous.
- All these things are better than gold, sweeter than honey. They provide warning for God's servants and great reward for keeping them.

# The Benefits of God's Law

Yet we must seek God's help on an individual level to avoid presumptuous sins, and for help with the meditations and questions of our hearts, to be acquitted of hidden faults.

(My comment: God's law only makes us blameless if we keep it—or find His answers for forgiveness and receiving His righteousness and help.)

The early part of Psalm 19 describes what we can learn from nature—and it is much more limited than the help we receive from God's law.

# More Benefits of God's Law from Psalm 119

- To make our way blameless,
- To help us seek Him with all our hearts,
- To keep us from being ashamed,
- To keep our way pure, even in our youth.
- To keep us from sinning by hiding His word in our hearts,
- To rejoice in the riches of His testimonies,
- To see wonderful things about God,



# More Benefits of God's Law

- To have the best counselors—His precepts,
- To have His strength when dealing with grief,
- To be revived in His ways,
- The unfolding of His words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.

# More Benefits of God's Law

- ❑ To receive His lovingkindness and salvation according to His word,
- ❑ To walk at liberty, with boldness to speak for Him even before kings,
- ❑ To have delight, and hope, and comfort in affliction,
- ❑ To have strength to bear derision,
- ❑ To hate wickedness,
- ❑ To have His songs during our earthly pilgrimage,

# More Benefits of God's Law

- To escape the cords of the wicked, To be a companion of those who fear God—to tell the difference between good friends and treacherous friends,
- To have good discernment and knowledge,
- To have an anchor for the soul when we are being lied about, to have something better than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
- To have understanding to learn His commandments.

# More Benefits of God's Law

- ❑ To have His Comfort and compassion,
- ❑ To have steadfastness when God is silent by remembering His word,
- ❑ To know that God established the earth and its ordinances,
- ❑ To know that God rules over nature,
- ❑ To be wiser than ones enemies,
- ❑ To understand more than the aged,
- ❑ To have more insight than one's teachers,

# More Benefits of God's Law

- ❑ To restrain one's feet from every evil way,
- ❑ To have God Himself teach one,
- ❑ To have something sweeter than honey.
- ❑ To learn to hate every false way,
- ❑ To have a lamp for one's path,
- ❑ To be protected during danger,
- ❑ To keep out of the snares of the wicked,

# More Benefits of God's Law

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- to be single-minded for good,
- to be sustained,
- to be safe,
- to have success in hope,
- to have the deceitfulness of enemies made useless,
- to rightly fear offending God,
- to have the right to pray for help when oppressed,

# More Benefits of God's Law

- to learn to esteem all that is right, and to hate every false way,
- to see the unfolding of God's word and have light,
- to be protected from the dominion of iniquity,
- to love His word because it is very pure,
- to have His righteousness, an everlasting righteousness,
- to know that His law is truth,
- To have God near when enemies draw near,

# More Benefits of God's Law

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- to know that the sum of God's word is truth, that every one of His righteous ordinances is everlasting,
- to rejoice,
- to hate and despise falsehood,
- to have great peace,
- to be kept from stumbling,



# More Benefits of God's Law


- to have understanding when praying for it, for God's hand to be ready to help because of choosing His precepts.
- to have the help of His ordinances,
- to be sought by the LORD when one goes astray.

# Benefits of God's Law: My Summary

To have the benefits of God's Law is to have the benefits of His abiding Presence.

- His precepts guide us and keep us out of trouble.
- If we are sincerely trying to keep His law, He will help us. He is pleased with our wish to keep His law.
- We should ask Him to help us keep His law so we can have all these marvelous benefits.

# We can appreciate God's law



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# The Purposes of God's Law

Exodus 20: God's purpose for giving us His law is

- ▣ to give us the fear of God so that we will not sin—
  - So that He can come to us and bless us.

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# The Meaning of God's Law

The Bible talks about the first five books as the Law, as well as the 10 commandments, as well as the Shema, as well as His word in general.

God insisted that the kings of Israel write out the books of Moses for themselves, so that they would learn His Law. (Deuteronomy 17: 14-20)

The kings had to be literate. (And even as late as Charlemagne that was rare for kings of the earth.) They were supposed to read it every day. God promised to keep their lineage as kings if they would do so.

# The Meaning of God's Law

The detailed laws of the books of Moses were binding upon the ancient kings of Israel.

The moral law of God is binding upon each of us. It is found in the principles of His word, both Old Testament and New Testament.

It is summarized in the 10 Commandments and the Shema, but with more detail in other passages as well, such as the Sermon on the Mount.

# 10 Commandments: This short form is easy to remember.

1. No other gods. Only worship the Real God.
2. No idols.
3. Respect God's Name.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy—set apart for God.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not even covet.



# What promises did God make to Israel if they would keep (obey) His law?

Deuteronomy 26:16-19. He spoke directly to Israel with these promises. –

You shall be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you,

- that you shall keep His commandments, and
- that He shall set you high above all nations for praise and fame and honor,
- that you shall be set apart for Him, consecrated to Him.

# Which law did Jesus say was The Greatest Commandment and the Second Greatest?

Matthew 22:34-40

- <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "***'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*** <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment.
- <sup>39</sup> And *the second is* like it: ***'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*** <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (NKJV)

# We can find right standing with God

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2. **The human sin nature**
3. **God's grace**

# We must face the difficulty of God's law

## The Human Sin Nature

By recognizing the human sin nature.

1. **The sin nature is inborn.**
2. People who always want to do right still have to face their own sin nature.
3. God does not hold people accountable for their sins before they can understand.
4. Spiritual death is a consequence of understood sin.

# The sin nature is inborn.

Genesis chapter 3 tells us that sin came into the world of humanity when our first parents disobeyed God. A curse came upon the earth because of sin. The curse included extremely visible difficulties—

- Having to work by the sweat of one's brow to produce food.
- Power struggles in marriage, with male domination rather than leadership as part of the fallen world.
- Multiplied childbirth and pain in it.
- Eventual death.

# The sin nature is inborn.

Psalm 51:5. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (NKJV)

Because all of us are born under the curse of sin, not only do we feel the effects of a fallen world, but we ourselves choose to sin. Every one of us is a sinner by nature and by choice. None of us has room for pride, because we all fail to remain true to God's principles, and we all must face the facts about ourselves and repent.

# The sin nature is inborn.

This is NOT saying we are a zero. We remain of infinite worth because God has valued us that way.

Psalms 51 gives us a glimpse of true repentance.

Yet we reduce our future purpose by sinning, and even more by refusing to repent and turn back to God.

God is the One who is able to create a clean heart in us. We must ask Him to do that.

People who always want to do right still have to face their own sin nature.

Romans 3:23 says this about the human sin nature. We all have one. It is not just “Adam’s sin” that is the problem. Our own selfishness that leads us to do wrong is the real problem, and we all have this problem.

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

All of us miss our full potential because of sin. None of us can claim God’s glory for ourselves because we are sinners.



People who always want to do right still have to face their own sin nature.

In Romans chapter 7, the Apostle Paul tells us something very personal and very profound. He was one of those people who always wanted to do right. Yet when he understood commandment 10, “You shall not covet,” he suddenly found himself coveting all the time. At that point, he started trying harder and harder not to covet. The more he tried, the more he coveted. Just thinking about the Law made him start coveting.

God does not hold people accountable for their sins before they can understand.

In verse 8 of chapter 7, he says “I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died.”

When the Law became understandable to him, he found out he could not keep it, and he died spiritually.

This tells us several important things.

# God does not hold people accountable for their sins before they can understand.

1. The wages of sin is still death—individually. At the point when a person understands sin enough to realize he is a sinner, a spiritual separation from God occurs—spiritual death.
2. Before that time, the person is spiritually alive. God is merciful and just to account that person as alive to Him—to consider his sins covered by the atonement of Messiah when he is too young or mentally immature to understand sin or repent.

# God does not hold people accountable for their sins before they can understand.

1. The name of this doctrine is “the age of accountability.”
2. It shows up in the Old Testament a few times, such as God’s mercy toward the children of Nineveh in Jonah’s time—who could not tell their right hand from their left.
3. It shows up in David’s description of the destiny of his little child who died, “He shall not come to me, but I shall go to him.”

# Spiritual death is a consequence of understood sin.

- The wages of sin is death—individually.
- The cry of Romans chapter 7 is **“Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”**
- We cannot deliver ourselves. We need to be rescued by someone who has no sins of his own to leave him helpless like we are.

# So the Law of God

Has many benefits.

It also has one BIG problem.

That problem is us.

- We are too sinful to be able to keep it all the time. We can try hard and keep it sometimes.
- We cannot keep it all the time.
- Especially that last part “You shall not covet.”
- We need a rescue.

# Romans 3:23

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The picture of death in the Bible is rather complex. At the point of accountability for sin, the individual needs to find God’s **gift of righteousness** to make him spiritually alive again.

This process is what Jesus called being born again—being born spiritually from the state of spiritual death brought on by sin. This is found in John chapter 3.

# Spiritual Death, Physical Death, Second Death, No Death

Spiritual death is spiritual separation from God.

Physical death is separation of the soul from the body.

The second death for those who reject God's salvation, means going to eternal separation from fellowship with God after their judgment.

There is a promise of no death for those who experience the power of Christ's resurrection—physical death becomes illusion and the Presence of the Lord becomes reality.



# We can find right standing with God

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# We can understand that **God** **wants to rescue us**

The  
two  
sides  
of the  
rescue

by understanding His **grace**.

1. He wants us to be born again.
2. His part of the equation is called grace.
3. Our part is repentance and faith.

# John 3

- <sup>1</sup> There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,
- "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
- <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

# John 3

- <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
- <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

# John 3

- 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
- 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
- 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

# John 3

**10** Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

**11** Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

**12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

# John 3

- 13** No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven.
- 14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

# John 3—God's purpose is grace— rescue as a gift.

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**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**18** He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



# John 3—Human sin nature is the problem.

**19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

**21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

# John 3

What is the first requirement found in the last verse of John 3?

Practicing the truth. Coming to the light.

God's purpose is **Grace**. We must seek His grace through the practice of truth, facing the truth, seeking His light.

When we know we are sinners, we must not run away from God. We must go toward Him for help.

What does God want to do about individual spiritual death, according to Ephesians 2:1-10?

He wants  
to make us alive together with Christ, and  
to raise us up with Him,  
to seat us with Him in the heavenly places,  
to show the surpassing riches of His grace toward  
us in the future ages.

He also wants to create our new life for good  
works according to His purpose.

# Romans 7:24—Who will set me free from this spiritual death?

The answer to the question is given in Romans 7:25-8:11.

**God will** —through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Jesus Christ takes away our condemnation in the present—because **He paid the price** for it long ago.

**The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus** sets us free from the law of sin and of death.

# Romans 7:24—Who will set me free from this spiritual death?

The Law could not accomplish this, because of the weakness of our flesh.

So God accomplished it for us!

by sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (but without sin) to be the ultimate offering for sin.

Thus the requirements of the Law are fulfilled, **if we walk (live daily) according to the Spirit** and not according to the flesh.

# Romans 7:24—Who will set me free from this spiritual death?

We must have the Holy Spirit indwelling us to have His power to do right and to give us that Spiritual Life.

How can we have that power?

By **asking** for the Holy Spirit to come into our own lives after we repent of sins and trust the payment Jesus made for us to take them away.

Hosea 14:1-2, Acts 3:19-26, 1 John 1:5-2:6, 2 Peter 3:9, and Psalm 51

The entire Bible is consistent about repentance.

Repentance is necessary and involves **taking words to God**—asking for forgiveness as well as turning to Him in our **heart**.

When we repent and return, **God will refresh us**.

Then **Jesus' blood** will cleanse us from all sin.

Hosea 14:1-2, Acts 3:19-26, 1 John 1:5-2:6, 2 Peter 3:9, and Psalm 51

The words involve admitting the sin to God—and He can hear thoughts.

Jesus is the propitiation or covering for our sins and for all sins.

We must keep His word and abide in Him—so must have the intention of abiding in Him when we ask forgiveness.



Hosea 14:1-2, Acts 3:19-26, 1 John 1:5-2:6, 2 Peter 3:9, and Psalm 51

God wants everyone to repent.

We can come to God in our own words, and He wants us to pray without ceasing—to be in a constant attitude of prayer.

We can take the words of Psalm 51 to God and personalize them with our own failings as a prayer of repentance.

# Isaiah 57:12-16

This passage describes repentance and its results.

- Repentance involves being contrite and lowly of heart.
- If we are, then God will dwell with us just as He dwells in heaven.

# Romans 8:1-2

- **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**

# Micah 7:18

- **<sup>18</sup> Who *is* a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights *in* mercy. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)**

# Additional Topic

What is God's Grace?

What can we know about what grace is—

By what grace does?

# Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

 Comment:

Here we see the description of the mature person who needs the new birth. The person who has passed the age to understand, and has not found the answer

# Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

■ Comment:  
Here we see what God wants to do for that individual. His wish to rescue and give new life is Grace.

# Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

Comment:  
Here we see grace defined as God's gift to us, and as a continuation of His creative power in us for good.



# What are some things God's Grace does for us in this passage?

1. God's grace gives us salvation and the new birth—life eternal.
2. God's grace gives us kindness from God for eternity.
3. God's grace gives us a place of fellowship with Him for all eternity. We will be seated with Him.
4. God's grace gives us good works to do for Him here, which He already has in mind—and the power to do them.

# Ephesians 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: *"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."* <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Comment:  
The grace God gives us is not according to what we deserve, but rather according to the measure of Christ's gift to us=infinite.

# Ephesians 4:7-16

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

■ Comment:  
The gifts are various types of work to do for building up the faith, to make us like Christ.

# Ephesians 4:7-16

<sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

Comment:  
Sending and receiving truth will mark those gifts, and the result will be coordinated efforts all done lovingly.

# Romans 3:21-25

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (NKJV)

- Comment:  
Grace justifies us through the redemption price Jesus paid through His blood.

# Psalm 21:7, 52:8, 63:3, and 100:5

<sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD,  
And through the mercy of the  
Most High he shall not be moved.  
Psalms 21:7 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> But I *am* like a green olive tree in  
the house of God; I trust in the  
mercy of God forever and ever. <sup>9</sup> **I**  
**will praise You forever,**  
Because You have done *it*; And in  
the presence of Your saints I will  
wait on Your name, for *it is* good.  
Psalms 52:8-9 (NKJV)

Comment:  
Both  
these  
passages  
attribute  
eternal  
life to  
God's  
mercy—  
His  
grace.

# Psalm 21:7, 52:8, 63:3, and 100:5

<sup>3</sup> Because Your lovingkindness  
*is* better than life, My lips shall  
praise You. Psalms 63:3  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD *is* good; His  
mercy *is* everlasting, And His  
truth *endures* to all  
generations. Psalms 100:5  
(NKJV)

Comment:  
God's  
grace, His  
loving  
kindness, is  
better than  
life because  
it lasts  
forever.

# Grace = charis, Joy = chara

The Greek word for grace and the word for joy have the same root. It is God's JOY to give us the good gifts that express His grace.

Luke 12:30-34 <sup>30</sup> For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup> But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>32</sup> Do not fear, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure** to give you the kingdom.



# Grace = charis, Joy = chara

**33** Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NKJV)

Our response in faith should be to seek eternal treasure rather than earthly treasure. Is that easy? Not at all. So faith is courageous trust. I admit to not being very good at that. So I have to depend on God even more.

# Ephesians 2:8

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*  
<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Our part of the equation is faith. We are equal before God—no room for boasting. We realize what an amazing, infinite gift God offers, and by faith we accept the gift.

# Psalm 13:5 and 21:1-7

- 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. Psalms 13:5 (NKJV)**
- Here we see the same connection between faith and grace. Faith= trust. Mercy = Grace. The result? Salvation.**

# Psalm 13:5 and 21:1-7

<sup>1</sup> To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! <sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah<sup>3</sup> For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

Here we see prayer is involved—asking for his heart's desire. The next verses tell what King David asked, and what God answered.

# Psalm 13:5 and 21:1-7

<sup>4</sup> He asked life from You, and You gave it to him--  
Length of days forever and ever. <sup>5</sup> His glory *is* great in  
Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed  
upon him. <sup>6</sup> For You have made him most blessed  
forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with  
Your presence. <sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD, And  
through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be  
moved. Psalms 21:1-7 (NKJV)


- Clearly, King David asked for eternal life, and God said “YES!”

# Isaiah 59:20-21

<sup>20</sup> "The Redeemer will come to Zion,  
And to those who turn from  
transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup> "As for Me," says the LORD, "this *is*  
My covenant with them: My Spirit who  
*is* upon you, and My words which I  
have put in your mouth, shall not  
depart from your mouth, nor from the  
mouth of your descendants, nor from  
the mouth of your descendants'  
descendants," says the LORD, "from  
this time and forevermore." (NKJV)

Comment:  
Here we  
see eternal  
salvation  
tied to the  
Redeemer's  
coming to  
Zion, and to  
the gift of  
the Holy  
Spirit.

# The Redeemer already came to Zion.



Jesus Christ already accomplished the payment for sins described in Isaiah chapter 53.

We can ask for forgiveness on the basis of His payment for sins.

We can ask for His Holy Spirit to come into our lives.

We can ask for eternal life.

It is God's joy to give us those requests—to give us His kingdom in our lives.

# Isaiah 59:1-2

**<sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear. (NKJV)**

Here we see the only barrier to eternal salvation—unrepented sin. That is what the Redeemer came to take away.

So the Hebrew Scriptures and the Greek Scriptures are consistent about this topic.



# And at least from God's perspective,

The barrier of the dividing wall is down.

Ephesians 2:11-22 <sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- <sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

And at least from God's  
perspective,

<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. (NKJV)

# And at least from God's perspective,

<sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner *stone*, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJV)

# My recommendation:

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Go ahead and ask.

Repent of your known sins and ask forgiveness.

Place your eternal future in God's hands through the payment Christ made to take away your sins.

Make the heart commitment to His kingdom.

Let Him guide you for the next step.

# Homework in

3 Sets

# Homework Class 5 Set 1

- Read Psalm 19. What are the benefits of God's Law?
- Read Psalm 119. What are some of the benefits of God's law?
- Read Exodus 20:1-20. What purpose is given for God's law?
- List the 10 commandments in brief form. If you have not done so already, memorize them.

# Homework Class 5 Set 1

- Read Deuteronomy 26:16-19. What promises did God make to Israel if they would keep His law?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What is the ultimate Law?
- What responsibilities go with knowing this law?
- Which law did Jesus say was the greatest commandment, and which was the second greatest, according to Matthew 22:34-40?

# Homework Class 5 Set 2

- Read Genesis chapter 3 again. Then read Psalm 51:5. How do you think these two passages are related?
- Read Romans 3:23. What does this verse say about the human sin nature?
- Read Romans 6:23. What are the consequences of sin?
- Read Romans 7:7-24. How is the human sin nature expressed in the person who wants to always do what is right?



# Homework Class 5 Set 2

- Read Romans 7:7-11 again. Here the Apostle Paul says there was a time in his life when he was spiritually alive, but when he understood ***“Thou shalt not covet,”*** what two things happened?
- What does this imply about the human sin nature prior to the age when a person can understand *“Thou shalt not covet?”*

# Homework Class 5 Set 2

- The name of this doctrine, that God does not hold persons accountable for their sins when they are too young or mentally immature to comprehend His law, is “the age of accountability.” Prior to the age of accountability, people do commit sins due to their inherent nature or “bent” toward sinning. However, they do not experience the consequence of spiritual death until they are old enough or mature enough for God to hold them justly accountable for their sins.

# Homework Class 5 Set 2

- What does God want to do about individual spiritual death, according to Ephesians 2:1-10?
- Can the person who wants to do what is right all the time achieve spiritual life by his own efforts? What is the problem with that idea?
- What is the question in Romans 7:24?

# Homework Class 5 Set 2

- What is the answer to the question as given in Romans 7:25-8:11?
- What does repentance of sins have to do with access to the answer? Read Hosea 14:1-2, Acts 3:19-26, 1 John 1:5-2:6, 2 Peter 3:9, and Psalm 51.
- Read Isaiah 57:12-16. How does this passage describe repentance and its results?

# Homework Class 5 Set 3

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What does God's grace do?
- Read Ephesians 4:7-16. What else does God's grace do?
- Read Romans 3:21-25. What does this passage say God's grace does?
- Read Psalm 21:7, 52:8, 63:3, and 100:5. What do these verses tell us about God's grace?

# Homework Class 5 Set 3

- The Greek word for grace and the word for joy have the same root. It is God's JOY to give us the good gifts that express His grace. Read Luke 12:30-34. What are we to seek, because God has chosen gladly to give us His kingdom?
- Back to Ephesians 2:8: What is our part of the equation, if God's grace saves us? How do we access His grace?
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# Homework Class 5 Set 3

- Read Psalm 13:5 and 21:1-7. What words do these passages use to express the same part of the equation?
- Read Isaiah 59:20-21. What promises go to those who turn away from transgression in Jacob?
- In Isaiah 59:1-2, what problem continues for individuals who do not turn away from transgression?