

STUDY	:	STATEMENT OF FAITH
LESSON 5	:	THE REDEMPTION OF MAN FROM SIN
OBJECTIVE	:	To obtain a Biblical perspective of how man is saved through the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
OUTLINE	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus Is the Only Way</li> <li>2. Salvation Is A Free Gift</li> <li>3. Salvation Must Be Maintained</li> </ol>

## INTRODUCTION:

Man has always tried to find his way to God. He has built religion and society in such a way that he could come to God on his own terms and time. The prophet Isaiah lamented "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way....." and that can be taken as a universal description of all men. All our ways are short of the glory of God. The Bible unfolds the only way to God and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 1.0 JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

#### 1.1 Man Has Sinned

There are two (2) facts which are very clear in the scriptures:

"All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No man deserves to be saved on his own merits. Romans 3:23; 6:23; Isaiah 53:6

Many teach that a man is punished for what he is as well as for what he does but there is no scriptural evidence that man is judged by God for what he is but rather for what he does. If this be the case, it cannot be said that children under the age of accountability are saved but the fact of the scriptures is they are. Matthew 19:13-14

- Salvation is a sovereign work of God. Man did not nor can ever deserve his salvation. God out of his own love and mercy took the initiative and embarked on the work of saving man. For this reason, nobody could ever demand or complain to God about his salvation because where he deserved just punishment, God made available his mercy. This, however, does not in any way prove that God saves indiscriminately, only that he is sovereign. This fact is God made his mercy available to anyone who would conform to his will. Romans 11:14-18.

#### 1.2 God Made the Way

1.2.1 The Old Testament way. All those who lived by faith in the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of the Messiah who later came to be known as Jesus. They believed God for the promise and thus were saved through their faith in Jesus Christ. These promises given were in a form the gospel preached unto them. John 8:56; Galatians 3:8; Hebrews 4:1-2; Hebrews 11:39-40

- It is worth noting that the promise and the shadows of salvation through the Messiah were given immediately after man sinned. Sacrifice was instituted and taught as early as the sin of man. This is the reason God could reject Cain's offering and accept Abel's. It is because the way for them is clear but Cain insisted on his own way.

- The argument about those who have not heard of Jesus Christ is clearly rebutted by the apostle in the book of Romans chapter 1 where God declares that a person is lost not because of lack of revelation but because of the stubbornness of his heart. While it is true that the revelation of God is progressive culminating in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is equally true that whatever light was given by God throughout all generations is sufficient for man to live by faith in God. Luke 16: 27-31; Romans 1: 18-23.
- No Old Testament saint ever entered the presence of God before the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 16: 23-25; 23: 42-43; Ephesians 4:11; Hebrews 11:36.

1.2.2 The New Testament way. All those who lived after Jesus and whose hearts are after God He leads to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This God does if it takes the mobilization of heaven on their behalf. "Seek and you shall find" is the universal declaration of the scriptures. Act 10:34-35; Acts 8:26-35; Acts 9: 1-9.

- Act 10:34-35. This verse marks a turning point in the inclusion of Gentiles in the early Church. Peter declares, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism—but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right". This realization, following a vision and a visit to Cornelius's home, signals that salvation through Jesus is available to all people, not just Jews.

1.2.3 No man ever has been nor will ever be saved apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. God recognizes no other way. The Old Testament righteous looked forward to the cross while the New Testament righteous look back to it. This is the failure of many religions but the victory of faith in Christ. John 14:6; Acts 4:12.

## 2.0 SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

### 2.1 Grace Defined

Grace is defined as an unmerited and undeserved favor from another. Salvation is by grace because it is made available by God to every man solely on the merits of the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Unbelief does not cause it to be cancelled nor withdrawn for it is given freely through the sovereign will of God. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; 1 John 2:2.

- Grace is not given selectively regardless of racial, social, physical or spiritual conditions of men. Its effect upon the individual; however, is governed by some conditions set by God in the giving of that grace. John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 2:8-10.

### 2.2 Faith Defined

Faith is defined in many ways by the scriptures but all these definitions point to the individual's trust in God for His words and promises. The faith that saves is one which trusts God in what He did and what He says. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

- Faith always has its basis which is the Word of God. Romans 10:17.

- The faith that saves always comes with repentance. Repent and believe is the initial proclamation of the gospel. Mark 1:15.
- Faith is a way of life. The just shall live by faith. Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Hebrews 10:38.

### 2.3 Born Again Defined

Being born again is being washed clean by the Word of God through repentance of sins and being spiritually regenerated into a new and living relationship with God by the Holy Spirit. This happens when a person appropriates salvation made available by God's grace through his faith in Christ. John 3:3-7; John 1:12-13; Romans 10: 8-13.

- This does not mean that man has no spirit in him before he is born again but that his spirit is cut off from God because of sin. Isaiah 59:1-2; Ephesians 2:11-22.
- A born-again person is one who has been forgiven of his sins, made a new creature in Christ and is living his life in obedience to God by faith in the Son of God. 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20.

## 3.0 SALVATION MUST BE MAINTAINED.

### 3.1 The Believer Needs to Work Out His Salvation - Philippians 2:12-13

Facts about the passage:

- It is God who works in the believer to will and to do his good pleasure. V13
- The believer needs to work out the will of God in his life with fear and trembling. It is worth noting that this warning will be meaningless if there is no consequence for the neglect of it. V12.
- The working out of salvation consists of continual obedience to God. V12; Hebrews 3:6, 14.

### 3.2 Christians Can Fall Away- Hebrews 6: 1-6

Facts about the passage:

- It is possible for Christians to backslide and tear down the foundation they have already laid. Should this happen, they need to lay down again the same if they are to be saved. Verse 1-2; Revelation 3:5.
- Christians can backslide to a point where they completely turn away or apostatize from the Lord and reject him. For these, it is impossible to be renewed again to repentance. Verse 4-6; Hebrews 10:26-29; 2 Peter 2:20-22.