

LESSON 17: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT YOU NEED TO BE BORN-AGAIN

(Part 2)

“HOW CAN I KNOW GOD?”

Admit your spiritual need. We are all sinners....people don't always like that title. The one word that defines all sin is the Greek word "harmatia" which means "to miss the mark." What is God's mark? Jesus said, "Be perfect as My Father in heaven is perfect." Unless a person is perfect, he has missed the mark; therefore, he is a sinner. Romans 3:23 states "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

What is the result of sin? In Romans 6:23 we read "The wages of sin is death..." Every one of us has missed God's mark. Every one of us falls short of being perfect. We are getting only what we deserve, and we are bringing judgment upon ourselves. One thing we need to remember is that God never sends anyone to hell. We send ourselves there by rejecting His truth

Since we can never measure up to God's standards on our own, God has reached out to man. We cannot solve the problem of sin, but God, who is perfect, can and has. He has become a bridge for us. John 3:16-17 states "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. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.." In Romans 5:8 we read, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

If a person acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he accepts the promise that Christ is the solution, he is at a crossroads. Either the person must reject God's solution and accept the consequences, or he must accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. What must a person do to accept this gift? Simply receive it! Matthew 11:28-30 states "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...for My yoke is easy and My burden is light

His invitation is clear. We must come to Him. All that remains is a response. In Romans 6:23 we read "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." What do we have to do to receive that gift? Take it! Revelation 3:20 states "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me." Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks, seeking entrance into our lives. John 1:12 states "For as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God." If you would like to receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life right now, pray a prayer something like this from the sincerity of your heart...

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I receive you as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

If you just prayed that prayer and really meant it, Jesus Christ has now taken residence in your heart! Not only that, but he has forgiven you of all your sin. The Bible tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9) God also promises, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalms 103:12

Your decision to receive Christ also means that you are now going to Heaven one day. That's a lot to be thankful for! You need to take some practical steps to grow strong spiritually: Read the Bible, pray, and go to church.

THE ABOVE SECTION IS HOW WE COME TO KNOW GOD ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, THIS SECTION EXPLAINS IT FROM THE BIBLE.

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

(I) REPENTANCE

(A) To repent means to change your mind and attitude about sin, so that you turn from your sin and you turn to God (Jesus Christ) for forgiveness and cleansing

(1) Who Preached Repentance?

- (a) Matthew 3:2
- (b) Matthew 4:17
- (c) Mark 6:12
- (d) Acts 2:38
- (e) Acts 17:30

(B) What are characteristics of true repentance?

- (1) 2 Corinthians 7:9, 10
- (2) Luke 18:9-14
- (3) 1 Thessalonians 1:9

(C) Repentance is a change of 3 elements:

- (1) Intellectual element - a change of mind. What we think.
- (2) Emotional element - change of heart. What we desire.
- (3) Volitional element - a change of will. What we do.

(D) It is to be our message to the unbeliever:

- (1) Luke 24:44-48

(II) FAITH

(A) What is faith?

It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see up ahead.

(B) How does the Bible define faith?

(1) Hebrews 11:1

(C) Where does faith come from?

(1) Hebrews 12:1-2

(D) How do we receive our faith?

(1) Romans 10:17

(5) The importance of faith

(1) We should live by it - 2 Corinthians 5:7

(2) We are saved by it - Ephesians 2:8,9

(3) It is our defense (shield) against the enemy - Ephesians 6:16

(4) It never gives up - Hebrews 11:7, 30

(5) It gives us victory over the world and its problems - 1 John. 5:4

(6) The principle element in repentance is a change of mind and attitude about Christ; a change from an unbelieving and rejecting attitude to a believing and accepting attitude.

(7) True faith in Christ involves the confession and forsaking of sin.

(III) TRUE REPENTANCE AND FAITH ARE INSEPERABLE. THEY ARE MUTAULLY DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER.

Tell someone about your new life in Christ. That's called witnessing.

