

# *Spiritual Matchmaking*



*Lesson Outlines*



## Lesson #1

# The History of the Church at Ephesus

I'm not sure who coined the phrase, "The devil is in the details," but I totally disagree. A story is developed and narrated in the details. That's why I love Luke, the writer of the gospel of Luke and Acts. He is a stickler for details. Laying the groundwork for this study requires establishing the context of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In doing so, we will be building a case for Biblical discipleship. This will also be our first lesson in how to study the Bible. Sue Swartz shared this short YouTube video with me. It's a great summary of the book of Ephesians. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=Y71r-T98E2Q#dialog>.

Our background passages for today are **Acts 18:1-28, 19:1-10**. If you have maps in the back of your Bible, it might be helpful to familiarize yourself with a map of Paul's missionary journeys.

### Read Acts 18:1-23.

- Where was Paul?
- Read Mark 3:13-14 and define the "with me" principle of Jesus. From Acts 18:1-23, who was with Paul?
- What amount of time did he spend with these people?
- How do we know this? Write the names and scripture references.
- What is significant about Antioch (modern day Lebanon)?

### Read Acts 18:18-19, 24-28.

- What was the first thing Priscilla and Aquila did when they arrived in Ephesus?
- Who was their primary disciple in Ephesus?
- Where did they disciple Apollos? Read 1 Corinthians 16:19.
- From this passage, it is inferred that someone else disciplined Apollos. Who was it?
- What discipling principles can we glean from their example?

### Read Acts 19:1-10, 20:24-32; Ephesians 1:1-7.

- What did Paul find when he returned to Ephesus?
- Who disciplined them?
- What in this account resembles Jesus' strategy with His disciples?
- After two years of discipling these men, what were the results?

- At the end of Paul's three-year investment in Ephesus, he gathered his disciples, all of whom had become leaders. What did he say was his main purpose (Acts 20:24-32), and what did he preach everywhere?
- Fill in the blanks. When people are evangelized and disciplined, they become \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The first three chapters of Ephesians are centered on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The last three chapters are \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel.

### **Let's talk about it....**

1. We learned that disciple-making takes time. Why?
2. What new thing did you learn from this lesson?
3. How did the Lord speak personally to you through this lesson?
4. What action will you take in obedience to God's voice?
5. Will you commit to finding at least one person to do this study with you?

## Lesson #2

# The Address of the Saints

Disciple-making, by Jesus' standard, is two things. It is life and truth. In spiritual relationships, the two are intermingled. To be transparent, I'll share a bit of my life. Those of us who have reached middle age find ourselves in uncharted waters. This is a place where the child becomes caregiver for the parent, many of whom suffer from mentally debilitating diseases. My mother-in-law is ninety-seven years old and has a form of dementia. Quite often she is very confused about where she is and how she got there. "How did you find me?" she asks us. Even though she is in the same room in the same assisted-living home, in her mind, she is always in a different place. How confused and lost she must feel.

One day when I was around ten years old, I was at my grandmother's house playing on a frozen lake. I slipped and hit my head so hard that it cracked the ice. When I came to, I had amnesia and could only vaguely remember where I was or what had happened. We were staying at my grandmother's house because my mother was in the hospital. You know when you are hurt how you need your mama? I didn't even remember where she was! My daddy tried to console me as best he could. But it was a terrible feeling.

The morning I was preparing to share this lesson with my disciple group, I got word that my daddy had suffered a major heart attack. After eight attempts to resuscitate him, they put him on a ventilator and gave him medicine to keep his blood pressure going for another twenty-four hours. We wondered if his spirit had already departed to be with the Lord even though his body was there with us. At times like this, knowing where your loved one is, and if you will see them again, makes all the difference in the world. The sting of Daddy's death is raw and painful, and while I'm still coming to terms with the fact that I will not see my daddy again on this earth, I am comforted with knowing that he is alive and well in the Father's house. I will meet him there one day. I rest assured in this truth because when I was twenty-six, the Lord resurrected me from spiritual death. I prayed for Daddy for thirteen years. He was sixty years old when the Lord answered my prayers and gave him a new spiritual address. Towards the end of Daddy's life, after battling cancer and numerous heart issues, his perspective changed. He told me not long ago, "No matter how good or how bad things are in the present, it is only temporary." In Biblical terms, "This too shall pass (Acts 4:12; Joel 2:32). We're transient. And we, too, shall pass one day. Then what? Where will we be? Think about this: Our spiritual condition determines our position with God—that's our spiritual address. Our spiritual address will determine our final location (where we spend eternity). In the end, that's all that really matters. That's what today's lesson is about—the spiritual address of the saints. Our background passages are **Ephesians 1:1- 4, 2:1-2, 4-7, 11-13; Psalm 139:1-24.**

**Read Ephesians 1:1, 3:1; Acts 28:16-31.**

- Where was Paul when he wrote these letters, and who was with him?
- How long had it been since Paul had lived in Ephesus?
- Read the following salutations and note where and to whom the epistles are addressed. **Ephesians 3:1; Philippians 1:1-2, 12; Colossians 1:2, 5-7, 2:6.**
- In the Greek language (it's true in Spanish also), there is one word that stands for both the English word holy and for the English word saint. What does this tell you?

**Read Ephesians 1:4-14, 3:3-6, 9.**

- What is the key theme of Paul's letter to the Ephesians?
- What is the key phrase?
- Where were these mysteries previously hidden? Read **Ephesians 1:3-6, 3:5-6, 9.**
- The book of Ephesians is split into two parts. What two things do the first three chapters cover? What is the subject of the last three chapters?
- What doctrine of the faith do we clearly observe in the first fourteen verses?

**Read Acts 17:22-28; Psalm 139:1-24.**

- Why has God determined where we should live?
- From **Psalm 139:1-24** make note of all the things that God knows about you.
- Thinking about your current spiritual location, do you feel close to God or far from God?
- Read **John 15:1-16**. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
- What are some practical ways that those of us who are in Christ remain there?

**Let's talk about it....**

1. What do you think it means to have "spiritual amnesia?"
2. Regardless of his physical address, Paul could endure whatever life threw at him. He knew where home was, and his spiritual address was secure. Read **Philippians 4:4-9, 11-13.**
3. How should the reality of our spiritual position in Christ impact our everyday lives?
4. Remembering that we, too, were once separated from the love of God and without hope in this world, think of people you know who are still living in this location. What will you do about it?
5. Read the following passages, and let's talk about the implications of these truths in the here and now. Read Matthew 24:35; 1 Corinthians 15:54; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18; and Revelation 21:1-8.

## Lesson #3

# A Rotten Family Tree

Someone once said, “It is the bad news in the good news that makes the good news so good.” To put it another way, the true gospel is a double-edged sword. Like a surgeon’s knife, it cuts to the root of the disease to bring healing. We are born with a terminal illness called sin. Every single one of us is born infected. Today I heard of a person who found out that they have a thyroid problem. Come to find out, five women in her family have the condition. In this lesson we are going to look at our spiritual family tree and discover the origin of our terminal disease called sin. To do that, we must start at the beginning. Our background passages for this lesson are **Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12; Genesis 3:1-24**.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-3.**

- This is the condition of *all* humanity—all are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:3-7; Romans 3:9-18, 23; 1 John 5:12**)

**Read Ephesians 2:11-12; Romans 5:12-14, 17-19; Isaiah 59:1-7.**

- Our Condition determines our spiritual location. We were *all separated* from God in Adam. Once we realize our condition, we should not be surprised when sinners act like sinners.

**Read Genesis 3:1-24; John 3:1-16, 36.**

- How did we get in this hopeless location? We were all born there and trace our roots back to Adam and Eve.

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 44-47.**

- Because of our mortality in Adam, we are all appointed a day to die physically. If we remain in Adam, we will be dead eternally.

**Read Revelation 9:21, 21:8, 27; Galatians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Matthew 23:33.**

- The destination of every person who is born only once into Adam’s family is eternal separation from God in hell.

**Read Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, 53:1-12; 1 John 5:11-13.**

- There is hope for all of us in the last \_\_\_\_\_ the “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ woman.”

# The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil



## **Our First Condition:**

Dead in our sins/ Blind to God/ Have no fear of Him/Naked/ Hopeless/ Helpless/ Enemies of God/ Under God's wrath/ Ungodly/ No God--no life

Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:3-7; Romans 3:9-18,23; 1 John 5:12

## **Our First Location:**

Separated from God in Adam

Ephesians 2:11-13; Romans 5:12-14, 17-19; Isaiah 59:1-3; Genesis 3:1-24; John 3:15-16, 36

## **Our Mortality:**

Genesis 2:17, 3:19; Hebrews 9:27; Psalms 89:47-48, 90:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29, 15:21-22,44-47; 1 John 5:11-13

## **Our Final Destination:**

Revelation 9:21, 21:8, 27; Galatians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Matthew 23:33

## **Let's talk about it....**

1. Give an example of a situation you are dealing with that gives clear evidence that sin is at the root of the conflict.
2. Why do you think a funeral is a great place for people to hear the gospel?
3. From all the passages we have read, make a list of the descriptive words used that graphically depict our condition in Adam.
4. If we truly believe God's Word about hell, then why do you think we do not warn others about it and how to avoid it?
5. What do you think it means to fear God?



## Lesson #4

# The Blood of a Spotless Lamb

## Introduction

In the first fourteen verses of Ephesians, Paul introduces the idea that God had a plan in place even before He created the world. One day, God will have His people living in His heavenly place, under His sovereign rule. In lesson #3, we learned that something went wrong in the beginning that changed our spiritual address.

In this lesson, we will start our study in **Ephesians 1:7-10, 14** and parallel some passages found primarily in the books of Genesis and Exodus. By doing so, we will see some truths that were obscure to the saints of the Old Testament but are manifested in the books of John and Revelation. (John was in Ephesus when he wrote all of his books, and after receiving the Revelation of Christ, he returned to Ephesus and spent the rest of his earthly life there.) As we work our way through these passages, following the signs and symbols, we'll find that they all point towards God's ultimate plan of redemption (Ephesians 2:1-12). The blueprint was written in crimson red. The crux of our problem is sin. God's solution was a crux—the Latin word for cross.

Just as Paul and Apollos demonstrated by the Scriptures to the citizens of Ephesus that Jesus was, in fact, the Messiah, we will do the same (Acts 18:28). We'll solve **the mystery of God's redemptive plan through the death of the Messiah—the Lamb of God. Read Ephesians 1:7-10.**

### Read Genesis 3:15-21.

- Behold Jesus as the last \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 15:21-22), the \_\_\_\_\_ of a woman (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; John 19:25-27; 1 John 3:8), and His blood a covering for our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:19-28; 1 Peter 1:18-20).

### Read Genesis 3:22-24.

- Behold Jesus—the One who hung on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:35, 51-58, 11:25-26; Galatians 3:13). In Genesis 4, we see Christ Jesus as a good shepherd like Abel and the acceptable offering for sin—the Lamb who was killed (John 10:10-14, 19:1-30; Isaiah 53:5-12).

### Read Genesis 6:14, 7:7.

- Behold Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation and His blood \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_, that covers and protects us from the wrath of God. (Side note: compare Genesis 9:13-16 with Ezekiel 1:28 and Revelation 4:1-5).

**Read Genesis 22:2, 6-8, 12-18.**

- Behold Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (John 1:14-18, 34, 3:14-16, 10:36), and see Him as the promised \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (John 4:4-42; Revelation 5:9).

**Read Genesis 28:12,14-16.**

- Behold Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ way to \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven. (John 1:51, 14:6; Ephesians 1:10; Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Peter 3:18). When God sees \_\_\_\_\_, He remembers His \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:15- 20). The new covenant sign is in His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Read Exodus 3:6, 8.**

- Behold Jesus as the great \_\_\_\_\_ (John 8:58)! Like Moses, He is the \_\_\_\_\_ who in His incarnation, came down to \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sins (John 1:1-3,14-18; 1 Timothy 3:16).

**Read Exodus 12:21-27.**

- Behold Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:7-9; Ephesians 2:1-8). Those whose sins are covered by His blood have passed over from death to life (Ephesians 2:1-8).

**Read Exodus 13:21.**

- Behold Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:6-9, 8:12, 9:5).

The story of the church at Ephesus ends in Revelation 2:1-7. History bears witness to the fact that they did not repent. But for those who do, this is how our story ends: **Read Revelation 1:5, 5:6-14, 7:9-17, 12:11, 13:8, 22:1-5.** The Lamb who was slain to purchase redemption is the Good Shephard. He will receive the due reward for His suffering. He will have His people living with Him in His heavenly kingdom under His rule. From beginning to end, Jesus Christ is, was, and has always been, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords (John 18:37; Revelation 19:11-16).

The following quote by J.C. Ryle is a fitting conclusion and summary of this lesson. It comes from a Grace Gems devotional.

It is titled "I cannot think little of sin, when... **'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me' (Matthew 27:46)**"

*Would I know how exceedingly sinful and abominable sin is in the sight of God? Where shall I see sin most fully brought out? Shall I turn to the history of the flood, and read how sin drowned the world? Shall I go to the shore of the Dead*

*Sea, and mark what sin brought on Sodom and Gomorrah? No! I can find a clearer proof still! I look at the cross of Christ! There I see that sin is so filthy and damnable, that nothing but the blood of God's own Son can wash it away! There I see that sin has so separated me from my holy Maker, that all the angels in Heaven could never have made peace between us. Nothing could reconcile us, short of the death of Christ. If I listened to the wretched talk of proud people, I might sometimes imagine that sin was not so very sinful! But I cannot think little of sin, when I look at the cross of Christ! "A bleeding Savior I have viewed--and now I hate my sin!" John Newton*

## The Cross of Christ is the Tree of Life



### **The Saints Condition:**

Alive/ Sealed/ Loved/ Healed/ Adopted/ Forgiven/ Blessed/ Holy/ Blameless/ Redeemed/ Accepted/ Reconciled to God/ Clothed in the righteousness of Christ

Ephesians 1:1-14, 2:4-10; Romans 5:6-16, 8:9-11; John 6:63, 11:25; Galatians 4:29; 1 John 5:11

### **The Saints Location:**

Seated at the Right Hand of God in Christ who is the "Last Adam"

Ephesians 2:4-6; Philippians 2:6-7; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

### **The Saints New Relations:**

Ephesians 1:1-14, 2:13-22, 3:14; John 3:16-17, 17:1-26

### **The Saints Final Destination:**

John 14:1-6; Matthew 25:33; 1 Peter 2:24-25; Revelation 21:1-7

### Let's talk about it....

1. Following the trail of blood pointing us to God's plan of redemption, where did we see the first killing of a lamb?
2. What two attributes of God are clearly displayed in the sacrificial system?
3. The aim of today's lesson is not gathering more knowledge. It is learning how to hear God speak personally to us from His Word. Read James 1:19-25 and fill in the blanks. If we are going to be doers of God's Word, we must learn to \_\_\_\_\_ what we learn to our lives. Adriana Morales, one of our blog contributors, shared the following tips with me. One is called the **soap method**: Scripture, observation, application, and prayer. (Another acronym for this is HEAR: **H**ear the Word of God, **E**xplain, **A**pply, and **R**espond.)

**Scripture:** Read Ephesians 1:3-8, 2:13; Leviticus 10:1-3, 11:45, 17:11; 1 Peter 1:13-19; Hebrews 9:22-24, 10:19-25.

**Observation:** The major themes in the book of Leviticus are as follows: the priesthood, the holiness of God, blood (60 times), and atonement (49 times).

**Application:** Therefore, considering these Truths, is there a specific area of your life that you need to change? What will you do about it? To set personal goals to live out what you have learned here is a **SMART** application acronym: Be specific, make it measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound (James 1:19-25).

**Prayer:** **Acts** of prayer are: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

✍ Adoration: Hebrews 7:22-27

✍ Confession: 1 John 1:5-9; Ephesians 5:1-4

✍ Thanksgiving: Hebrews 13:12-15; Ephesians 5:20

✍ Supplication: 1 Peter 9:9-10; Revelation 5:9-13

## Week #5

# “But God” Makes All the Difference

## Introduction

As we learned in previous weeks, God planned, purposed, provided, and, ultimately paid the cost required for our pardon. It was all part of His macro plan. Now, we will focus on the micro plan, and see how the Lord works in the lives of individuals to woo and pursue them to Himself (Matthew 18:11-13; Hosea 2:14-17). Call it destiny, call it providence, call it divine intervention—but don’t call it coincidence. From first to last, God is the one who orchestrates, initiates, and instigates our salvation (John 6:44-45; Acts 2:38-39).

If you want to know if God is actively involved in your life, then take a stroll down memory lane and reminisce on the times when God stepped into the mess of your life and altered a seemingly hopeless situation. Throughout this lesson, we will refer these as “But God” moments. Granted, the circumstances that proceed these hallmarks often look impossible from our point of view, but God’s got a plan (Ephesians 1:9-14; Romans 8:28-29). The bigger the mess, the greater the opportunity for God to show up and show off His glory. What He does is synonymous with who He is. Therefore, He’ll always act according to His character. He is rich in mercy, grace, and unfailing love.

Stepping back to Paul’s letter to the saints at Ephesus, we will launch this topical study with **Ephesians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Matthew 7:13-27, and Romans 5:6-10**. These passages comprise our Scriptures for today’s lesson.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-5; Isaiah 53:6.**

- Using these Scriptures, describe the path we walked before God’s intervention.
- What does it mean to follow the course of the world?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Colossians 1:12-14.**

- Fill in the blanks: The truth of the gospel is hidden from people who are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- From these passages, make a list of the verbs describing God’s intervention in leading individuals to Himself.
- When we are in spiritual darkness, what are we blind to?
- Read Proverbs 29:18 from different versions of the Bible. The word used here for “perish” or “cast off restraints” in Hebrew could also be translated as *to go wild, or to be naked*. Ultimately, those who never turn from “going their own way” will perish in their sins!
- Read Psalm 2:1-6 and discuss what society looks like when the world refuses to be restrained by the grace of God.





- There is one cure for spiritual blindness (Psalm 119:105; Romans 10:9-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-6, 5:18-20). What will cure blindness?

**Read Matthew 7:13-27; Revelation 3:13-21.**

- Read Matthew 7:13-14; John 10:1-11. What are some “other ways” people on the wide road try to get to heaven?
- Read Proverbs 14:12. How is it that people can be in church, believe in God, and yet remain lost and perishing?
- From our previous lesson, what does it mean to be spiritually naked? And what, specifically, is Jesus referring to when He said to the church at Laodicea that they need to be clothed? (Hint: Genesis 3:21).

**Let’s talk about it....**

1. Has the Lord brought any memorable “But God” moments to mind that you would like to share?
2. Using the **SOAP** method from our last lesson, what passage of Scripture spoke personally to you?
3. From your Observation, what would you say is the theme of this lesson? What are some key words that stood out?
4. Is the Holy Spirit making any personal Application of these Truths to your life? If so, what will you do about it? To set personal goals to live out what you have learned, here is a **SMART** application acronym: Be specific, make it measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound (James 1:19-25).
5. After sharing some goals with one another, it is time for Prayer. As best we can, let’s try to pull some passages from today’s lesson and use them in the following **Acts** of prayer:

-  Adoration
-  Confession
-  Thanksgiving
-  Supplication

## Week #6

# The Riches of God's Mercy and Grace

## Introduction

The original languages of the Bible intrigue me. When I read a text and a question comes to mind, I pull out my large, very worn, Strong's Concordance and go to digging. For instance, looking up the following words, I found that they are almost always prefaced with superlatives such as: lovingkindness, gracious, merciful, longsuffering, compassionate, and slow to anger.

Probing the depths of God's boundless love will lead us to the very heart of God personified in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our key Passages for this lesson are as follows:

**Read Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:4-9.**

## Mercy

**Read Exodus 34:6; Deut. 4:28-31; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Psalms 103:8-17, 145:8-9.**

### 1 Timothy 1:13-16 (NET)

*Even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, and our Lord's grace was abundant, bringing faith and love in Christ Jesus. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" – and I am the worst of them! But here is why I was treated with mercy: so that in me as the worst, Christ Jesus could demonstrate his utmost patience, as an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life.*

As an Old Testament scholar, Paul knew all too well what he deserved for his sins (Acts 8:1, 9:8, Romans 6:23). He also knew from experience that God is who He said He is. He is longsuffering, merciful and gracious towards sinners. The doctrines of grace and mercy permeated every epistle Paul wrote.

**Read Acts 8:1, 9:8; Romans 2:4, 3:24, 4:3-8, 5:6-12, 20, 6:23, 9:22-26.**

- What attribute of God is demonstrated by His patience towards sinners?
- Let's talk about some Biblical examples of mercy: Cain (Genesis 4:1-15); David and Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-13); David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-12, 25); The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24).
- Compare Ephesians 2:4 with 1 Peter 1:3, 2:10; Hosea 2:23; Isaiah 54:5-10. How do these passages apply to believers today?

## Grace

- Grace in Greek is charis. It is derived from the word \_\_\_\_\_. It is also connected with the following words: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Greek word used for gift in Ephesians 2:8 is *doron*. It is defined as a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ gift \_\_\_\_\_. What specifically is it referring to?
- Read Romans 3:21-24. Paul uses the word “justified” 27 times in Romans and Galatians. What does the word mean?
- The Hebrew word for grace is *cheched*. It is also translated as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, all these Hebrew words are connected. Read: Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31; Joel 2:13.
- Read Exodus 33:19; Psalm 23:6; Hebrew 1:1-3; John 1:14-17 and fill in the blanks. The Law came through Moses but \_\_\_\_\_ came through \_\_\_\_\_.

### Vocabulary words in Greek:

- **Gift**- It is used in Ephesians 2:9 and is Strong’s #1435 *doron*: - a present, specifically a sacrifice, gift offering.
- **Gift**- It is used in Romans 6:23 and is Strong’s #5486 *charisma* (from Forgive).
- **Forgive**- It is used in Ephesians 4:32, Luke 7:42-43 and Colossians 2:13 and is Strong’s #5483 *charizomai* (from grace).
- **Grace**- It is used in Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:5, 7, 8, and John 1:14-17 and is Strong’s #5485 *charis* (from rejoice or joy).
- **Rejoice**- It is used in 1 Peter 4:13 and Revelation 19:7 and is Strong’s #5463 *charo*.
- **Exact Image**- It is used in Hebrews 1:3 and is Strong’s #5481 *charakter* (This is the only time this Greek word is used as image in the New Testament.)
- **Accepted/Highly Favored**- It is used in Ephesians 1:6 and Luke 1:28 and is Strong’s #5487 *charitoo* (from grace).
- **Mercy/Compassion**- It is used in Ephesians 2:4-9; 1 Timothy 1:13 and Titus 3:3-7 and is Strong’s #1656 *eleos*.

### Grace is A Gift,

In Gary Chapman’s book, he asserts that there are five love languages: words of affirmation, acts of service, quality time, physical touch, and gifts. Mine is gifts. When it comes to gift giving, it’s the thought that counts, so they say. Before my husband Art was saved, he presented me with a gift that spoke volumes about our relationship. It was a padded toilet seat. I was less than underwhelmed by his generosity. We can’t give what we do not possess. Now that Art has received the love and grace of God, he has learned to express his love for me in my love language through thoughtful and, sometimes, extravagant gifts.



Have you received the gifts of forgiveness, mercy, and grace? To whom much is given, much will be required! Using an acronym for gift, here are some markers of someone who has received the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus:

**G**enerosity in showing mercy

**I** live in humility and patience with others

**F**orgiveness towards others as I have been forgiven

**T**hanksgiving, gratitude and joy

### Let's talk about it....

1. Define the difference between grace and mercy.
2. Give examples of grace and mercy in your life.
3. Can you think of a person that you know who needs mercy and grace yet is totally undeserving of it? Will you ask the Lord how you might be His agent to extend these gifts to them?
4. From all we have learned, how can you tell if a person has received God's grace? What are some markers? (1 Peter 2:9-10; Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36)
5. How is it that God can be just and exonerate the guilty at the same time?
6. Have you ever tried to earn God's grace?
7. Using the **SOAP** method, what passage of Scripture spoke personally to you?
8. From your Observation, what would you say is the theme of this lesson? What are some key words that stood out?
9. Is the Holy Spirit making any personal Application of these Truths to your life? If so, what will you do about it?
10. To set personal goals to live out what you have learned, here is a **SMART** application acronym: Be specific, make it measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound (James 1:19-25).
11. After sharing some goals with one another, it is time for Prayer. As best we can, let's try to pull some passages from today's lesson and use them in the following **Acts** of prayer:

✍ **A**doration

✍ **C**onfession

✍ **T**hanksgiving

✍ **S**upplication

## Week #7

# What Must I Do to Be Saved?

## Introduction

We know that salvation is a priceless gift of God. It can't be earned, bought, and it certainly is not deserved. But, the gift of salvation, like any gift, must be received. Once a person has heard the gospel, and the Holy Spirit is drawing them to Christ, what must a person do to be saved? To put it another way, how do you receive the gift? That is what this lesson is all about.

The two keys that are required to receive salvation are repentance and faith. We will talk about what it means to have true Godly sorrow versus worldly sorrow and saving faith versus vain faith. Let's begin by reading **Ephesians 2:6-9**.

## Repentance

**Read Acts 2:36-39, 3:19-20, 11:16-18, 16:27-34, 17:30, 20:17-21, 26:20, 28:25-28**

- Read Mark 1:4-8, 14-15; Luke 11:32, 13:3, 15:1-10, 24:47
- What did Jesus say that repentance is for?
- Read Luke 3:7-14. What is the fruit of repentance?
- Read Jesus' last words in Luke 24:47. What will be preached throughout the whole world?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Romans 2:4-5. The riches of God's kindness lead us to \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the difference in Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
- Read 2 Peter 3:9, 15. Why does the Lord tarry in His return? What's the connection to God being patient and long suffering?

## Week #8

# Blessed Is She Who Believes

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 1:16-17; John 3:16-18, 20:24-31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-15**

- What is the difference between saving faith and vain faith?
- Read Hebrews 11:1-6. If I really believe God's Word, I will \_\_\_\_\_. And He will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Read Isaiah 28:16; Romans 9:23, 10:7-17; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8. The Hebrew word Amen is *believe*, but it is also connected with what other words?

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:18, 20. What is it ultimately pointing us to?
- Read Habakkuk 2:4 and Romans 4:16-24. Note everything you see about Abraham's faith that we should imitate.

### Let's talk about it....

1. How would you answer someone who asks "What must I do to be saved?"
2. Reading through Hebrews 11 and comparing it with James 2:14-26, it appears that true faith always leads to action. When God gives us a measure of faith to believe in Christ, what are some of the first actions that accompanies saving faith?
3. On page 85, Keven Twisdale said faith boils down to 3 things: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Define each.
4. When your faith is weak, what is one practical way to increase it?
4. Using the **SOAP** method, what passage of Scripture spoke personally to you?
5. From your Observation, what would you say is the theme of this lesson? What are some key words that stood out?
6. Is the Holy Spirit making any personal Application of these Truths to your life? If so, what will you do about it?
7. To set personal goals to live out what you have learned, here is a **SMART** application acronym: Be specific, make it measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound (James 1:19-25).
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- ✍ **Confession**
- ✍ **Thanksgiving**
- ✍ **Supplication**

## Week #9

# Signs of Life

In the judicial system of the United States, a person is innocent until proven guilty. To make that determination, all the evidence gathered from every plausible eye witness is looked at. If those eye witnesses are trustworthy, then a verdict of guilty or innocent can be reached, and the legal system works. This is also a biblical principle. Every matter is established by hearing from two or three witnesses (1 John 5:6-12; Deuteronomy 19:15).

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:5; 1 John 1:5-15.**

- How can a person know if she/he is dead or alive?
- The three reliable witnesses that testify to our spiritual life are: a \_\_\_\_\_ testimony, a \_\_\_\_\_ life, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. All three rest upon this witness: \_\_\_\_\_.
- The key word of this lesson, found in 1 John 5:13, is \_\_\_\_\_. The Greek word is \_\_\_\_\_. It means to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. A derivative of this word is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 as \_\_\_\_\_. In Greek it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Plainly put, you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ you are saved unless you \_\_\_\_\_ the evidence or fruit of the Spirit.
- Is it biblical to question your salvation? Why or why not?
- Read Matthew 7:15-20 and 1 John 3:6-15. Does God want His children to be able to distinguish between those who are saved and those who are lost? What do these passages say about it?

## Week #10

# A Spiritual Checkup





The proof is in the pudding, so they say. A person who is once born operates according to the nature of the flesh. Their original sin nature governs everything in their life. Whereas, the person who has been born again has a new internal governing system in place. It is called the Holy Spirit. **Read 2 Peter 1:10; Romans 8:6-9; 2 Corinthians 13:5-6.**

Now we will get down to the nitty gritty and see what kind of fruit we are looking for to determine if we are spiritually alive or if we remain in spiritual death.

- Read John 8:31-47, 10:27-28. Explain this statement: “A spiritually dead person has no appetite.”
- Read Romans 1:5-6; 1 John 2:3-4. What sign accompanies saving faith?
- Read 1 John 1:2-3, 6-10. What sign is connected to the word “fellowship?”
- Read 1 John 2:15-17, 19-20; John 6:66. From these passages, what are some indications that a person never had saving faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Read 1 John 3:2-3, 6-12. A person who is saved will progressively become\_\_\_\_\_.
- Read 1 John 3:13-15; Titus 3:1-6. What is the defining mark of a person who is saved?
- Read 1 John 4:1-3, 13; 2 Corinthians 5:11-20. Why is the concern for other’s souls a mark of salvation?
- Read John 16:8 and Hebrews 12:6. Why is God so concerned about His children’s purity?
- Read John 3:22, 5:14-15, 15:7-8. Give some examples of past and present answered prayers.

### Let's talk about it....

1. Using the **SOAP** method, what passage of Scripture mentioned in this lesson spoke personally to you?
2. From your Observation, what would you say is the theme of this lesson? What are some key words that stood out?
3. Is the Holy Spirit making any personal Application of these Truths to your life? If so, what will you do about it?
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-  **Thanksgiving**
-  **Supplication**

## Week #11

# The Gospel of Your Salvation

## Introduction

All good things must come to an end. And here we are, wrapping up the last two weeks of our time together. But for some of us, the great adventure of following Christ has just commenced! Someone has said, “The gospel came to you so that it can flow through you to others.” In this last lesson, we will learn several ways that we can put into practice all we have learned, and we will see how we can participate through praying, preaching, proclaiming, and publishing the gospel of salvation.

## How Was the Gospel Propagated in Ephesus?

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 10:9-18; Isaiah 57:7; Ephesians 6:15.**

- What was the first thing that had to happen before the people of Ephesus could be saved?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. Who first preached the gospel to the Ephesians and what were their credentials?
- Does a person need to be an ordained minister to share the gospel?
- Have you ever been taught that it is the job of pastors and preachers to proclaim the gospel?
- What is significant about the Greek word used in Romans verse 17 for Word of God?
- From all we have been learning, what, specifically, is the gospel that brings about salvation from sin, judgment, and the wrath of God?
- Read Romans 10:16; John 3:15-18, 36; 2 Peter 3:3-9, 15. Will everyone who hears the gospel be saved?

## Vocabulary words:

- **Preach/Proclaim/Messenger-** It is used in Colossians 1:28 and is the Greek word *Kataggello* (Strong’s #2605). It means *to proclaim, declare, preach, speak of and teach*. It is connected with the Greek word *euangelizo* that means *to announce, declare, and preach the good news*.
- **Publish/Preach-** It is used in Romans 10:13-18 and Mark 5:19-20 and is the Greek word *kerusso* (Strong’s #2784). It means *to herald as a public crier, especially of divine truth (the gospel)*.
- **Preach/Proclaimed/Publish-** It is used in Isaiah 52:7 and is the Hebrew word *shama* (Strong’s #8085). It is the same word as hear in Hebrew.
- **Published-** It is used in Psalm 68:11 and is the Hebrew word *basar* (Strong’s #1319). It means *messengers who announce or preach good tidings*.

- **Ambassador-** It is found in Ephesians 6:20 and 2 Corinthians 5:20 and is the Greek word *presbeuo* (Strong's #4243). It means *to act as a representative and preacher, an ambassador*.

## Week #12

# A Gospel Story

Throughout this study, we've employed Jesus' methods in sharing the gospel by using parables, stories, and analogies. For oral learners, that's the best way to communicate truth.

**Read Ephesians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-6.**

- From these passages, what is one way that you can participate in the gospel?

**Read Luke 23:32-39.**

- Let's preach the gospel to one another by retelling the account of the two thieves. Have each participant tell a portion of the gospel message it contains.
- Of all the personal stories in this study, what story had the most impact on you personally?

**Read Colossians 1:6-7, 21-23; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47.**

- These verses give us the scope of our personal outreach of the gospel. What is it?
- Keeping in mind all we have learned about the advancement of the gospel as it pertains to the history of the church at Ephesus, how can we imitate some of the key people who were part of it?
- Read Revelation 5:9-10. Now let's discuss every plausible way that you and I can participate in making Revelation 5:9-10 a reality.

Through this study, you have received the tools of the trade needed to become a "Spiritual Matchmaker." Each of us has a personal story of how the Lord wooed and pursued us. Your feet have been fitted to follow Christ and fish for the souls of people in your circle of influence. Be it a friend, neighbor, or family member, the Lord desires to bring light, hope, and salvation through the gospel message. My dear sister in Christ, you have received the priceless gift of salvation. What will you do with it? Hoard it or herald it?



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