



Global Good

News Literature

Basic Christianity



Part I

GLOBAL GOOD NEWS LITERATURE

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



“The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalms 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study are either from NIV or NKJV**

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Global Good News Literature Correspondence Course

These lessons can be used for individual or group Bible Study. They can also be used by a person who has the responsibility of teaching new believers or discipleship classes. For those of you who would like to take the course with us, you would have to register and get your Student ID from us. The main purpose of this correspondence course is to help new believers and those who would like to strengthen their Christian foundation, send their roots down and grow in the Lord, by learning the basic concepts or foundational truths of Christianity.

As it is said, "You can bring a horse to the water but you cannot force it to drink"; unless the student follows up these lessons diligently and reads the scripture references carefully, he/she cannot get the full benefit of the courses. We encourage everyone to study these lessons with an open Bible so that you can read the verses for yourselves. We also encourage you to have your own notebook where you can write the things the Holy Spirit teaches you through these lessons.

Then you can continue the correspondence course by sending the answers to the questions that are at the end of each lesson.

This course contains twelve foundational lessons divided into three parts. If the contents of these lessons are taken seriously and applied accordingly, they would help the student to be firmly established in his/her Christian walk with the Lord. To achieve this desired target, we encourage the student to do the questions at the end of each lesson in a thoughtful manner where the answers are found within each preceding lesson.

For those who would like to correspond with us, we would like you to send us the answers for each section (Part I, II and III) so that we can check your answers and send you a certificate upon completion of the entire course.

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Lesson One SALVATION

I. What is Salvation?

The word "Salvation" might be understood differently by different people. The "Salvation" we are referring to in this lesson is strictly regarding the salvation of our soul or spirit from eternal punishment or hell. Jesus said: **"What would a man profit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"** We are talking about the **salvation that keeps one's soul from being lost.**

To really understand what salvation means, we have to go back and see what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. After God created Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden, he made them ruler over all earthly creation.

In the Garden of Eden, God also gave Adam and Eve a commandment. **"¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."** (Genesis 2:15-17)

Even though God created man as "very good" (Genesis 1:31, Ecclesiastes 7:29), he also created him with a free will. As free moral agents able to choose good or evil, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's commandment. **"⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."** (Gen 3:6). As God said, **"the day you eat of it you shall surely die"**, Adam and Eve died spiritually that day. **"⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew**

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that **they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden**" (Genesis 3:7-8). Adam and Eve lost the invisible Grace that was covering their nakedness and they were separated from God's presence. Spiritual death is being separated from the presence of the Lord.

The Bible tells us that this spiritual death was propagated to all humanity. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man inherited the sinful nature of Adam and became a sinner by nature and by his deeds also. David said in Psalms 51:5 "**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.**"

II. What is the way of Salvation that God provided?

Since God is Love, He didn't want man to be lost forever. Yet, since God is also righteous, he had to punish disobedience and sin. God in his Love and mercy provided a way to get out of the situation man got himself in. That way is through his son Jesus Christ. "**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**" (John 3:16). "**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**" (John 14:6). Just as sin entered the world through one man, Adam, salvation came to mankind through Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:12-21, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

The grace that man lost in the Garden of Eden, when he disobeyed, will be restored to him when he accepts the Gospel which is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:5-9)

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The Gospel can be summarized as follows

1. Mankind is spiritually dead because sin. (Romans 3:23, Rom 6:23, Eph. 2:1)
2. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.
3. We have to admit our sinfulness and repent. (Acts 17:30)
4. We have to believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and accept him into our heart as our personal Lord and Savior. (John 1:12, John 3:16)

The Word of God tells us that Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (NIV)

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." John 10:9

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

This might sound narrow and very exclusive. But this is what the Bible says about the Narrow gate.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."

III. What does "being saved" mean?

1. **It is "being born again"**. When a person gets saved, he is born again in his spirit. This means that his spirit that was dead because of sin becomes alive because his sins are washed away by the blood of Christ. He no longer is a slave to sin but alive for righteousness.

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2. **It is becoming a "Child of God".** All mankind is God's creation but all mankind is not in the family of God. Jesus said to the Pharisees who were conspiring against him, "You are of your father the Devil." After the fall of Adam and Eve, mankind got himself out of the family of God. Only those who willingly, through repentance and Faith in Jesus Christ, come back into the family of God are accepted by Him as a child of God. (John 1:12)
3. **It is going from darkness to His wonderful Light.** (1 Peter 2:9)
4. **It is "Receiving God's mercy.** (1 Peter 2:10, 1 John 1:7)
5. **It is going from eternal death to Eternal Life.** (John 3:16)

IV. Can a person be sure of his/her salvation?

One of the reasons the Word of God was written for us is to give us an assurance of our salvation. The Apostle John says in 1 John 5:13, **"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."** He did not say that you may **hope** that you have eternal life, but 'that you may **KNOW** that you have eternal life'.

In addition to the Word of God, the Spirit of God also witnesses to our spirit that we are saved. **"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."** Romans 8:16

What are some of the changes that happen?

Once someone is saved, born again or become a child of God, he/she becomes more sensitive to sins that he/she was doing without a second thought. Now, everything has come into the Light. All the dark corners, disobediences, ill-motives, bad habits become clear to the child of God. His/her conscience has become alive and enlightened. This does not mean he/she would not sin any longer, it just means he/she becomes more sensitive to sin, and will be convicted by the Holy Spirit whenever he/she commits sin.

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The child of God also becomes burdened for the salvation of others. He/she would like others to experience the genuine salvation experience they experienced for themselves. This is because of the Love of Christ that has been poured into the heart of the believer by God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Romans 5:8)

Also, the fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians 5 22-23 start manifesting themselves in the life of the child of God. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."** (Gal 5:22-24)

V. Relationship Vs. Fellowship

Relationship is the Father-Son or Father-Daughter relationship we have with the Lord as our Father. This relationship is like what is found in a family. This relationship is an eternal relationship. It does not depend on our own strength or weakness, faithfulness or lack of faithfulness, sin or righteousness. It is a relationship that was established by God, when we repented of our sins and accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. **"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."** (NIV John 1:12)

Fellowship, on the other hand, is the day to day spiritual communion we should have with the Lord. Fellowship depends on our love, faithfulness and commitment to the Lord. **"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."** 1 John 1:3

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Fellowship can get broken from time to time. What breaks our Fellowship with the Lord is SIN. Isaiah 59:1-2 says as follows:

**"1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.**

**2 But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear."**

Even though, Sin breaks our Fellowship with God, it does not mean that we lose our Relationship with the Lord every time we fall into sin. We have to repent of our sin and re-establish our fellowship with the Lord as quickly as possible. Just like a Father can be pleased or disappointed with a son or daughter, we can live a life that pleases and honors the Lord, or we can live a life that displeases and dishonors the Lord. At any given time, our life is either honoring or dishonoring the Lord.

VI. Why were we saved?

If the only reason for being saved is to go to heaven, the Lord would have taken us to heaven the moment we got saved. God's purpose for getting us saved is much more than going to heaven.

Here are some of the reasons why the Lord saved us.

1. To find "Rest" in Him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

"Be still, and know that I am God" Psalms 46:10

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2. To learn from Him.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:29**

"All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace." Isaiah 54:13

Read the story of Martha and Mary in **Luke 10:38-42**.

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, **who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.** ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but only one thing is needed. **Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.**"

May our choice be like Mary's!

The Lord has a series of calls to us.

- a) Come unto Me.
- b) Rest in Me.
- c) Learn from Me.
- d) Serve Me.

3. To be His dwelling place. To be set apart (Holy) for Him.

Ephesians 2:22 "²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

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1 Peter 2:1-5 "1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— **5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Romans 12:1-2 " 1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, **holy and pleasing to God**—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "19Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body."

4. To Praise and Glorify Him

Psalms 50:14-15 "14 Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
15 and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Psalms 50:23- "23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."

1 Chronicles 23:30 "30They were also to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD. They were to do the same in the evening."

5. To tell others about the Lord

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1 Peter 2:9 “**9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, **that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**”

Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Matthew 5:14-16, "**14**You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

6. To accomplish the assignment the Lord has for us.

Ephesians 2:10, "**10**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

David accomplished his purpose while he was alive.

Acts 13:36, "**36**For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed."

Jesus and the Apostle Paul are good examples for us. This is what is said of them.

Talking about Paul, **Acts 9:15** says, "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

Towards the end of his life, Paul said:

2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have **finished** my course, I have **kept the faith.**" He meant that he has finished his assignment that was given to him by the Lord.

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Also, Jesus himself prayed to the Father by saying:

Acts 17:4, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

7. Finally, we are saved to BE LIKE JESUS!

Romans 8:29, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son."

We become like Jesus as we get rid of the works of the flesh and grow in the fruit of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-24, " ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."

If the reason for our salvation is not just going to heaven, we have to be diligent in our Prayer life, the study of God's Word and in our fellowship with other believers.

Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Colossians 2:6-7, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**"

The remaining lessons will help us do just that.

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Lesson 1 – Salvation - QUIZ

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

1. In Heb. 2:3 the Word of God says:

"How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him." Why is man in need of salvation?

2. What are the basic messages that the Gospel proclaims?

3. A. What is the provision God made, and

B. The steps man has to take in order to receive salvation?

4. What are some of the changes that would be evident in a person that has experienced salvation?

5. Explain the difference between fellowship and relationship.

6. What is the ultimate goal that God has for those that are saved?

7. Are you saved?

If yes, what gives you the assurance that you are?

If your answer is no or not sure, what steps do you have to take to be sure.