

LESSON 3: Good news to be shared (John 1:41)

Four lepers came upon food and goods outside a besieged city. At first, they started to hide the goods for themselves, but "Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell..." (2 Kings 7:9)

2. When Andrew found out Jesus was the Christ, what did he do? John 1:41

3. The Good News of Jesus is summed up in Matthew 1:21:

He will _____ his _____ from _____.

Why do we need salvation? Because we've sinned. Who can save us from our sins?

Jesus. Who does he save from their sins? His people.

These 3 points are crucial to understanding the good news. Let's examine each one.

THE PROBLEM: SIN Gen.1:31, Gen. 2:27, Gen.3; Isa. 59:1-2; Rom.2:8, 3:23, 6:23

What is sin?

What is the result of sin?

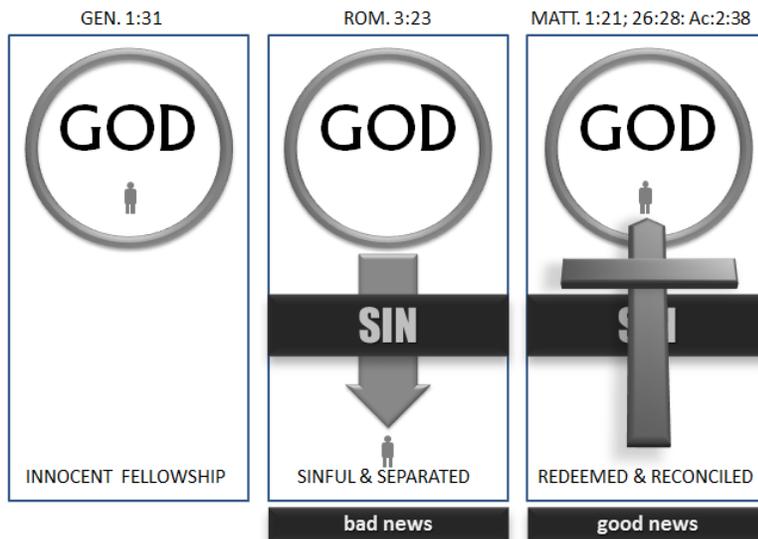
Outside of grace, what verdict do we face for sin?

THE SOLUTION: JESUS Isaiah 53; Mt. 26:28; Rom. 3:21-25; Rom. 5:8-11; 2 Cor. 5:14-21

How did John describe Jesus in Jn. 1:29?

Though without sin himself, what did Jesus do for us? (1 Ptr. 2:22&24)

For what purpose did Jesus shed his blood? (Mt. 26:28)



HIS PEOPLE: THOSE WHO TRUST & OBEY Romans 1:16; John 10:27; Hebrews 5:9

More specifically, his people are those who believe (have faith) in him (Jn.8:31); repent from serving self to serving him (Luke 9:23, Acts 3:19); confess him (Romans 10:9); and are baptized into him for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6). They then walk with him as their Lord (Jn. 10:27).

Because the topic is so often ignored or misunderstood, we will spend some time reviewing our response to the salvation offered in Christ:

FAITH:

What is faith? Heb. 11:1; _____

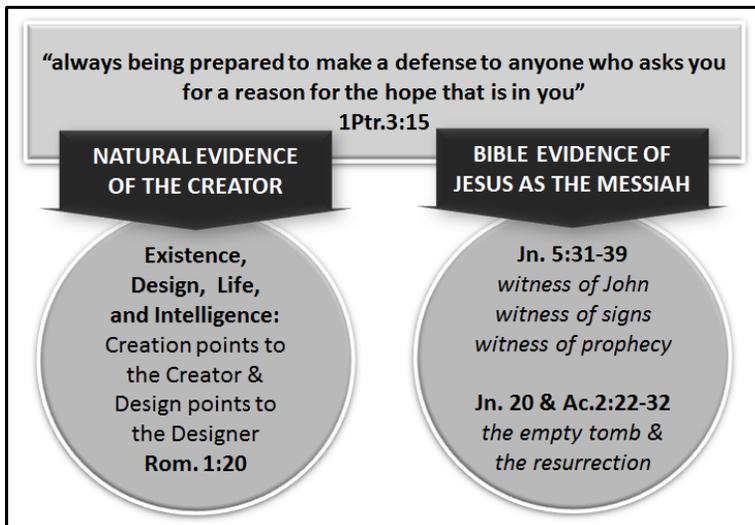
Jesus' people believe in him. They trust him as the Savior and risen Lord. Rom. 5:1.

Reaching out to unbelievers:

Many people are unbelieving, agnostic, or atheistic. As Jesus taught a reasoned faith (Jn. 5:31ff), we need to be ready to help unbelievers by showing them reasons for faith (1 Peter 3:15).

For those who doubt the existence of God, use the principle of Romans 1:20: the INVISIBLE things of God can be clearly SEEN by looking at what he has made; design comes from a designer.

For those who see the power of the Creator, but doubt that Jesus is the Son he sent into the world, use the evidences Jesus listed in John 5:31ff (the testimony of John, the testimony of the miracles, and the testimony of the prophecies). Then add to that the greater evidence of the empty tomb and his resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4; John 20).



REPENTANCE: Jesus' people are those who repent.

Repentance is a change of mind about what we will do, and who's in charge of our life.

Jesus' people repent from serving _____, and turn to serve _____. (Lk. 9:23)

Jesus' people turn from their _____. (Acts 3:19)

The Lord does not want us to perish, but wants us to _____. (2 Peter 3:9)

CONFESSION: Jesus' people are those willing to confess him.
Who does Jesus confess before God? (Matthew 10:32)

Of whom will Jesus be ashamed? (Mark 10:38)

Rom.10:9; If you _____ with your _____ that Jesus is Lord,
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

As Timothy had made the good _____ (1 Tim. 6:12) and lived by it, we too are to hold fast to our
_____ of hope (Heb. 10:23).

BAPTISM: Jesus' people are those who are baptized into him. (Gal. 3:27)

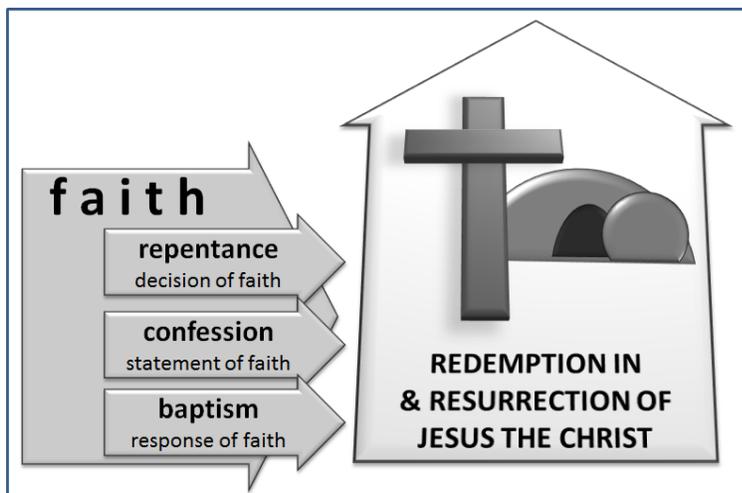
When the people asked Peter what they needed to do, what was the apostle's answer?
(Acts 2:36-38)

Three days after the Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus, what did Ananias tell him to do? And why? (Acts 22:16)

How are we put into Christ? (Gal. 3:27)

How are we put into his death? (Rom. 6:3-4)

As in the days of Noah when water separated the saved from the lost, what does baptism do now? (1 Peter 3:21)



Responding to misconceptions: Many churches deny the need of baptism (and some even deny the need for repentance), based on two common presumptions:

misconception #1: "The Bible teaches salvation by 'faith only'."

Nowhere does the Bible say we are saved by "faith only." Grace in Christ, not our own work, is what saves people of faith (Eph. 2:8-10). But people of faith must be *faithful* people (Heb.5:9; Heb. 11).

Belief without submission is dead (James 2:19-20) and unacceptable (Jn. 12:42).

a.) On what principle did Jesus end the sermon on the mount? (Matt. 7:21-27)

b.) What false concept does Paul flatly oppose in Romans 6? (note esp. vss. 15-16)

misconception #2: “*If baptism were needed, then we would be saving ourselves by our own works.*”

Having sinned against God, our works condemn us, not save use. It is by mercy in Christ that we are saved (Titus 3:3-5). But when the Savior calls us to submission, obeying that Savior is not making ourselves the savior. It is submitting to and respecting the one that *is* the Savior.

One of the clearest ways to see the fallacy of this misconception (#2) is to examine its premise against these other examples of grace and deliverance :

2 Kings 5 Naaman	John 9 the blind man	Acts 22:16 Saul
		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Could he save himself?2. Did the Lord save him?3. How? By the power of God? Or by his own work?4. When was he cleansed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Could he save himself?2. Did the Lord save him?3. How? By the power of God? Or by his own work?4. When did he see?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Could he save himself?2. Did the Lord save him?3. How? By the power of God? Or by his own work?4. When was he cleansed?

Obviously, none of these men were saved by their power and works. They were delivered by the grace and power of God. When? When they submitted to the Lord's word.

Discuss: Opportunities and ways to reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ