

“Foundations” – Lesson #1

KNOWING YOU’RE SAVED

Knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord is the most exciting relationship you can have. It is the beginning of a life of adventure with an all-loving, all-knowing, all present and all-powerful God! Often it is easy for a new Christian to not “feel saved.” It is possible to doubt our salvation and not live up to the privileges God has for us.



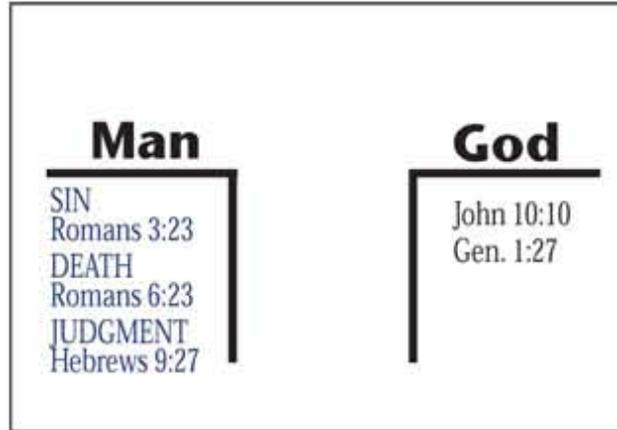
Salvation is a beginning point not the end. It is a place to start and you grow from there.

John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

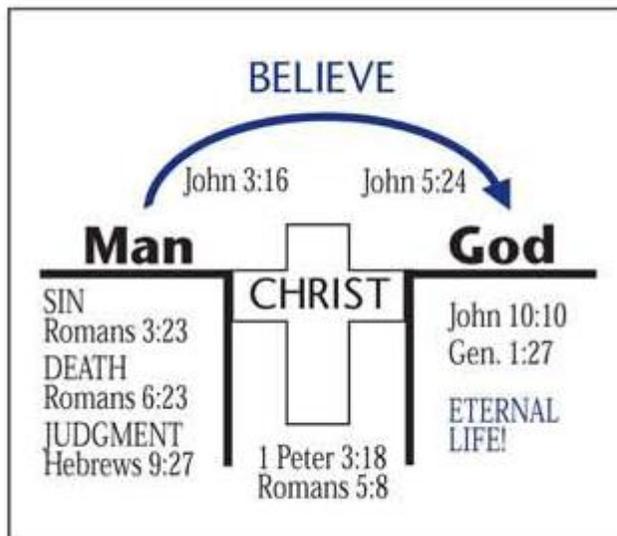
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So, how does someone begin a relationship with Christ or become a Christian?

Our Problem:



Our Remedy:



What does Romans 10:9 say we must do to be saved?

Confess with your mouth – that Jesus is Lord
Believe with your heart – that God raised Him from the dead

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A Christian is someone who has made a willful decision to put their trust in Jesus Christ as the only One who can save them from their sin.

They have:

Confessed – *Agree with God (that they are a sinner)*

Believed – *Believed that Jesus is the Son of God and can deal with their sin*

Repented – *Made the decision to turn away from their sinful path and to now follow Christ*

Received – *Asked Christ to forgive their sin (accepting Him as their Savior and Lord)*

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I want to turn from my sin. I now ask You to forgive my sin and to come into my heart and life and take control. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Amen.”

Remember, Christianity is a Relationship not a Religion.

What’s the difference? Religion = DO
(have to earn your way)

Christianity = DONE
(Jesus paid the price)

I. CONFIDENCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

We can be confident in our relationship with Christ because we have been completely forgiven and accepted by God. Only Christ’s death on the cross is sufficient to provide this proper relationship with God.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. There are three important words in these verses that explain the basis of our acceptance before God.

A. GRACE = unmerited favor; an undeserved gift.

What role did grace play in establishing our relationship with God?

Salvation is only through God’s grace and mercy, not by human works

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B. SAVED = rescued; spared from disaster.

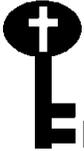
What do you think this verse means by saying we are “saved”?
From what are we “rescued”?

We are saved from the penalty of our unrighteousness and sin

C. FAITH = belief; trust; commitment of mind, attitude, action.

What does faith have to do with receiving Christ?

You have to make a decision of your will to trust in and receive God’s grace and mercy



KEY QUESTION: Suppose you were standing before God and He asked you, “Why should I let you into heaven?” What would you say?

Teacher, correct any answers that still point to salvation by works or earning their way to heaven

II. TRUTHS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

There are many exciting things that are true in our relationship with Christ. The following truths are what Christ did for us the moment we confessed Him as our Savior and Lord. (None of them can be earned):

A. *Ephesians 1:7* forgiveness of sins

B. *John 1:12* the right to be called children of God

C. *Revelation 3:20* fellowship with Christ

Will Christ ever leave you? (Hebrews 13:5-6; John 6:37; John 10:27-29; Jude 24)

Teacher, have them read all four scripture passages and help them understand the responsibility of the believer to follow Christ.

D. *II Corinthians 5:17* new creation

E. *I John 5:11-13* you can know for sure that you have eternal life

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KEY QUESTION: If you were to die tonight, are you sure that you would spend eternity with God? Teacher, once again help them to understand that they cannot earn salvation through works

III. DEALING WITH DOUBTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

What are some of the reasons we might begin to doubt our salvation?
I went back or wanted to go back to my old ways, I started to think bad things again, I used bad language, I did some bad things, I just don't feel saved, I started to worry about whether I was saved or not, I talked to someone and they questioned if I was really saved

Doubts, questions and varying emotions are common parts of everyone's life, but they are very unreliable gauges of anyone's relationship with Christ. The Christian lives by faith in the trustworthiness of God and His Word. How does this work?

- A. Do not depend on feelings. No matter how you feel, God always remains committed to you!
1. **FACT** – *God and His Word (absolute truth)*
 2. **FAITH** – *Our trust in God and His Word, despite how we feel*
 3. **FEELINGS** – *Up and down. Good feelings may come and go, but the fact of God's love for you and His forgiveness remain consistent*

So, what if I don't feel like a Christian tomorrow?

Don't live by feelings. Recall the facts of God's great love to you in Jesus Christ. Claim these facts by faith

The more we learn God's Word, the more we will be able to answer any doubts with solid facts. Our feelings will begin to respond to the truth of God's Word and not to our circumstances.

- B. Don't confuse the gift of salvation with the growing process.

Read Philippians 2:12

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Example:

Compare PHYSICAL BIRTH vs. SPIRITUAL BIRTH

Read John 1:12-13; 3:3-7

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