

"The Salvation Which is in Christ Jesus"

(2 Timothy 2:10)

Lesson Six: False Doctrines about Salvation – Meritorious Salvation (1)

Introduction. We noticed in our first lesson that the universal need all accountable souls have for salvation arises from the fact that all have sinned and need a way to remove sin and its alienating effects on our relationship with God from our lives. *How can this happen?* We have studied conditions that God has set by which we may be given the gift of salvation. Are these (or any other human actions) things that *merit* salvation?

I. The Wronged Party in Sin.

A. Read Genesis 39:7-9. When Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to commit adultery, against whom did he say he would be sinning if gave in to her? _____
   1. Read Psalm 51:1-4 (including the introductory note). After David sinned with Bathsheba, against whom did he say he had sinned? _____
   2. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-14. Against whom does David say he had sinned in this account?_____
   3. W hat did Nathan tell him the Lord had done to his sin?_____

B. The word used of the Lord's forgiveness of David's sin is a word that literally means, "to pass over, by, or through" (BDB). In this passage it is used in a Hebrew form called the *hiphil*, that expresses *causative* action—i.e. God caused his sin to pass from David.
   1. Read 1 Chronicles 21:8 and Job 7:21. In these passages using the same form of the word, what do David and Job want God to do to their sin? _____
      _____
   2. In all sin God is ultimately the one whom we wrong whenever we commit sin. Because of this, God is the only one who can *pass over* or dismiss sin. We cannot *undo* wrongs that we commit—we can only appeal for God's mercy.

II. Christ's Sacrifice for Sin.

A. Read 1 John 4:9-10. What does John say God sent His Son to be? _____
   1. Read 1 John 2:1-2. For whom does John say Jesus is offered to perform this role? _____
   2. Using a Bible dictionary or lexicon look up this word and write down its definition. _____

B. Read John 1:29. How does John the Baptist describe Jesus? _____
_____
If Jesus performs this role for the "world" can anyone else be considered to perform it? _____
1. Read Hebrews 10:26-27. What does the writer say does not remain if one turns to sin rather than accepting Christ's sacrifice?_____
2. What can such a person expect?_____

C. Only Christ's sacrifice on our behalf is capable of atoning for sin. No other offering, sacrifice, or good deed is accepted by God as satisfaction of our wrong done towards Him by our sin.

III. Faith, Duty, Obedience, and Grace.

A. Read Romans 3:21-26. Through what does Paul say God has set forth Jesus as a "propitiation by His blood"?_____
1. Read Luke 17:5-10. What did the apostles ask Jesus to do? _____
2. In responding to their request what does Jesus say disciples should say when they "have done all those things" which they are commanded?_____
_____
3. From this teaching does one increase in faith who neglects duty?_____
4. When duty is fulfilled, what kind of servants must we still be considered?
_____

B. Read Hebrews 5:8-9. To whom is Christ the "author of eternal salvation"?_____
_____
1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. Who will receive vengeance from God? _____
_____
2. May these things be considered deeds that merit salvation? _____
Are they necessary for salvation?_____
_____

C. Read Galatians 2:4-10. By what does Paul say we may be saved?_____
Using a Bible dictionary or lexicon define this word._____
1. What does Paul say prevents anyone from being able to boast of his or her salvation? _____
_____
2. For what does Paul say we were created? _____
3. Since salvation is "by grace" does that mean God expects nothing from us?
_____
4. If we must do something to accept God's grace does that mean we merit our salvation by these things? Why or why not? _____
_____

Conclusion. Sin is an act against God, therefore only God is able to forgive, dismiss, or remit sin. Christ's sacrifice on our behalf is the only act God has set forth as payment for or as a deed that can merit salvation. Obedience to the gospel is a condition by which sinful man can accept Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. Works of obedience, or conditions of acceptance of salvation—while necessary to accept the gift of salvation—do not constitute acts that *earn* or *merit* salvation.