

# HOME BIBLE STUDY

## LESSON FIVE

### RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE WORD OF GOD

As we have learned, the Bible as the book of books reveals God's plan through the ages for his people. In the last lesson we considered God's people during the three periods of the Bible, the *Patriarchal age*, the *Mosaical age*, and the present age sometimes called the *Christian age*. In this lesson we want to consider the teachings from God's word regarding God's expectations of those who would serve him. The blessings to be found in Christ have been available for over 1900 years.

Not every one, however, receives those blessings and all do not live with the hope which is in Christ Jesus. Isaiah 59:2 plainly teaches that sins separate us from God. God's

plan, which is through Jesus, offers redemption and reconciliation to those who obey the Gospel of Jesus. Jesus, and only Jesus provides hope to a sinful world. He is the only solution for the problem of sin in each person's life.

*O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*  
-- Jeremiah 10:23

*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

### GOD'S PLAN -- THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL

<sup>2</sup> *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.*

<sup>3</sup>*Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* --Isaiah 2:2-3

The passage quoted above is one of many passages from the Old Testament which teaches the inclusion of all nations into God's plan for man's salvation. Recall lesson three. The promise to Abraham was that *all nations* would be blessed. God's plan as it is presented in the Bible is very beautiful. All who take the time to study it's development will surely conclude its structure reflects the wisdom and design of the Master Builder of all creation. In

the BIBLE STUDY for this section we will be looking at other *Old Testament* prophecies as well as some statements from the *New Testament*.

### BIBLE STUDY

Read the references and consider the questions:

- { Micah 4:2 -- Who does Micah say will come to learn about God's ways?
- { Micah 5:2-4 -- Verse 2 is a prophecy concerning the birthplace of Jesus. According to verse 4, to what extent will Jesus be great?
- { Acts 10:34-35 -- Who, according to Peter's words to Cornelius, is accepted of God?
- { Matthew 28:19-20 -- Where did Jesus send his disciples to make other disciples?
- { Mark 16:15-16 -- Where was the Gospel to be preached?
- { Acts 17:30 -- Who is commanded to repent?
- { Luke 24:47 -- Where would repentance and remission of sins be preached?

# OBEDIENCE AND RESPECT

## SAUL AND THE AMALEKITES

Early in his reign, Saul, Israel's first king, was required to wage a battle against the Amalekites. These were the people who had ambushed the Israelites shortly after they had escaped from Egyptian bondage. On that occasion God, through Moses, prophesied of their destruction.

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." -- Exodus 17:14*

The complete destruction of the Amalekites should have been Saul's objective in the battle. Saul, it seems, had different thoughts. Acting on his own human reasoning, he violated God's commandment by bringing back King Agag and some choice animals to use for sacrifice. This may sound harmless enough by human reasoning, but God was not pleased with Saul's actions.

## BIBLE STUDY

Read I Samuel 15:1-23 and consider the following:

- { What was Saul to do to the Amalekites?
- { Did Saul follow the Lord's instructions?
- { Did Saul have a good use planned for the animals which were brought back?
- { What was Samuel's teaching about sacrifice and obedience?
- { How is Saul's sin described?
- { What was Saul's punishment?

Read Jeremiah 26:1-16 and consider the following:

- { Who told Jeremiah to speak to the people?
- { Why was Jeremiah to speak the words he spoke?
- { Why were the people ready to kill Jeremiah?
- { What did the nation of Judah need to do to avoid the doom pronounced against them?

### OLD COVENANT

FOR ISRAEL ONLY -- DEUT. 5:1-2  
SINS WERE MANY -- ISA. 43:24  
NEW COVENANT PROMISED -- JER. 31:31

### NEW COVENANT

FOR ALL NATIONS -- MATT. 28:19  
SINS FORGIVEN -- ROM. 1:7  
EVERLASTING COVENANT -- HEB. 13:20

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began <sup>26</sup>but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith -- <sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

**Romans 16:25-27**

# SEPARATION FROM GOD

## THE PROBLEM OF SIN

God, from the beginning, has not tolerated sin. You recall that Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden because they sinned. Sins separate us from God.

*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. -- Isaiah 59:1-2*

Sin alienates man from God; makes man God's enemy. Sin brings death. Once again recalling the sin of Adam in the garden of Eden (Genesis chapter 3), we see when Adam sinned that death came on him as a consequence of the sin he committed. Paul, calling attention to that fact, reminds his readers that sin brings death.

*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*

## BIBLE STUDY

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and consider the following:

- { Are those in trespasses and sin alive or dead?
- { Where do sinful people walk?
- { Where does the *prince of the power of the air* work?
- { What do those in trespasses and sins seek to fulfill?
- { Who are the *children of wrath*?
- { According to Ephesians 5:6 what comes on the *sons of disobedience*?

## OVERCOMING THE PROBLEM OF SIN

We have learned that God has always had a plan for man's salvation from sin. That plan is by, through, and in Christ Jesus. In previous lessons we have shown the development of God's plan and what God expects from his people. As we have looked at the plan in the different ages with different regulations we have seen that God requires faith and obedience. God has demonstrated over and over that he always keeps his promises, promises made to different faithful men throughout the Biblical record. The good things which God offers are for those who diligently seek him. Every person should carefully read Hebrews 11:6:

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

We have noticed also that all men have sinned. So then how does one alienated from God, one that is lost due to sin find God? We are now to the fulfillment of God's plan.

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

John 3:17

*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

Romans 5:10

*And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled<sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -- Colossians 1:21-22*

Jesus by his death, burial, and resurrection offers every one reconciliation and salvation. Jesus is man's answer for the problem of sin.

## OBEDIENCE IS NECESSARY

We must come to God prepared to obey Him. We must come with a heart prepared to serve Him. Notice another passage from the book of Hebrews. Speaking of Christ the writer says:

*And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, -- Hebrews 5:9*

Recalling a passage studied in lesson four, we learn obedience must come from the heart.

*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. -- Romans 6:16-18*

## BIBLE STUDY

Read the references and consider the questions:

- { James 1:21-25 -- What do those who are not doers of the word do to themselves? What does it mean to be doers of the word?
- { Hebrews 3:15-19 -- The writer of Hebrews speaks of the Israelites who were lead out of Egypt. Who were those who did not enter his rest? Were those who did not obey believers?
- { Colossians 3:20 -- Do proper parents expect their children to obey them? Does God expect children to obey their parents? Does God, our Father, expect his servants to obey Him?
- { I John 5:1-5 -- Is obedience a result of Faith? Can we say we love God if we do not obey His commandments?

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

This question was ask by the jailer at Philippi as recorded in Acts 16:30. He was told to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas then preached to him and he and his family were baptized. The context of this verse shows that the jailer was not really asking regarding his salvation from sin but from the punishment that awaited him if his prisoners escaped. Paul and Silas, however, seized the opportunity to preach the gospel to him. Belief is the fundamental principle of obedience. If you do not have something to believe, what is being obeyed? We have already noted Hebrews 3:18-19. Consider:

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" <sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Romans 10:14-17

In a logical order then, we must *hear, believe, and obey*. Our choice to serve and obey God is a lifelong commitment. We spoke earlier of reconciliation with God. Obedience to the Gospel (the word means *good news*) of Christ brings reconciliation to God. Do you remember Jeremiah 31:31-34 from lessons two and four? The covenant would be written on the heart. It is with the heart one must believe.

*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:10

When we consider that the word is written on the heart and believed with the heart, we realize that the sincere desire to obey the things we have heard and believed leads to salvation.

## BIBLE STUDY

The Bible study is from the book of Acts. Do you remember from lesson one that Acts is the history of the spread of the gospel and the response to it? As you study, be sure to carefully note what one needs to do to be saved.

*A detailed study of the book of Acts is beyond the scope of this course. Each one is, however, encouraged to read the context of the verses given.*

Read Acts 2:36-41 and consider the following:

- { What question was asked?
- { Was forgiveness of sins involved?
- { What did those who gladly received the word do?

Chapters 3-7 of Acts, tell about persecutions and the functioning of the early church. The persecution became unbearable and the disciples were scattered abroad. Acts, chapter 8, records the beginning of the spread of the Gospel beyond Jerusalem.

Read Acts 8:4-13 and consider the following:

- { Is the preaching of "Christ," verse 5, and the "things concerning the kingdom," verse 12, the same gospel?
- { Did the people hear and believe?
- { When they believed, what did they do according to verse 12?
- { What did Simon, the sorcerer, do?

We made mention of the Ethiopian eunuch in lesson one. The record of his conversion is in Acts, chapter 8.

Read Acts 8:35-39 and consider the following:

- { What did Philip preach?
- { What was the eunuch's response to the preaching?
- { Did the eunuch need to believe?

The record of Saul's conversion is found in Acts chapters 9, 22, and 26. We will note only two verses in Chapter 9.

Read Acts 9:6 & 18 and consider:

- { What was Saul told to do?  
See also Acts 22:16.

Acts, chapter 10 records the conversion of Cornelius.

Read Acts 10:47-48 and consider the following:

- { Was the baptism of Cornelius in water?
- { Was baptism necessary?

In Acts chapters 11 and 12 the gospel has spread to Antioch, there are more Gentile converts and of course more persecution. In Acts chapter 13 we have the first record of a planned missionary effort. Acts, chapter 15, tells about the Holy Spirit delivering the teaching that circumcision was not necessary and how this teaching was spread to the converts in the areas where Paul (Saul was called Paul) had preached.

Read Acts 16:12-15 and consider the following:

- { What was opened so that Lydia would respond to the teaching of Paul?

Read Acts 16:30-33 and consider the following:

- { Did the jailer and his household need to hear to know what to believe?
- { Were the jailer and his family obedient to Paul's teaching?

The remainder of the book of Acts tells more of the missionary journeys of Paul and the persecution by the disbelieving Jews against those who did believe and obey the gospel of Christ.

## PICKING UP SOME PIECES

In this section we want to point out just a few more thoughts from the book of Acts, with some supporting verses. We will also briefly present God's plan as it has been fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Acts, like most other New Testament books, shows God's plan revealed. Peter, Paul and others whose sermons are recorded in Acts, point out many times that Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Note Peter's words in the first gospel sermon as he speaks of Christ.

*Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death -- Acts 2:23*

That's right, it was all planned by God. God sent his son into the world to save the world and salvation is there for everyone willing to serve God with all their hearts.

It is the Lord himself who adds people to the Church -- **GOD KNOWS THOSE WHO OBEY FROM THE HEART.**

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,<sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

-- Acts 2:46-47

This points out that the gospel revealed God's plan and that obedience to that plan produces God's children.

Note Acts 17:30:

*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent -- Acts 17:30*

Acts 2:38 teaches that repentance precedes baptism which is for the remission of sins. If we seek God from our hearts we will turn away from sin.

*But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.*

*<sup>19</sup>Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord -- Acts 3:18-19*

The confession made by the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:37 is worth noting. This verse is not in every translation; however, confession is necessary. Translators for each translation develop text and translation guidelines -- the omission is in compliance with their established guidelines. Jesus taught that men should confess him:

*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.<sup>33</sup>But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 10:32-33

Romans 10:10 which we have already noted and other passages also teach confession.

Note the following passages of scripture which confirm the teachings we have noted in Acts.

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.<sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.<sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.<sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Galatians 3:26-29

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? <sup>3</sup>Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. -- Romans 6:1-6*

# STANDING FAST

As the saved who have been added to the church, as the joint heirs with Christ, as the reconciled to God, we certainly must hold on to our salvation and wonderful blessings which God through Christ has given us. Many passages teach continued faithfulness. Some men teach that we cannot fall from grace; however, like all doctrines of men, the scriptures teach otherwise. Consider *doctrines of men*. Doctrines of men are not in the Bible because if they were in the Bible, they would not be doctrines of men. The apostle Paul declares plainly that we can fall from grace.

*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.* 1 Corinthians 10:12

*You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.* -- Galatians 5:4

John, in the Revelation, is told to write the church at Smyrna:

*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have*

*tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

--

*Revelation 2:10*

## BIBLE STUDY

Read the references and consider the questions:

{ Philippians 1:27 -- Can a Christian live in a sinful manner and still be acceptable?

Should Christians work together for the cause of Christ?

{ II Thessalonians 2:13-17 -- If we heed the call of the Gospel, believing in the truth, will we obtain glory?

Why were the Thessalonians told to stand fast and hold the traditions which they had been taught?

{ I John 1:7-2:1 -- Do Christians sin?

Do Christians make a practice of sin? If Christians do not walk in the light, do they still have forgiveness of sins?

# SALVATION

**HEAR**

ROMANS 10:17

HOW COULD WE BELIEVE IN SOMETHING OF WHICH WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE?

**BELIEVE**

MARK 16:16

SINCE BIBLICAL FAITH COMES BY HEARING, BELIEF IS NOT OUR OPINION BUT A CONVICTION TO THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL.

**REPENT**

ACTS 17:30

WE CANNOT CONTINUE OUR SINFUL WAYS AND SEEK FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME TIME.

**CONFESS**

MATTHEW 10:32

IF WE TRULY BELIEVE THAT JESUS SAVES, WE WILL CONFESS HIM AS OUR LORD.

**BE BAPTIZED FOR REMISSION OF SINS**

ACTS 2:38

ROMANS 6:17-18 TEACHES WE ARE FREE FROM SIN AFTER WE OBEY FROM THE HEART.

**STAND FAST IN THE FAITH**

I COR. 16:13

GOD, THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE, HAS EXPECTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS TEACHINGS.

# QUESTIONS

## LESSON FIVE

### MULTIPLE CHOICE (mark the correct answer)

1. Regarding Saul and his battle with the Amalekites:
  - a) The Lord was pleased because Saul saved the best animals for sacrifice.
  - b) The Lord was angry because Saul killed all the women and children.
  - c) The Lord was angry because he brought back King Agag.
  - d) None of the above.
  
2. During the reign of Jehoiakim, the Lord told Jeremiah to speak to Judah telling them about how the city would become a curse. The words which Jeremiah was told to speak:
  - a) told of desolation because God's prophets always spoke of desolation.
  - b) told of desolation as a warning so that the people might turn from their evil ways.
  - c) were immediately received by the people who heard him.
  - d) all of the above.
  
3. When contrasting the Old Covenant with the New Covenant we find that:
  - a) the Old Covenant was with lot fewer people.
  - b) only the New Covenant brought forgiveness of sins.
  - c) the Old Covenant was to be replaced with a new.
  - d) all of the above.
  
4. Sins:
  - a) separate man from God.
  - b) bring death.
  - c) have been committed by all men.
  - d) all of the above.
  
5. The Bible teaches that:
  - a) the whole world can be saved.
  - b) only a predetermined few can be saved.
  - c) one can be saved without obedience.
  - d) none of the above.
  
6. As recorded in the book of Acts, the following were baptized:
  - a) those whose sins had been forgiven at some earlier date.
  - b) those who gladly received the word.
  - c) those who were already saved because they had received the Holy Spirit.
  - d) all of the above.
  
7. That the Bible does not teach "once saved, always saved" is indicated by the following quotation/quotations from scripture.
  - a) *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*
  - b) *". . . you have fallen from grace."*
  - c) both "a" and "b" are correct.
  - d) none of the above.

**MATCHING** (Select from the books on the right where you would find the item on the left.)

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| _____ Prophecy that all nations would flow to the mountain of the Lords house. | 1. Acts       |
| _____ Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world to preach the gospel.  | 2. I Samuel   |
| _____ Saul defeats the Amalekites.   | 3. Colossians |
| _____ Conversion of Lydia.   | 4. Revelation |
| _____ Records that those who only hear the word deceive themselves.            | 5. Isaiah     |
| _____ Teaches, "Children, obey your parents."                                  | 6. Mark       |
| _____ Quotes from Isaiah to show why all did not obey the gospel.              | 7. James      |
| _____ Promises a crown of life to those faithful until death.                  | 8. Romans     |

**TRUE OR FALSE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God made man sinful so that he is separated from those he created.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It was prophesied that the Gospel would go forth from Rome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. All are sinners but few need to repent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God wanted Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people of Judah readily accepted Jeremiah's words from the Lord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Old Covenant (Testament) was for Israel only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. We must keep trying to reach God, he will hear us when he is ready.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Man can never be reconciled to God, but he will save a certain select few.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all who call themselves Christians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. If we love God, we will obey his commandments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Obedience must be from the Heart.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Cornelius was told he could be baptized if he wanted to confirm his salvation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Repentance is necessary before baptism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Those who are Christ's are Abraham's seed and heirs according to promise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Once a man is saved, he can never fall.