

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS STUDIES

Session #2

Welcome back to Session 2. I'm so glad you're here. This shows that you are truly desiring to understand God's word and grow in maturity and in your knowledge and love of Jesus, your Saviour.

If you haven't yet listened to Session 1, which is the introduction to this series and has some really valuable information for you, please go ahead and do so now. You will find the Session 1 link in the description box below. Then come back and join us here.

I promised last session to talk just a little bit about Bible Translations to help you choose your very own Bible. The Bible Apps are a welcome addition to our studying of the Word of God with Bible reading plans which I very much enjoy myself, but modern technology can't compare to opening up a Bible and turning the tangible pages of God's word.

There are many different **translations** of the original text available to us today and some are easier to read than others. The original text of the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, so this required translation in our own language for us to be able to read and understand it.

'The New International Version' and the 'New Living Translation' are two of the more recent translations and amongst those which are most used and easy to read.

The Message Bible and the Passion Bible are called a paraphrase version of the Bible. Paraphrasing creatively rephrases words of the original language rather than being a word for word translation. Word for word translations are more desirable, rather than paraphrase versions for gaining a more accurate meaning of the scriptures. The Scriptures are a term used which means sacred verses.

So, now you have just enough understanding to buy your very own Bible. We will cover The Bible itself in more detail in future sessions, so in the meantime, read the Bible every day, starting with the New Testament accounts of Jesus which are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Now, let's continue our study titled the Beginning and now explore what Salvation means to you personally.

Firstly, the best part of Salvation is knowing that God loves us and that He would do anything, anything for us, even sacrificing His own Son, so that we can be brought back into right relationship with Him !!!

John 3:16 tells us ... **For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

Why was it necessary for God to do that, what happened to us?

Mankind gave into the temptation of sin and everyone has made that mistake, no matter how good we think we are, we are not good enough and never will be good enough to be in the presence of God, who is Holy.

As the Scriptures say in Romans 3:10-12 ***"No one is righteous, not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away ... No one does good, not a single one."***

Therefore, we have been separated from God because of our sins, because of our selfishness, not even considering God, our Creator. This goes for everybody and no human being is perfect.

Romans 3:23 says ***For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.***

There is no way humanly possible of coming into a relationship with God. No matter how hard we try to please God, doing good or performing religious duties and traditions, nothing **we** can do can bring us back into a relationship with God.

Humans cannot save themselves, only God Himself can save us and that can only be through His Son, Jesus.

But what were we saved from ? Well, the consequences of sin are pretty serious, they are something very permanent, a state of being without any hope. Eternal separation from God, our Creator.

Romans 6:23 says ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Because of His love for us, God gave us another chance to spend eternity with Him when He sent His Son to die on the cross **promising** forgiveness and **redemption** from our sins and therefore eternal life. Now because of Jesus **alone**, for those who believe on His name, repent of their sins and follow Him, death, sin and Hell can no longer hold us.

Jesus, God's perfect and sinless Son became **our** substitute and took the punishment for our sins on the Cross.

Simply by believing the good news that Christ died for our sins, that He rose from the dead, sincerely repenting, which means changing our mindset and adhering to God's ways with a desire to turn away from our sins, we can exchange our old life of darkness for a new life filled with light, peace, hope and understanding.

By believing in Jesus and following Him, we are

- Forgiven of **all** our past sin, for Hebrews 8:12 says ...

And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

And also forgiven for our present and future sins for 1 John 1:9 says ... ***But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.***

- For we have been reborn into a new life, we are a new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 says... ***This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!***

- We are declared righteous by God

Romans 5:1-2 tells us...***Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.***

- We are guaranteed everlasting life with God in His Heaven

1 John 2:25 ... ***And this is what he promised us—eternal life.***

We can now enjoy life and peace in a way that we never knew before.

John 14:27, Jesus gives us wonderful encouragement. ***“I am leaving you with a gift. Peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.***

We read before that we have *become a new person. The old life is gone and a new life has begun!* When we believe on Jesus and receive Him as our Saviour we are **“Born Again”**.

How this happens is explained beautifully by the very words of Jesus. In John 3:3-6, Jesus declared ***“I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”***

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.”

Remember in the last session, we spoke about every man and woman being created with 3 parts, Body, Soul and Spirit. It is our spirit that is reborn and in future sessions we will learn more about the Holy Spirit who has been given to us as our comforter and our helper.

We have been given a new **BEGINNING**. We have become God’s children & it is the Holy Spirit given to us, which is our seal of belonging to God.

Ephesians 1:13 ... ***And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.***

John 1:12-13 says ***But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.***

We are accepted and loved by God not because of our works or achievements but solely because of our accepting Jesus into our lives and we are now His children.

We talked previously about how we received Salvation and it had nothing to do with what we did. We received Salvation not by our good works, but by God's grace and mercy.

Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us this... ***God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this, it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.***

We can now enter God's presence boldly, knowing that we have received His forgiveness and been accepted through the death of Christ on the Cross.

Hebrews 4:16 says ... ***So, let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. Jesus says take heart, I have overcome the world.***

No matter how old you are, or how smart you think you are, if you have just received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you have become a spiritual baby !

Babies learn to walk by trial and error. As you learn to walk in your new life, you will make some mistakes, just like natural babies do, but get back up when you fall and keep going.

If you make a mistake, with a repentant heart confess your failure to God and move on. Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins. Don't get discouraged looking at past failures. When you confess your failures to God they are gone!

1 John 1:9 says ... ***If we confess our sins to Him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.***

As a new babe in Christ you are standing on the threshold of an exciting life of new **BEGINNINGS**.

Your decision to follow Jesus opens the door to a world of new possibilities.

Take time each day to pray, which is simply talking to your Heavenly Father and to spend time with Him in His Word by reading the Bible, which is your spiritual food to help you grow. Get to know all about Him. Always remember that He loves you, cares for you and most of all He understands you. He knows you better than anybody knows you. These are the very words of Jesus Himself in Matthew 10:29-31 ...

“What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin ? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

Join me for our next session No 3 where we will explore how we can grow in maturity as we learn more about the Bible, which is the very Word of God and how it sustains us and nourishes our spirit.

If you haven’t already, please subscribe to this You Tube Channel for notifications of new videos as soon as they become available.

Until next time, bye for now and enjoy reflecting on your brand new life in Christ.