

Lesson Three

God's Answer To Your Problem

Basic Studies in the Good News of Jesus Christ

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If you have attended Sunday School or church services, or had other opportunities to study the Bible, then you probably know a lot about Jesus. At Christmas time, you may have heard songs or you may have visited a manger scene showing the birth of Jesus. At Easter, you may have heard the story about Jesus' resurrection. What you may not have understood is that all these things about Jesus are important because they tell us who he was and how he came to save us from our sins.

In the previous lessons of this study, you focused on the bad news. The bad news is that you are a sinner. Worse, your sins separate you from God and condemn you to "eternal destruction." There is nothing good about that.

But the message of the Bible is not just about sin, condemnation, and judgment. It's actually good news. God has done something about your sin problem. He sent his Son Jesus so that we all can be forgiven of our sins.

There are many things to study about Jesus, his life, death, resurrection, teachings, and more. But there are some basic things you need to know about who he is and what he did so that your sins can be forgiven.

Here is the most important thing you can know about Jesus and your sins: Jesus is the one who saves, not you! You will find that over and over, the Bible urges people to believe in Jesus, to trust him, to let him do the hard – work of making it possible for people to be saved. This is why we use the word "gospel" – because it means "good news." The bad news is that you're a sinner and condemned to be punished. The good news is that Jesus came to change things, to forgive your sins, and to give you eternal life instead of eternal condemnation.

You may have heard people talk about becoming a Christian in a way that makes it sound like there are a series of "steps" to go through. You'll study many of the same things here, but we have avoided terms like "steps," because it's easy for us to miss the most important thing of all – that it is Jesus who saves us from our sins.

Below is a list of passages from the Bible that you need to read. It would be a good idea for you to read these alone and then sit down with your mentor or study partner and talk about what you have read.

It's important that you know why we're stressing this part about knowing who Jesus is and what he did for you. You'll find a little box beside each of the passages from the Bible. Print out this lesson, and when you finish reading a passage, check it off. Then go to the next one.

✕Matthew 1:18-25

✕Luke 2:1-20

✕John 1:1-5, 14-18

✕John 1:19-34

✠John 3:1-21

✠John 10:22-42

✠Matthew 27:33-54

✠Luke 23:50-56

✠Matthew 28:1-10

✠Romans 1:1-4

✠1 Peter 1:18-21

✠Ephesians 1:7-8

✠Hebrews 9:11-14

Once you have read all the verses, then sit down with your study partner (or alone if you don't have a partner), read them again and think them through once more.

If you have any questions about what they mean or why they are important, ask your study partner to help you figure them out, or email us and we'll try to help. A minister, elder or Bible class teacher might also be of good help to you. They may suggest other passages to read. The ones above are just a highlight of Jesus, his identity, and what he has done for you, but they will give you enough to understand what the Bible teaches. After you have discussed the passages, or thought them through, then answer the following questions. Remember, though, the answers must be yours, not those of your study partner or others. It can be a great time learning when you share your studies, but the answers must be your own.

According to the Bible, who is Jesus?

What did Jesus do to make it possible for your sins to be forgiven?

What great event proves Jesus' identity and that he can offer forgiveness of sins?

What is the ONE thing that can take away your sins?

Whatever else you learn about faith or obedience, why is it important to always remember that it is Jesus who saves?

If you have any difficulty with these questions, email us and we'll provide you with help.

Paul made an important statement about the gospel in his first letter to the church at Corinth.

Now I make known to you brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4, NASU).

We might say that the "heart" of the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The foundation message that Paul preached to the Corinthians was that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose on the third day.

It's time to take the next quiz, but before you do that, answer one more question. Put it into your own words, but do your best to reflect your belief based on the teaching of the Bible.

What do you believe about Jesus?

Now, go to the next page and take the quiz.

We are very thankful for your interest in God's word, and the good news of Jesus Christ!

*God's
Answer
To Sin*

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Answer True or False to each of the following

Good News

T F

1. Sin is the bad news. Jesus is the good news.
2. God sent his Son, Jesus, to save people from their sins.
3. Jesus is the only one who saves people from their sins.
4. Jesus expects you to save yourself.

Bible

T F

5. John 1:1-5, 14 tells us the Jesus was God in flesh.
6. John 3:16 tells us that believers in Jesus will receive eternal life.
7. Romans 1:4 tells us that Jesus was never raised from the dead.
8. Ephesians 1:7-8 says we have forgiveness through Jesus' blood.

The Heart of the Gospel

T F

9. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 focuses on Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
10. Paul said Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection were of little importance.
11. Jesus made salvation possible through his death.
12. Jesus died for you.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the quiz. You can score your own results by checking the correct answers on the next page.

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Answer Key For Lesson 3

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. T
10. F
11. T
12. T