

Conviction
Lesson – The Basis of Conviction
Scriptures – Luke 5:1-11

Introduction to Lesson

In conviction, we recognize our own sin and our need to be saved from sin. Conviction is therefore based on seeing ourselves for who we are – sinners, lost without God. But it is also based on seeing God for who he is – holy and separate from sin. God is not like sinful man; rather, he is perfect in all of his ways. Sinners truly understand the unholy nature of sin inside of them only through first seeing God’s perfect holiness outside of them. Jesus Christ is our perfect example of holiness – he never sinned. The contrast between a holy God and an unholy person, along with God’s expectation for him to be holy (1 Peter 1:16), makes conviction possible. In today’s lesson, we will see how Peter was convicted when he encountered the Lord.

Key Verse

Key Verse: *“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).*

Questions to Discuss:

What did the people want from Jesus? (v. 1)

What were the fishermen doing at this point? What does that tell us? (v. 2)

After Jesus taught the Word of God to the people from Simon Peter’s ship, why did Jesus tell Peter to launch out into the deep? What was Jesus wanting Peter to understand? (vv. 3-4)

Why was Peter so reluctant to go fishing? (v. 5)

Why did Peter go anyway? (v. 5)

When Peter obeyed the Word of God, what happened? (v. 6)

What four things describe the size of the “great multitude of fishes?” (vv. 6-7)

This catch was indeed miraculous (see verse 9). Peter understood that the miracle happened because he obeyed the words of Jesus Christ. What did Peter do first, which shows that he recognized Jesus as more than a mere man, like himself?

How did Peter see himself in comparison to Jesus Christ? (v. 8)

Is the purpose of conviction only to cause us to fear God? What is the ultimate purpose of conviction? (vv. 10-11)

Think about it

Peter saw that Jesus Christ was holy, while he himself was not. He recognized this difference because of the power of Jesus’ words. When he obeyed Jesus, he experienced something beyond his belief – an enormous catch of fish. This miraculous experience convicted Peter of his own sinfulness. Being convicted, his experience moved him to fear the Lord. But even more, it moved him to follow Jesus Christ. Conviction is a necessary part of true salvation and moves us to serve the Lord.



Conviction

Lesson – Convicted by the Holy Ghost

Scriptures – John 16:5-9

Introduction to Lesson

In John 3:17-19, Jesus explained that he did not come into the world to condemn it (v. 17). People actually bring condemnation and judgment on themselves through rejecting the light of Jesus Christ and his truth (vv. 18-19). “Casting stones” at people is not the way to get them to do right (Jn. 8:1-11). We sometimes want to shame them into changing their ways by placing guilt on them. But it doesn’t work. People have to see the error of their ways for themselves. This requires conviction. As we studied last week, the basis of conviction is God’s holiness. Certainly, as Christians, we have a responsibility to point others to a holy God. We should live consistent to God’s Word. We should speak the truth, maintain a good witness, and live a godly lifestyle. Nevertheless, how does a sinner come to understand a holy God? Through what power or by what means does anything we do or say become a source of conviction and reproof?

Key Verse

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (Jn. 16:8).

Questions to Discuss:

Where was Jesus going in the near future? (vv. 5, 10)

How did the news of his departure affect his disciples? (v. 6)

What did Jesus always speak (tell)? (v. 7)

What truth did Jesus want them to understand about his departing? What would have happened if Jesus had not gone away? (v. 7)

Who is the Comforter? (v. 7, John 14:15-17, 26)

What happened after Jesus departed? (v. 7; Acts 1:8-9; 2:1-4)

What is the work of the Holy Ghost? (v. 8) Name three ways he reproves the world? (v. 8)

Finally, why does he show the world its sinfulness? (v. 9)

Think about it

The very purpose of seeing one’s own sinfulness is to come to faith and salvation in Jesus Christ. The Lord wants people to be saved. He does not want them to be condemned, but rather to have eternal life. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost is for every believer. The Spirit gives power and authority to the church. He is working in and through the church to bring conviction and reproof to the lost world, so that sinners will be saved. We have no need to be condemning and judgmental of sinners. We do not have to argue with people over right and wrong. All we have to do is live and speak the truth, boldly and without compromise. The Holy Ghost will do the rest. He is the one who convicts and convinces people of their need to be saved.

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Conviction

Lesson – Isaiah Experiences Conviction

Scriptures – Isaiah 6:1-7

Introduction to Lesson

How we see ourselves is shaped by conditions outside of us. For example, if I am tall, I only know this because another person is short. If I am clumsy, I know this because others are coordinated. If I am wrong, I know this because someone else is right. However, if everyone is wrong, then being wrong is normal and I cannot detect my error. In other words, the only way we know ourselves is in relationship to knowing others. Likewise, we cannot see ourselves in darkness (in the absence of light). But we see ourselves clearly in the presence of light as it shines on us. Again, we need an outside source to make sense of ourselves. Our ability to see and to know ourselves is dependent on an outside factor – something beyond us. This is the way conviction works. We see ourselves accurately only when we see ourselves in the light of God. One of the best examples of conviction in the Bible is Isaiah's experience when he saw a vision of God. You may not have seen a vision like Isaiah's, but in conviction you see God in the same way that Isaiah saw the Lord.

Key Verse

“Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5).

Questions to Discuss:

Describe Isaiah's vision of God. (v. 1)

When the Seraphim flew above the throne, why do you think they covered their face and feet with their wings? (v. 2)

What did this vision of God personally reveal to Isaiah? (v. 3)

How did God's glory physically manifest in the temple? (v. 4)

After Isaiah saw God in all of his holiness and glory, how did he see himself in comparison to God? (v. 5) Why did he see himself as undone and unclean? (v. 5)

How did seeing God and his holiness help Isaiah? What did God do for Isaiah when he confessed his sin? (vv. 6- 7)

Think about it

The Spirit shined the light of God into Isaiah's darkness. Through his vision, he was convicted or reproved. He saw God clearly; and through seeing God in his holiness, Isaiah saw his own sin and iniquity. Like the situation of Isaiah, while conviction causes us to see the greatness of our own sin, it also prepares us to experience the greatness of God's love and mercy. When we confess and genuinely repent of our sins, God graciously forgives. Thus, conviction by the Holy Ghost is vitally important to experiencing salvation through Jesus Christ.



Repentance

Lesson – “What Shall We Do?”

Scriptures – Acts 2:22-38

Introduction to Lesson

In Acts chapter two, Luke recorded a brief history of the events surrounding the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. Just as Jesus promised, at least one hundred and twenty saints were baptized with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. After being baptized with the Holy Ghost, Peter powerfully preached the Word of God: Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. Through Peter’s anointed preaching on that day, the Holy Ghost reproved (convicted) the people when they heard the Truth. The title of today’s lesson explains the question that Holy Ghost conviction stirs within our hearts. Before the Spirit reproved us of our sins, we were not aware of God’s judgment against us. But after being convicted, we no longer feel good about ourselves. Today’s lesson explains the right response to conviction by the Holy Ghost.

Key Verse

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)

Questions to Discuss:

- What was Peter’s main message for the people? (vv. 22-24)
- When the patriarch David prophesied, who was he talking about? (vv. 25-28)
- Who did God promise would sit on the throne of David? (vv. 29-30)
- What did God reveal to David about the Christ? (v. 31)
- Who did Peter declare was indeed the Christ, and what was his proof that he was the Christ? (v. 32)
- What was Peter’s explanation for all that happened on the day of Pentecost? (v. 33)
- When David prophesied, he was not speaking of himself. Who did David see exalted at the right hand of God? (vv. 34-36)
- When Peter finished preaching, what impact did the Truth have on the people? What was their immediate response? (v. 37)
- What did Peter tell them to do in response to God’s reproof (conviction by the Holy Ghost)? (v. 38)

Think about it

Repentance simply means to turn or change. It is a change in the heart of a sinner. True conviction causes a sinner to wrestle with his sinful condition: “What shall I do – what should I do about my sin and guilt?” The obvious answer is to stop sinning – to turn away from one’s sinful ways and to turn to God (Ezekiel 33:9, 11). Through the conviction of the Word and Spirit, God is calling sinners to repent.



Repentance

Lesson – “True Confession”

Scriptures – Luke 19:1-10

Introduction to Lesson

How would you like for someone to say to you, “I know I did you wrong, but I cannot or will not do anything to change my behavior toward you?” This statement shows some level of confession – it admits guilt. I did wrong. But it does not show genuine repentance. Remember from last week: repentance means to turn or change. It’s a change of heart, and it means to turn away from one’s sin and to turn toward God. I may know that I did wrong, but am I willing to change? In my heart, do I really intend to change my ways? When a person truly confesses, he admits his guilt with a sincere intent to change or correct his wrong behavior. In today’s lesson, we will see an example of a true confession.

Key Verse

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”
(Proverbs 28:13).

Questions to Discuss:

Publicans or tax collectors were known as swindlers, taking more money than they should, and therefore, the Jews labeled them as sinners. What would lead us to believe that Zacchaeus was dishonest in his taxing practices? (v. 2)

What desire was in the heart of Zacchaeus? How do you know his desire was sincere? (vv. 3-4)

How did Jesus know his name? What did Jesus have in mind for Zacchaeus? (v. 5)

What impact did this have on Zacchaeus? (v. 6)

How did the people look at Zacchaeus, and how did they react when Jesus went to his home? (v. 7)

How do we know that Zacchaeus saw himself as a sinner? (v. 8)

What was the proof that Zacchaeus had a change of heart? (v. 8)

Did Jesus respect Zacchaeus’ intentions? (v. 9)

Think about it

Jesus came to save the lost and sinners (v. 10). Zacchaeus was a known sinner. But when he met Jesus Christ, he had a change of heart. He did not want to do wrong anymore. He desired to change and correct his behavior. This is what we call genuine repentance: confession with a change of attitude and behavior. Genuine repentance says, “I know I did you wrong, but with God’s help I am going to do you right from this point forward.” Like Zacchaeus, those who come to Jesus Christ, admitting and turning away from their sins, will reap the mercy of God (Proverbs 28:13).



Repentance
Lesson – “Changed Conduct”
Scriptures – Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:10-18

Introduction to Lesson

Today’s lesson is all about the word “change.” When Jesus Christ saves us, we change. Salvation is a radical, life-changing experience. The Bible uses a number of contrasting ideas to help us understand the nature of this great change in our lives: death to life; darkness to light; sinner to saint; enemy to friend; and so on. Can you think of any others? In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the apostle Paul emphasized the radical change of salvation when he wrote, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new.” Clearly, we are called to “walk in newness of life” (Ro. 6:4). This is what it means to repent.

Key Verse

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mk. 1:15).

Questions to Discuss:

The word “gospel” means good news. It refers to the good news of salvation. Who is the central figure of the gospel? (Mk. 1:1) Who was sent to preach and prepare the way of Christ? (Mk. 1:2-4)

When John was in the wilderness baptizing disciples, what message did he preach? (Mk. 1:4; see also Matthew 3:1-2)

When the people believed his message and were baptized, what else did they do? (Mk. 1:5)

Repentance includes confession or admission of sin and guilt. But John wanted more than an admission of guilt; he also wanted to see the evidence of a changed life (changed conduct). He told the multitude to “bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance” (Lu. 3:8). When the people asked, “What shall we do then,” what did John tell them to do? (Lu. 3:10-14)

When John preached repentance (changed conduct) and baptized disciples, who was he pointing the people to believe in? (Mark 1:7-8; Lu. 3:15-18)

Think about it

Repentance (changed conduct) is an important part of the gospel of salvation. After John was imprisoned, Jesus began to preach the good news of the kingdom, saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mk. 1:15). Believing is only part of our salvation; repentance is the other part. To believe the good news of Jesus Christ and be baptized, and even to confess our sins, without real repentance, accomplishes little toward salvation. When we repent, we turn from our old way (sin) and we turn toward God’s way (righteousness). Repentance is a true change of heart that affects the way we live out our lives.



Repentance

Lesson – “Godly Sorrow”

Scriptures – Psa. 51:1-17

Introduction to Lesson

In Luke 17:3-4, Jesus said, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” Certainly, these verses teach us a great lesson about forgiveness. We are called to forgive completely because we have been forgiven completely. But these verses also raise a question about genuine repentance. Is saying “I repent” or “I’m sorry,” even repeatedly, the same as genuine repentance? The Bible says, “No.” Paul declared, “Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.” True repentance, the kind that brings forth salvation and lasting change, requires godly sorrow. Let’s look at David as an example of godly sorrow and true repentance.

Key Verse

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Co. 7:10).

Questions to Discuss:

- Why did David write this psalm? (vv. 1-3)
- Who did David offend? Who did he sin against? Who could see his sinful heart? (vv. 4-6)
- What did he want God to do for him? (v. 7)
- What did he want God to restore? (vv. 8, 12)
- What did David ask the Lord to do about his sins? (v. 9)
- What did he desire the Lord to do inside of him? (v. 10)
- What did he not want the Lord to do? (v. 11)
- Through God’s salvation, what did David pledge to do? (v. 13)
- What does salvation cause us to do? (vv. 14-15)
- What does the Lord desire from us? (vv. 16-17)

Think about it

Many people feel bad about themselves because of the wrong they’re doing. Their sinful ways cause them much sorrow, but such sorrow does not change their wicked ways. However, when people experience the reproof (conviction) of the Holy Ghost, they see themselves as sinful and undone before God. Such guilt produces a godly kind of sorrow in their hearts. David described it as having a broken and contrite heart in Psalm 51:17. David was overwhelmed by a deep sense of sorrow for his sin and transgression, not only against man, but even more against God – a sorrow and brokenness that only God can heal. The apostle Paul described this experience as being “made sorry after a godly manner” (2 Cor. 7:9). This kind of sorrow in the heart gives an individual the right motivation to change or repent. In other words, when an individual is grieved about his sin in the same way God is grieved by his sin, he is moved to stop sinning. This conviction of the Holy Ghost produces the sorrowful motivation for real repentance and change in one’s heart.



Justification

Lesson – “Giving Your Best”

Scriptures – Rom. 2:1-12

Introduction to Lesson

When we talk about salvation, or being saved, we are actually referring to several things at once. For example, conviction (when God’s Spirit causes us to see our own sinfulness before God) and repentance (when we confess and forsake our sins) are both a part of our salvation. Likewise, justification is also a part of being saved. While justification is a big word, its basic meaning is found in the smaller word, just. The basic meaning of just is “right.” Through justification, those who repent of their sins are made right before God. Why is justification a necessary part of being saved? Why must we be made right before God? In today’s lesson, the apostle Paul explains why sinners must be made righteous through Jesus Christ. In Romans chapter two, he writes about sinners who justify themselves, but are in fact, guilty before God.

Key Verse

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).

Questions to Discuss:

Often, people judge another person’s sin, but at the same time, they are not willing to accept and deal with their own sin issues. Can any sinner make himself right before God? (v. 1)

Who has the authority to judge sin? (v. 2)

Will any sinner escape God’s judgment? (v. 3)

When God does not judge, but rather shows mercy, what opportunity does he give to the sinner? (v. 4)

When people do not repent, but continue in their sinful ways, what are they doing to themselves? (v. 5)

How (what) will God judge? (v. 6)

Who will receive eternal life? (vv. 7, 10)

Who will receive indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish? (vv. 8 - 9)

Does God show special favoritism when he judges? (v. 11)

Think about it

In Romans chapter two, the apostle Paul does a great job of demonstrating that no sinner escapes God’s judgment. Every sinner will give an account of himself to God, whether he has done good or bad. Why does Paul go on and on about man’s sin and God’s judgment? He eventually declares, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Ro. 3:23). “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Ro. 3:10). The whole world is guilty before God (Ro. 3:19). In fact, God will judge all sinners, whether they have known his written law, like the Jews, or whether they have been ignorant of his written Word, like so many sinners today (Ro. 2:12). Therefore, all people are sinners and need to be saved. All people are wrong and they must be made right before God. But Paul wants us to understand that we cannot make ourselves righteous. If we understand that we are wrong, and we can’t make ourselves right, then how can we become right? God has provided us the way to be made right before him through his Son, Jesus Christ. Put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation.



Justification

Lesson – “The Basis of Justification”

Scriptures – Romans 5:6-9

Introduction to Lesson

How is justification made possible? The apostle Paul declared, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). Through Adam’s disobedience, all are made sinners, but through Christ’s obedience, believers are made righteous. What obedience was Paul talking about? Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, saying, “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8). In today’s lesson, let’s consider what the death of Christ did for us.

Key Verse

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Romans 5:9).

Questions to Discuss:

What did Jesus Christ do when we could not help ourselves? (v. 6)

Who did he die for? (v. 6) When did he give his life? (v. 6)

Are we willing to give our lives (die) for others? If a person was really good or really important, would it make any difference? Why or why not? (v. 7)

What motivated Jesus Christ to die for us? (v. 8)

When the Bible says that Jesus died for us, what kind of people did he die for? (v. 9) When Jesus died, he shed his blood.

What did his blood accomplish for us? (v. 9; 1 John 1:7)

What did justification by his blood save us from? (v. 9)

Think about it

Our justification is not based on religious rituals or any acts of worship. The Bible offers no substitute for the blood of Christ. The righteousness of the saints is made possible only through faith in Jesus’ shed blood. His blood is the basis of God’s plan of salvation from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). The blood of Christ and the preaching of the cross are the central message and theme of the church of God. To remove the blood from our message or even to minimize its importance is to deny the very source of our salvation and righteousness. The old hymn, Power in the Blood, says, “Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There’s power in the blood, power in the blood; sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow; there’s wonderful power in the blood. There is power, power, wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb; there is power, power wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb.”



Justification

Lesson – “Justified by Faith”

Scriptures – Galatians 3:6-14

Introduction to Lesson

In Romans 4:20-22, Paul spoke of Abraham, saying, “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.” As we have already studied, justification can be defined as being made righteous before God. Paul wrote, “it was imputed to him for righteousness.” By what means was Abraham made right with God? Let’s consider Abraham’s righteousness as an example for us today.

Key Verse

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith” (Ga. 3:11).

Questions to Discuss:

How was Abraham made right with God? (v. 6)

In what way are Christians today the children of Abraham? (v. 7)

How are the heathen (sinners) made right with God? (v. 8)

How can all people enter into the blessings of Abraham? (v. 9; v. 14)

In the many world religions, people seek to be right with God through keeping some code of conduct. The Jewish religion bases its righteousness on keeping the law (requirements) of the Old Testament. Why are they under a curse? (v. 10)

Is anyone made right by attempting to keep the law (or any other set of rules and regulations)? How does God explain righteousness? (vv. 11-12; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16-17; 3:22)

Since no one can measure up to God’s requirements under the law, who can deliver us from the curse of failing to keep the law of the Old Testament? How are we delivered from the curse (v. 13)

Think about it

God gave the law of the Old Testament to bring all of us to our need for a Savior. He knew that no one could ever measure up to his requirements, that is, no one but Jesus. Of course, if nobody could measure up, then this made everyone guilty (Romans 3:19-20). So righteousness has never come by keeping the law. Instead, righteousness only comes through faith in God’s Word. In the same way that Abraham believed God’s Word, and was accounted righteous, today we also believe God’s Word and are made right with God. Abraham looked forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, while we look back to the cross of Christ, trusting in God’s Word for our salvation. Nothing we can do on our own can save us. But we are made right through faith in Jesus Christ. By faith we are justified, and by faith we obey and follow after Jesus.



Justification

Lesson – “The Results of Justification”

Scriptures – Romans 5:1-2, 9-10

Introduction to Lesson

Justification is a necessary part of our salvation experience because of the past sins we have committed. If an individual repented today and stopped sinning from this point forward, without justification he/she would still be guilty because of past sins committed. Being guilty before God, we must be justified or made right in his sight. Our justification is made possible through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 2:2). Through faith in Christ's sacrifice, we are justified righteous before God. When we accept what Jesus did for us on the cross, repenting and placing our faith in him, our sins are forgiven and we are made righteous. What is the result of being justified and forgiven?

Key Verse

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever” (Isaiah 32:17).

Questions to Discuss:

Explain how we are justified? In other words, by what and through whom are we justified? (v. 1)

In addition to forgiveness, what does justification also do for us? (v. 1)

How do we stand in this grace or continue in peace with God? (v. 2)

When we are justified by faith, why do we rejoice? (v. 2)

When we are justified through Christ, what are we saved from? (v. 9)

What kind of relationship did we have with God before being justified? (v. 10)

What does it mean to have peace with God? (v. 10)

Jesus' death made our peace with God possible. Now that we have peace with God, how will we be saved? (v. 10)

Think about it

We believe in the atoning work of Jesus on the cross. He died and shed his blood to take away our sins. When we repent and place our faith in his sacrifice, our sins are forgiven and we have peace with God. His death has reconciled us to God. We are no longer enemies of God, but friends. Our faith is firmly placed in his shed blood for our salvation. Nevertheless, we do not trust in a dead Savior, but in a living Lord. We believe that we are reconciled to God and have peace with God through Jesus' death, but much more, we are saved by his life. We believe in a risen Savior who lives forevermore. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved.



Justification

Lesson – “Faith in God’s Promise”

Scriptures – Luke 1:30-38

Introduction to Lesson

Today’s lesson is a follow-up to last week’s lesson on justification by faith. The purpose of this lesson is to emphasize faith in God’s Promise. While Mary and Joseph were betrothed, Mary “was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Mt. 1:18). Joseph would have legally broken their betrothal, but the angel of the Lord stopped him, saying, “Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (Mt. 1:20). The Christ child was no ordinary baby. Who was he? Who did God promise that the Christ would be when he came into this world?

Key Verse

“For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

Questions to Discuss:

The name “Jesus” means savior or deliverer. Who named the Christ?

What was the significance of naming him “Jesus?” Based on his name, who was the Christ? (vv. 30-31; Mt. 1:21)

Pick out the main, descriptive words in verses 32-33. What do these words have in common? Based on these words, who was the Christ? (vv. 32-33)

How did Mary, a virgin, have a child? (vv. 34-35)

Being of the Holy Ghost, who would this holy child be? (v. 35)

What did the miracle of Christ’s birth prove? (v. 37)

What did Mary’s response to God’s Promise prove? (v. 38)

Think about it

Jesus taught, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” (Mk. 9:23). Mary believed the Promise of God, saying, “. . . be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38). Her cousin, Elisabeth, spoke by the Holy Ghost, saying, “And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord” (v. 45). No doubt, Mary did not fully understand the great mystery of Jesus’ birth, but she embraced and believed the Word of God, receiving the Promise by faith. She believed that God could do the impossible. She believed that her baby would be the Son of God, the King, and the Savior. Mary’s faith in God’s Promise demonstrates righteousness (justification) through faith in the Word of God. Like Abraham, she also believed and was justified by faith.



Regeneration Lesson – Spiritual Death Scriptures – Ephesians 2:1-6

Introduction to Lesson

In the beginning, God made man in his own image. Adam and Eve were perfect creations. They were created to live forever – to enjoy the life that God had given them. The Lord told them that they could eat of every tree in the Garden of Eden, except one: the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said, “For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). Nevertheless, they disobeyed the Word of God and ate of the forbidden fruit. The results were disastrous. Through Adam’s transgression, sin entered the human race. Furthermore, God’s penalty for sin was death. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). In today’s lesson, let’s consider the spiritual death caused by sin.

Key Verse

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Questions to Discuss:

- What has God done for the believer? (v. 1)
- How did Paul refer to the Ephesians before they believed?
- What kind of death was Paul writing about? (v. 1)
- Describe the spirit that works in the sinner? (v. 2)
- How did Paul describe sinners? (v. 3)
- Why did God make a way for sinners to be saved? (v. 4)
- Describe what it means to be saved by grace? (v. 5)
- What did Paul mean by being “raised up?” (v. 6)
- As Christians, where do we now sit? (v. 6)

Think about it

The penalty of natural death has passed to all people through sin – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin” (Romans 5:12). Because of sin, we physically die. Yet there is another side to the penalty of sin – spiritual death – being “dead in trespasses and sins.” The very moment Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he spiritually died. The apostle Paul taught, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Because of sin, people are spiritually dead. But Jesus Christ has made a way for us to have eternal life – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Ro. 6:23). By faith in Jesus’ shed blood, our sins can be forgiven (justification), and we can be raised up to spiritual life in Christ (regeneration).

