

I'M SAVED! NO DOUBTS!

INTRODUCTION: Someone approaches you and asks, "Are you saved?" How do you answer?

Two Key Truths

- John 19:28,30, "Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'... When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."
- Acts 16:30-31, "He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'"

Jesus' work of _____ the world is now _____; but only those who _____ in Jesus receive the _____ of it.

What are all people like by nature?

- Ephesians 2:1, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,... Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."
- Romans 8:7, "...the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so."
- 1 Corinthians 2:14, "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

From birth all people are spiritually _____ in sin, _____ to God, and _____ to true spiritual matters. They are objects of God's _____. This is called _____ sin, a serious and damning condition affecting every human being.

Note Martin Luther's observation: *"I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him."*

- What implications does this thought have when it comes to asking unbelieving people to make a decision to believe in Jesus Christ?
- However what actions can we ask our unbelieving friends to take as we seek salvation for them?

How does saving faith come to people?

- Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."
- Romans 10:17, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."
- 1 Corinthians 12:3, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."

As a _____ given by God, faith comes by _____ the message about _____. Only the _____ can give someone faith in Christ.

What are some of the key works of the Holy Spirit? Note this summary from our Catechism:

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified, and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Calls = leads me to _____ through the _____ (which means _____). This work of the Holy Spirit is also called:

- CONVERSION (_____), or
- REGENERATION (_____)

Gathers = brings the _____ together to grow in _____ and praise _____.

Enlightens = leads me to _____ through the _____.

Sanctifies = “sets me apart” for _____ through the _____.

Keeps = _____ my faith from Satan’s attacks through the _____.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15, “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”

How does our status before God change when we’re brought to faith in Jesus?

- Romans 3:28, “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith, apart from observing the Law.”

Through faith in Jesus, we stand _____ before God (that is _____ in his sight and fit for _____.)

A reminder...

Ephesians 5:18-19 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,…”

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Do I believe that my sin is so serious and wicked that, if left unaddressed, it would separate me from God and make it impossible for me to have life with Him? Or don’t I feel I’m all that bad?
- Do I believe that the only way to be saved is through believing in Jesus Christ, or do I feel that I’ve been good enough to get to heaven on my own?
- Am I willing to keep close to the Gospel so that the Holy Spirit can continue to work faith in me...or am I unwilling to make that commitment?

FOR NEXT TIME

Complete the worksheet for Lesson 5.

NEXT CLASS DATE: _____