

**LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING**  
**COURSE/HOLE 1 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH SEMINAR**  
**LECTURE 1 - YOUR RICH INHERITANCE AS A MEMBER OF HEAVEN'S FAMILY - PART 1**

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**THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR** daily reading program to be handed out with this lecture. The minimum daily reading each Christian should do is to read the New Testament column.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Man dying of starvation in tin shanty with beautifully framed **bequeath** on wall from previous employer whom he had worked for 25 years. Sadly he had never learned to read. A well off man had never discovered his inheritance. Most children of God have also never discovered their rich inheritance. They've never read or laid claim to the 7000 promises of the Bible.

**COURSE RULES:** Don't believe anything any Minister says, unless they give you **chapter and verse** from the Bible. You will not get into Heaven by obeying the word of a man, but by obeying the Word of God.

**COURSE MOTTO:** The Bible said it, I believe it, that settles it.

**CAUTION:** Satan is spitting mad that you have started this course and are about to Discover Your Rich Inheritance as a Member of Heaven's Family over the next 6 weeks. He will do all in his power to stop you from getting here each week. You need to make the resolve tonight that you will move Heaven and earth to get here each week. Triumph over satan in Jesus name - don't let him get the victory over you.

## 1. HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE?

Firstly we must **repent of our sins** and put our faith in Jesus as our Savior.

**Rom 3:23 (NAS)** *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

**Luke 13:5b (NAS)** Jesus said, *"...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

**To repent** is to be truly sorry for our sin before God, asking Him to forgive us and making a 180 degree turn around - turning our back on sin and walking towards Jesus as our Savior.

The degree and depth of your salvation and deliverance, is **directly proportional** to the degree and depth of your repentance. A shallow insincere repentance, produces an superficial salvation, that usually does not last very long.

Secondly we need to do **Romans 10:9**.

**Rom 10:9-10 (NAS)** *"That if you (i) confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and (ii) believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you SHALL be saved;*

*10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

**The experience of salvation** is to have one's sins forgiven, to be released from the guilt and bondage of sin, to receive God's free gift of eternal life, to be filled with God's love and peace, and to be granted a home in heaven for all eternity, instead of going to hell.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Being saved is like a **Bride and Groom** saying their wedding vows. They need to make a commitment of their lives to one another till death us do part. What would happen if the Groom said his vows, but the Bride was suddenly reluctant to also make a life time commitment? Do you think he would still be willing to marry her? No! Well, in a similar way, the Bible teaches that the Church is the Bride of Christ (**Eph 5:23-25,29,32**). Christ said His vows to us 2000 years ago when He gave His life on the cross of Calvary. Now, to be married to the Lord, we need to also make a total commitment of our lives to Him. The quality of any marriage is dependent on the degree of commitment of the parties to each other. A successful marriage requires 100% commitment on both sides - not 50/50 or I'll meet you halfway - thank God Jesus does not only meet us halfway.

**(Practical:** Get the class to close their eyes imagine themselves being married to Jesus, and committing their lives to Him "till death us do unite." The first step before they do this is to sincerely repent of their sins from their heart before a holy sin hating God).

**Acts 4:12 (NAS)** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name** (except the Name of Jesus) under Heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

(We know it's the only Name by which we can be saved, because it's the only Name the devil uses as a curse word. The devil has no problem with Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed, etc. I've never heard a person hit his thumb with a hammer and say, "Buddha!")

God who is a Spirit comes to live in **your spirit** (the real you - the eternal part of you).

**Rom 8:16 (NAS)** "The Spirit Himself **bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God."

God gives us **Eternal Life as a free gift** because He loves us.

We receive this gift when we **commit** our lives to His Son Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

**Rom 6:23b (NAS)** "...but the **free gift of God is eternal life IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord.**"

We **cannot earn** our way into Heaven and we certainly will **never deserve** it.

**Eph 2:8,9 (NAS)** "For **by grace** you have been **saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**;

9 **not as a result of works, that no one should boast.**"

## 2. DO MY GOOD DEEDS PUT ME IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD?

It is obviously right for every person to live circumspectly (uprightly), but this **does not earn us favor** with God.

However, purposely living in sin certainly is wrong, and if deliberately and continually practiced will bring the wrath of God.

**Isa 64:6b (NAS)** "And all **our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.**"

Righteous deeds are correct, but if we are **trusting** in them to earn us favor with God, then they are as a filthy garment.

**John 14:6 (NAS)** "Jesus said to Him, '**I am the WAY, and the truth, and the life; NO ONE comes to the Father, but through Me.**'"

**John 10:9 (NAS)** "**I am the DOOR; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**"

No matter how good a person is, unless he is **born again** he will not even see the kingdom of God.

**John 3:3-7 (NAS)** "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he CANNOT see the kingdom of God.**'

4 Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?'

5 Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (symbolic for the word - Eph 5:26) and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh (i.e.. a natural birth), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (i.e.. to be born again.)

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You MUST be born again.**' "

Only Jesus Christ who lived a **perfect sinless life** could offer Himself as our substitute and pay the price for

our salvation with His precious blood on the cruel cross of Calvary.

**Heb 4:15 (NAS)** "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One (Jesus Christ) who has been **tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.**"

**Heb 9:22b (NAS)** "...and **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**"

Why?

**Lev 17:11 (NAS)** "For **the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.**"

**Atonement - Lexicon:** to cover over, purge, make an atonement, make reconciliation, cover over as with pitch, pacify, propitiate, atone for sin and persons by legal rites.

**Atonement - Webster's:** satisfaction for a wrong, reparation for an injury, to make amends. The Christian doctrine that the reconciliation of God and humankind is accomplished through Christ.

The Old Testament Doctrine of Atonement was a foreshadow of the **New Testament doctrine of Redemption.**

**Redeem - Thayer's Greek Lexicon:** to release on receipt of a ransom price, to liberate by payment of a ransom, to deliver from evils of every kind - internal and external.

**Redeem - Webster's:** to buy back, to pay off, to clear by payment, to recover something by payment, to obtain the release of one as from captivity - by paying a ransom, to deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner.

**1 Pet 1:18-19 (NAS)** ...knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

**19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

**Heb 9:12 (NAS)** ...and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His (Christ's) own blood, He entered the holy place (the Holy of Holies in heaven) ONCE for ALL, having obtained eternal redemption.**

Therefore, we need to put our **faith in Jesus Christ alone** for our salvation.

**2 Cor 1:9 (NAS)** "...we should **not trust in ourselves, but in God...**"

**John 3:36 (Broadus)** "He who has **faith in the Son** has eternal life."

What is then ONE **purpose** of righteous deeds?

Righteous deeds are simply our way of saying **thank you to Jesus** for all He has done for us.

### **3. AS A CHRISTIAN WHAT MUST I DO WHEN I SIN?**

We must **confess our sin**, and the moment we do we are forgiven by God, and restored to right standing with Him.

**God already knows** what sin we have committed, and therefore confession of sin is entirely for our benefit.

**1 John 1:9 (NAS)** "If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to **forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"

(This does not come naturally to man. We have perfected the art of covering and excusing our sin our entire lives. What God is asking us to do is foreign to our nature and experience).

Man always suffers the consequences of unconfessed sin.

Confessed sin **releases us** from the **bondage of guilt.**

**Psa 32:3,5 (NAS)** "When I kept **silent** about my sin, my body wasted away..."

**5 I acknowledged** (or confessed) **my sin TO THEE, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions TO THE LORD'; And Thou didst forgive the GUILT of my sin.**"

**Prov 28:13 (NAS)** "He who **conceals** (hides, covers) his **transgressions** (sins) **will not prosper** (or be successful in every area of his life), **but he who confesses and forsakes** (abandons, leaves behind, lets go of the sin) **them will find compassion.**"

**Psa 103:12 (NAS)** "As far as the **east** is from the **west**, so far has He **removed** our transgressions from us."

**Micah 7:19b (NAS)** "Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins into the **depths of the sea.**"

**Isa 43:25 (NAS)** "I, even I, am the One who **wipes out** your transgressions for My own sake; and **I will not remember your sins.**"

(It's bad taste to remind God of the sin He has forgiven you of and forgotten).

If sin is not confessed it raises a **barrier** between man and God.

**Isa 59:2 (NAS)** "But your **iniquities** (sins) have **made a separation** between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."

**(EXAMPLE:** A Christian suffering with guilt all day before he finally confesses his sin at bedtime. Why not confess your sin immediately, and have a good day in Jesus, free from guilt and condemnation).

**Matt 18:21-22 (NAS)** "Then Peter came and said to Him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?'

22 Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven.**' "

God would not require **us to forgive 490 times a day** if He Himself was not prepared to **do the same.**

**NB.** God loves the quality in Christians who are quick to repent, and thereafter quick to believe for His blessings, knowing that the slate is clean. He's not holding anything against you.

#### 4. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS?

Righteousness is a **free gift** we receive from God when we are born again.

**Rom 5:17b (NAS)** "...those who receive the abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

**Phil 3:9 (NAS)** "...and may be found in Him (Jesus), **not having a righteousness of my own** derived from (keeping) the law, but that (righteousness) which is through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.**"

**2 Cor 5:17,21 (NAS)** "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creature** (or a new species of being); (TCNT) his old life has passed away; a new life has begun!

21 (Phillips) For God caused Christ, who Himself knew nothing of sin, actually to **be sin** for our sakes, (TCNT) so that **we, through** (our) union with Him, **might become the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.**"

Therefore, **every born again Christian possesses God's righteousness** and can never become more righteous than that.

This **right standing with God** means we have the **legal right to call Him Father**, praying and asking **boldly** for our desires, as little children unashamedly asking their parents for their desires.

Now let's look at what **holiness** is.

The word holy or holiness appears over 600 times in the bible. God is an awesome God, a **holy God** and **requires us to live holy lives before Him.**

**Exo 15:11 (NAS)** "Who is like Thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like Thee, **majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?**"

**We have to choose** to separate ourselves unto God, to **live a holy life.**

**Lev 20:26 (NAS)** *"Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have SET YOU APART from the peoples to be MINE."*

**Isa 35:8-9 (NAS)** *"And a highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it,... and fools will not wander on it.*

*9b But the redeemed (children of God) will walk there."*

Being born again does not guarantee that you'll go to heaven.

However, not being born again guarantees that one will go to hell.

Being born again simply translates you from the 'Broad Way' that leads to destruction, onto the 'Narrow Way' that leads to Eternal Life.

**Matt 7:13-14 (NAS)** *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.*

*14 For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."*

Now that you're on the 'Narrow Highway of Holiness', you need to journey on it to the end to make it into Heaven.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A person who drops out halfway in the Comrades Marathon does not receive a medal.

**Matt 24:13 (NAS)** *"But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved."*

**2 Tim 4:6b-8 (NAS)** *...the time of my departure (to Heaven) has come.*

*7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;*

*8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

The more a Christian forsakes the lust of the flesh and the love of this wicked world with its evil practices, and separates himself every day unto the Lord to pray, to read His Word, to worship Him, and actively serve his fellow man through his local church - **the more holy he is.**

Therefore, holiness is seen in **your level of commitment** to discover and **obey God's will** for your life.

**ILLUSTRATION: Saint and Sinner** - if you have a two fifty year old men, one a holy dedicated Pastor, the other the worst sinner of the century, who has just given his life to Jesus, who would be more righteous?

They would be equally righteous, because they both have received the righteousness of God, and have equal right to come and boldly make their request known in the presence of God. Now who is more holy of the two? Obviously the Pastor. He has been walking the Highway of Holiness for many years, and has a far greater commitment and dedication to the cause Jesus Christ than this brand new Christian.

Spending time reading the **Bible** everyday, to become a doer of the Word **makes us holy.**

**John 17:17 (NAS)** *"Sanctify (cleanse, purify, make holy) them in the truth; Thy Word is truth."*

**Eph 5:26-27 (NAS)** *"That He (Christ) might sanctify her (the church), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word (or the baptism of the Word),*

*27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*

Holy men and women will be rewarded with **more treasure** in heaven.

**Matt 6:20 (NAS)** *"But LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal."*

**2 Cor 5:10 (NAS)** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed (rewarded or punished) for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

### **HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 1**

1. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes until these truths register on your spirit man and as preparation for a **very SIMPLE true or false** test next week at 7:00 PM sharp, before the lecture. **You don't have to do this test if you don't want to.**
2. Start practicing the habit of **confessing your sin to God IMMEDIATELY**, and accept your forgiveness without question.
3. Memorize **Rom 10:9**. This counts for 10% toward your test results.