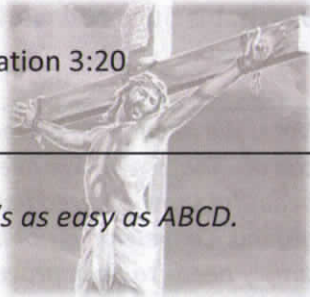


12. What happens to the past for someone who accepts Jesus as their personal savior? 2Corinthians 5:17

Note: Salvation is a gift. We don't deserve it, we can't earn it, and we can't buy it. The only way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ.

13. What invitation does Jesus give us? Revelation 3:20



14. How do I respond to Christ's invitation? It's as easy as ABCD.

A- Accept the fact that you are a sinner.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

B- Believe that Jesus died for you.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

C- Confess and repent of your sins.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:9

D- Decide to live for Christ.

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

TRUE STORY: Two brothers were convicted of stealing sheep in the old days of England. The brutal punishment of those times, was branding on the forehead with the letters ST- Sheep Thief. One brother unable to bear the shame, fled to a foreign country. He wandered from land to land and was buried in a forgotten grave. The other brother repented of his crime and stayed home. He said, "I can't get away from the fact that I once stole sheep, but I will remain here until I win back the respect of my neighbors and my own self-respect."

Years passed by and he gradually established a reputation for respectability, integrity, and honesty. At last a stranger in town saw an old man hobbling along with the letters ST branded on his forehead and asked a native what they meant. After thinking for a while, the villager said, "It happened a long time ago, and I have forgotten all the particulars, but I think the letters are an abbreviation for... Saint"

MY CHOICE: Since Jesus gave His life for me I want to give my life to Him. I want to experience the great exchange: my sin for His life. I accept Jesus as my personal savior.



Lesson #4 The Best News Ever

How can I get over my past? With all the bad things I have done, how can God possibly save me? These are questions that many people have. The good news is that salvation is more simple than we think.

1. What did Jesus come to save? Luke 19:10

Note: Modern philosophy says: Man is basically good, nothing was ever lost, and all you need to do to be saved is simply be a "good person." Is there more to salvation than just being good?

2. What did Jesus come to save us from? Matthew 1:21

Note: Pretend that there is a man swimming in a kiddie pool. He's splashing around with his rubber ducky and a lifeguard comes and sweeps him out of the pool and declares to him, "I've saved you!" How does he feel about that salvation as he is thinking to himself, "What did you save me from, the rubber ducky?" Let's again pretend he is in the ocean swimming and there begins to circle underneath him large dark shadows, which appear to be sharks. Then here comes the lifeguard on a Jet Ski and just in the nick of time, scoops him out of the water before he is eaten by sharks. Which salvation do you suppose he is more thankful for? The second, because he is actually saved from something! Perhaps the reason why people are not

more excited about salvation is because they don't realize what they are saved FROM!

3. What does sin do to man in relation to God? Isaiah 59:1-2

Note: Sin causes separation between God and man. To fill the gap that sin creates, people put: cars, alcohol, drugs, houses, relationships, or anything that makes us feel good in the place that God has only designed for Him to be. Only knowing Jesus can give you peace (See also Col 2:9-10; Jn 17:3).

4. Is the problem with man only our behavior? Jeremiah 17:9

Note: A lot of effort is exerted in trying to resist temptation. You can't fight alone. You need a savior. You need divine power. You need the power of the Holy Spirit to be victorious over cultivated and inherited tendencies to sin.

5. What does God want us to give to Him? Proverbs 23:26

Note: When we give Jesus our hearts these problems that we have, trying they may be, are no match for Jesus. If Christ is in the heart He will overcome through you. It's that easy! God plus one is the majority! Maybe this is the reason why people try so many times to quit drinking or smoking, only to lead to failure and discouragement, you tried alone. You need Jesus to have the victory over any bad habit



6. Can Jesus keep me from falling? Jude 24

Note: God can give us victory over smoking and drinking and other bad habits if we really want it (see also 2 Pet 2:9, 1Cor 10:13).

7. What counsel did Jesus give to Nicodemus? John 3:3-6

Note: Jesus was clear that just being "good" and behavior modification is not good enough. We all need a supernatural change of heart and mind.

8. Why do we need to be born again? Job 14:4

Note: Everyone born once is born into this world separated from God because we are born with a sinful fallen nature. We must be born again.

9. What is our good works (righteousness) like? Isaiah 64:6

Note: We need to do better than we can do. We need to do as good as Jesus can do. That is why we need a savior from sin. Conversion is not like a beautiful snow covered field where the white snow covers the muddy bear ground. Conversion is not like remodeling a house, where the structure simply needs to be improved. Conversion is tearing down the house and relaying a new foundation with a new house on it. The "born again" experience is a new heart or a change of mind. The things you used to love you now hate. And the things you used to hate you now love. It's a U-turn on the road of life, you turn from sin!

10. What good news does Jesus have for the Nicodemus's of our day? John 3:7-9, 14-17

Note: Jesus told Nicodemus that he couldn't save himself. Nicodemus, doing works can't save you. Nicodemus, simply showing up for church and moralism doesn't save you. We need to know what Nicodemus learned that night. That is, we can come to Jesus just as we are, sinful, helpless, and He will take us just as we are.

11. Does God love me even if I'm bad? Romans 5:8

Note: When you repent of your, sins God immediately forgives you. Not only that, you are justified. What does that word mean? It means that God sees you as: Just--If--I'd never sinned! That is good news for the sinner (See also Rom 8:1; 3:24; Heb 8:10). God no longer looks at you as a forgiven thief or liar. He looks at you and sees 33.5 years of righteousness. God sees you just as He sees His own son, holy and without blame. In short, that is what justification by faith is all about.