

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 26

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Totally Depraved Unbeliever Hears the Gospel
Message through Common Grace

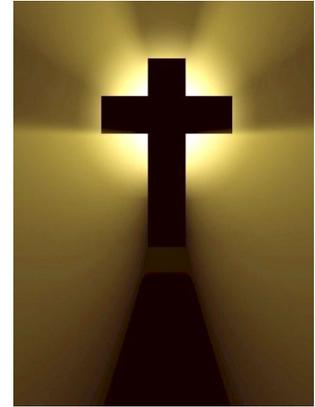


Thursday, February 10, 2011

"Nevertheless, I (Jesus) tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don't go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. (8) And when He comes, He will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Hi Experts. Let's take a really good look at unbelievers today and their desperate need for salvation through Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.



Review the process of an unbeliever becoming a believer:

1. The unbeliever decides to listen to the Gospel.
2. God the Holy Spirit makes the Gospel clear, understandable, and convincing to the unbeliever.
3. God the Father invites the unbeliever to believe in Christ after hearing the gospel. (Don't confuse this with the election of the believer).
4. The unbeliever believes in Christ.
5. God the Holy Spirit makes the helpless, useless, not working faith of the unbeliever and makes it effective for eternal salvation.
6. The unbeliever is saved for eternity.

So when looking at this...God's work in salvation...which is ALL the work...you have three things to learn:

1. Common Grace = the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in making the Gospel clear, understandable and convincing to the unbeliever.
2. The Call of God = the invitation of God the Father to believe in Christ.
3. Efficacious Grace = the work or ministry of the Holy Spirit in making the faith in Jesus Christ of the spiritually dead person effective for eternal salvation.

We have seen what Efficacious Grace is all about. So now let's take a brief look at the other two works from God that precede efficacious grace..."common grace" and "the call of God."

We'll take these one at a time starting with common grace in our lesson today, which is the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in making the Gospel clear, understandable and convincing to the unbeliever. We can see this in **John 16:7-11** "Nevertheless, I (Jesus) tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don't go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. (8) And when He comes, He will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me (this is rejection of Jesus when they hear the Gospel); (10) concerning righteousness, because I (the only righteous man) go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world (Satan) is judged."



You know, kids, the Holy Spirit's ministry of common and efficacious grace always existed in other dispensations, too. It's different today in the Church Age because of the importance of the fact that Jesus Christ has been resurrected, ascended and seated at God the Father's right hand in Heaven! In other dispensations or time periods of God, Jesus the Messiah had not come to earth yet and the dispensation just before the Church Age, He was alive on earth and not yet glorified in Heaven.

As you can see from the above passage in the Bible there are three areas of evangelism, which is telling people about the saving work of Jesus Christ for salvation, in which the omnipotence (total power) of the Holy Spirit functions in common grace. They are sin, righteousness, and judgment. The spiritually dead unbeliever cannot understand these things without the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in common grace.

"Concerning sin because they do not believe in me," means that the ONLY sin that Jesus was not judged on the cross for was the sin of rejecting or not believing in Him...the sin of unbelief!

WOW! Do you see what this means, kids? It means that personal sins are not the issue when presenting the Gospel to unbelievers! You future evangelists must take note of this for sure. Personal sin should really NEVER be mentioned when witnessing to the unbeliever. Why, you say? Because they were judged on the Cross in Jesus! What sin was He NOT judged for? Yes, the sin of unbelief in Him!!!! You must understand this and make it clear to the unbeliever when witnessing. **2 Cor 5:19 "Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their (personal) sins against them..."** Jesus was judged on the cross for ALL personal sins.

Here are more verses that teach us about this:

1 Cor 15:3-5 "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our (personal) sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."



Isa 53:5-6 "But He (Jesus) was pierced through for our transgressions; He was crushed for our sins; the punishment for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed (saved). (6) All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the sin of us all to fall on Him."

Isa 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins."

Isa 44:22-23 "I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you (from slavery to the sin nature). (23) Shout for joy, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth (Hades); break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; for the Lord has redeemed Jacob (the Jews) and in Israel He shows forth His glory."



Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

1 Peter 2:24-25 "...and He Himself bore our (personal) sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed (saved). (25) For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for (personal) sins once for all, the just (Jesus) for the unjust (mankind), so that He might bring us to God (the Father), having been put to death in the flesh (His body), but made alive in the (Holy) spirit..."

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous; (2) and He Himself is the propitiation (satisfaction of the Father with Jesus' work on the cross) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

Since Christ was our substitute and was judged for our sins on the cross, "sin" in **John 16:8** refers specifically to one sin only, the refusal to believe in Jesus Christ. The personal sins of the unbeliever are NOT an issue in evangelism. The issue is the completed work of Christ on the cross. The issue is the fact that the spiritually dead person is powerless to do anything for salvation. The issue is faith alone in Jesus Christ. The spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross satisfied all the righteous demands of God the Father...period!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, September 30, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

