

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 31

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Cross and Blood of Christ



Sunday, March 13, 2011

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

Today we are going to the cross. We are going to examine what Jesus did for us on the cross and what God does for us after we believe. The CROSS is everything to all believers. The Holy Spirit, by His ministry of efficacious grace, took our faith...our belief in Jesus after we heard about Him and what He did for us, and made it effective for our salvation. God the Holy Spirit takes the work of Christ on the cross and places it on each believer.



The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross is called the "blood of Christ." The blood of Christ is a phrase or saying that the Bible uses that includes all the work that Jesus did for us on the cross. He took our place...He was our substitute on the cross. The New Testament often uses the phrase "the blood of Christ" as a likeness that relates to the old testament blood sacrifices of the lamb to the substitutionary spiritual death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus is called the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)

The blood of Christ...His spiritual work on the cross...provided many gifts for believers. Soteriology is a very BIG word that means the study of salvation, which is the work of the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

That work includes:

1. Redemption – the price for our sins has been paid. We were redeemed or bought out of the slavery we had to our old sin natures. Gal 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

1 Pet 1:18 "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed (paid for) from the empty way (sinful) of life handed down to you from your forefathers..."
2. Expiation – the blood of Christ cleanses us from all guilt. The IOU has been canceled and paid for by Jesus. 1 Cor 6:20 "...you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men."

1 Tim 2:5-6 "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."

Col 2:13-15 "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our sins, (14) having canceled out the certificate of debt with its decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross."

3. Propitiation – God the Father in His righteousness and justice is completely satisfied with the blood of Christ...His work for us.

1 John 2:2 "...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

4. Reconciliation – permanent status of peace exists between you and God. Jesus gave us a peace treaty with God. 2 Cor 5:19 "...namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them..."



The blood of God's well-beloved Son was the most precious thing, and yet it was paid to rescue the sinners...all of us. Sin separated the sinner from God, yet God provided His own Son, the Lamb of God, to bear away the sin forever. That Lamb is Jesus.

The sin issue between God and man was dealt with at the cross in a matter that satisfied even the perfect and unending righteousness and justice of God. God was satisfied with His Son's work on the Cross. The only question that's left is whether man is satisfied with the Jesus' sacrifice that completely satisfies God. I was and I know you were too.

Salvation is the solution to a terrible problem. That problem is nasty, awful sin and its effects on man's position, condition and standing with God. Sin makes us ugly in God's eyes. There are penalties that were judged against the sin of Adam. The justice of God needed to be satisfied and a state of war existed between God and mankind. Sin made a huge wall or barrier between God and man only Jesus could bring it down and He did. His Father in Heaven was perfectly satisfied with His work on the Cross for our salvation. He surely did love us, didn't He?

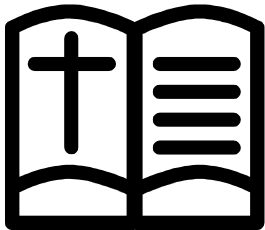
Salvation had to pay the price for man's sin; Jesus had to remove the penalty for sin and He did; His work on the Cross had to satisfy the justice of a very angry God; His work...the blood of Christ...His spiritual death...had to end the hatred and restore peace with God. God provided His Son to do the job because God loves the whole world. That's what verses like John 3:16-17 tell us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not die, but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him (Jesus)."



This is important to understand, because we are going to see that when God gave His Son Jesus Christ, He gave Him to the entire world. John 4:41-42 "Many more believed because of His word; (42) and they were saying to the woman, 'It is no longer because

of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.” 1 Tim 4:10 “For it is for this we labor and work hard, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.” 1 John 4:14 “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” All the work of Christ on the cross that involves getting rid of bad things was done on behalf of all people in the world. All of the work that involves giving good things is done only for believers. This is called GRACE from God. If you don’t fall in love with the grace of God after studying this, you simply were not paying attention!!

Grace is unearned favor from God. You cannot do ANYTHING for grace. Grace is all that the loving God is free to do for sinners who don’t deserve it because His justice is completely satisfied with the work of His Son on the cross and that work only...NEVER man’s work...NEVER! Grace is free, unending, and unearned blessing to helpless, undeserving sinners from the loving God whose justice is completely satisfied by the Person and Work of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. Rom 5:20-21 “The Law (which means the Ten Commandments) came in so that man realized that he is a sinner and then realizing it, sin would increase; but where sin increased, grace was even more plentiful (21) so that, as sin ruled in (spiritual) death, even so grace would rule (more) through righteousness (+R) to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”



When learning about the work of God for sinners, it’s very important to see the difference between the finished work of Christ, which is for everyone and which is completed to absolute perfection; and the saving work of God that is performed for and in each person at the moment that person believes in Christ.

John 19:30 “It is finished.” These are the last recorded words of Jesus in the Gospels before His death. When He said that He was talking about His finished work of salvation that He had just completed on the cross before He died physically. This was a work for the whole world. Heb 2:9 “But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley’s lesson on Thursday, October 24, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

