

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.1—What is the Gospel?

#### Memorize

Q9.1—What is the gospel?

A9.1— “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

– 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does it mean to be saved?
2. When were you saved?
3. What is the gospel? **(This is a good time to do the task we have given in the past. “I’m dying in 5 minutes. I don’t know anything about the Bible. Give me the gospel so I can know where I’m going once I die. Go!” Then push back and try to make it difficult so they can process through as much as they can.)**

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 1 Corinthians 15:1–8
  - a. 15:1—The word “gospel” means “good news.” What does Paul say about the gospel here? **(He preached it, they received it, they stand in the gospel.)**
  - b. 15:2—How are Christians saved? **(The gospel. That’s what the gospel is: the message of salvation. This salvation must be truly believed in. True belief is held on to.)**
  - c. 15:3—The phrase “I delivered to you” implies that Paul was giving them a tradition that he himself received from others. Since 1 Corinthians is one of the earliest books written in the New Testament this shows us what was emphasized in the simplest gospel message from even the earliest days. What does Paul emphasize first? **(Christ died for our sins... according to the Scriptures. Both phrases are necessary to point out.)**
  - d. 15:3—What is the significance that Paul said the gospel was “according to the Scriptures”? **(Many false cults both of today and the past tend to emphasize that the Scriptures have become corrupt. Or perhaps that they have something new that makes the old Scriptures irrelevant. Paul is essentially asking people to test the Apostles’ Doctrine with Old Testament Scripture.)**
  - e. 15:3—Christ died for our sins. This is at the heart of the gospel. Read and discuss:
    - i. Isaiah 53:3–7—What do we learn about Christ’s death from this passage written 700 years before Jesus? **(v. 3—Despised and rejected Messiah. V. 4—He takes our grief and sorrows. V. 5—His wounding pays for our transgressions and iniquities. He brings us peace by this death and heals us. V. 6—Our iniquity is laid on Him. V. 7—He did this willingly.)**
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:21—What did Christ become to pay for our sin? **(Sin.)** What do we become by faith? **(The righteousness of God.)**
    - iii. 1 Peter 2:24—What did Christ do on the cross? **(He bore our sins in His very body.)**
    - iv. Hebrews 9:22—What do we learn about Christ’s death?
    - v. Hebrews 10:19—How do we enter the Holiest? **(By the blood of Jesus.)**
    - vi. 1 John 1:7—What cleanses us from all sin? **(Jesus’s blood.)**
  - f. 15:4—He was buried and rose again. The burial emphasizes that he was really dead. Read and discuss:
    - i. Mark 15:37—How does this refute people who say He did not really die? **(This was denied by Gnostics who did not like the idea that Jesus was truly human. It is also denied by Muslims. The best response is to point out that virtually everyone who**

studies these things, Christian and non-Christian, agree that the four Gospels are the best sources on the life of Christ. Virtually all agree that Jesus really died on the cross and thus rose again. The main people who do not agree are Muslims. Why? Based on the word of a man who came 600 years after Jesus, never saw the land Jesus walked in, had no primary sources, and gave minimal references from ahistorical gospel accounts. Jesus really did die on the cross. It did not merely “appear to be so” as Muslims say.)

- ii. John 19:33–34—Why is it so significant to know that Jesus truly died? **(He was truly man. And as we’ve seen, His death was necessary, not just His suffering pain.)**
- iii. John 11:25—What does Christ’s resurrection promise us?
- iv. 1 Peter 1:3—How does Christ’s resurrection give us hope?
- g. 14:5–8—The apostles were sent out to preach this gospel. What did they emphasize? Read and discuss. Pay close attention to the repeated words **(They should notice: Jesus, repentance/turning, grace/gift, faith/believing/receiving, forgiveness of sins.)**
  - i. Acts 2:38
  - ii. Acts 5:31
  - iii. Acts 10:43
  - iv. Acts 20:21
- h. 14:5–8—The apostles were entrusted to preach the gospel with authority and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Read and discuss:
  - i. John 15:16—How were these men specially chosen?
  - ii. John 16:13—What assurance do we have that the Holy Spirit protected their message from being corrupted? **(Just the same as the prophets of the Old Testament. Prophets of the Old Testament spoke saying, “thus say the Lord.” A direct message, looking forward to things unseen. But the New Testament apostles spoke a message declaring who Christ was and what He did/was doing. Their authority was the same: the Holy Spirit anointing them at that particular time in history.)**
  - iii. Ephesians 2:20—What is the church built on? **(The apostles and prophets. The Old and New Testaments.)**
  - iv. Galatians 1:8–9—Can the gospel be updated?

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. Jude 1:3—What are we called to do? **(Keep the message. Focus on the gospel! Hold to what has always been held to. Do not be given over to foreign doctrines that the church never heard of.)**

**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
**Lesson 9.2—Substitutionary Atonement**

**Memorize**

Q9.2—How did Jesus's death forgive us of our sins?

A9.2— "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." – 1 Peter 2:24

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What does it really mean that Jesus "paid for" our sins?
2. Why was a substitute needed? Why couldn't God just forgive us? **(This would not be just. It would not satisfy the fact that God is a God of justice who must punish sin. It would be simply sweeping our sins under the rug.)**

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 1 Peter 2:24 **(Before reading this, explain that we are talking about "substitutionary atonement." This is the doctrine that Christ took the place of sinners, bearing God's wrath on their behalf through His death on the cross. Our sin is replaced with Christ's righteousness.)**
  - a. What did Jesus do with our sins? **(Bore them.)** Where did He bear them? **(In His own body. Notice that Peter did not simply say "in His body" but "in His own body." This is no figure of speech.)**
  - b. What significance is there in Peter referring to it as a "tree" instead of "the cross"? Read Deuteronomy 21:22–23 and discuss what Peter might have had in mind here:
    - i. 21:22—What is this sin deserving of? **(Death. Sin leads to death. That is why a savior who died for us was necessary. Jesus did nothing deserving of death. We did. That is the point, He substituted Himself in our place as those who were guilty of death. He bore our guilt.)**
    - ii. 21:23—Why would the land have been defiled if the body was left hanging over night? What does this have to do with Jesus? **(Jesus's body was taken off of the cross because the Sabbath day was approaching. In doing that, it was fulfilled that Jesus's body would be immediately buried so that He could rise in three days to fulfill that specific prophecy.)**
    - iii. 21:23—What is said about the person hanged "on a tree"? How does this relate to Jesus? **(In saying that Jesus was bore our sins in His body "on the tree," Peter was showing that Jesus became a curse for us.)**
  - c. 1 Peter 2:24—Why did He bear our sins in His body, according to this verse? **(So that we ourselves could die to those sins. That is, so that we will no longer walk in the same way. But rather, that we might live for righteousness.)**
  - d. 1 Peter 2:24—How are we healed of sin? **(His stripes.)**
2. Why was death necessary to pay for sins? Read and discuss:
  - a. Genesis 2:17
  - b. Ezekiel 18:4
  - c. Romans 6:23
3. Hebrews 9:18–22—What does the Old Testament teach us about how sin is paid for? **(It is paid with blood.)**
4. Leviticus 17:11—What is God's system of paying for sins? **(Atonement comes through the blood. Atonement means more than just sweeping things under the rug. Atonement is a satisfaction for that sin.)**
5. Isaiah 53:6—What does this teach us about this concept of substitutionary atonement? **(Our iniquity was actually laid on Him.)**

6. 2 Corinthians 5:21—What is said about Christ and His life regarding sin? **(He was sinless.)** What did Christ become for us on the cross? **(Sin. Think of what this is saying!)** Why did Christ become sin for us? **(That we might become God's righteousness in Him. Those are the key words. In Him. Substitutionary atonement means we are found in Him.)**
7. Galatians 3:13—What did Christ become for us? **(A curse.)** Why? **(To redeem us. That is, to buy us away from the curse of the law.)**
8. Romans 3:25—“Propitiation” means that God's wrath has been satisfied. It was a full atonement for sin. Where does this propitiation come from? **(Christ's blood. And receive that blood through faith.)**
9. Colossians 2:13–14—What did Christ do with all the debt we owed? **(Nailed it to the cross.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Hebrews 10:14—Do we need to add to Christ's payment?
2. Ephesians 1:7—Where is our redemption and forgiveness found? By how good we are? **(No. In Him. This must be stressed. Our righteousness is Christ alone!)**

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.3 & 9.4—Receiving the Gospel by Grace Through Faith

#### Memorize

Q9.3—How do we receive this forgiveness of sins?

A9.3— “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9

Q9.4—Do we have to work to become saved, stay saved, or add to our salvation?

A9.4— “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8–9

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does it mean to be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 10:8–13
  - a. 10:8–9—What is the word of faith that the apostles preached? (**Confessing Jesus and believe in Him.**)
  - b. 10:9—What does Paul specifically say is confessed here that bring salvation? (**The Lord Jesus. This is salvation. Confessing the true Christ as your salvation.**)
  - c. 10:9—What does Paul say is believed in the heart? (**That God raised Christ from the dead. Of course, this implies His death which preceded that resurrection.**)
  - d. 10:9—What are ways people think they can be saved that are not mentioned here? (**Works of “righteousness”/ “good deeds,” abstaining from certain behaviors, confessing sins to a priest, animal sacrifice, etc.**)
  - e. 10:10—What do we get when our heart believes? (**Righteousness. This is what we talked about last week: the righteousness of Christ Himself. Christ bore our sins so that we can receive the righteousness of God.**)
  - f. 10:10—What happens with a genuine confession of faith? (**Salvation. This shows that no outward religious ceremony is necessary for salvation. It is a matter of faith. Still, baptism is a public declaration of this confession and was commanded by the Lord.**)
  - g. 10:11—What will *not* happen to anyone who believes on Christ? (**They will not be put to shame.**)
  - h. 10:12—Does God require anything special about us apart from faith in Christ? (**No. Christ is our only salvation.**)
  - i. 10:13—What happens to all who call on the name of the Lord? (**They will be saved. John Newton, who wrote *Amazing Grace* was working as a slave trader when his ship was caught in a horrible storm. He was as sinful as could be. Suddenly in the midst of this storm he remembered his mother teaching him this verse. He cried out the name of Jesus and the storm stopped. He gave his life to Christ. Even a “wretch” like him could be saved simply by calling on the name of the Lord.**)
2. Ephesians 2:8–9
  - a. How are we saved here? (**By grace through faith.**)
  - b. Is this grace through faith of ourselves? (**No. Notice that. Even the faith is not of us.**)
  - c. Where does this grace through faith come from? (**The faith itself is a gift from God.**)
  - d. What is this grace through faith *not* of? (**Works.**) Why? (**So that we will not boast.**)
3. Acts 16:31—What was the biblical message when people were repentant over their sin and wanted to be saved?
4. John 3:16—Who does not perish? (**Whoever believes in Him.**)

5. John 1:12—Who is given the right to become children of God? **(As many as receive Him.)**
6. Galatians 2:16—How is a man *not* justified? **(Works of the law.)** How *is* a man justified? **(By faith in Jesus Christ.)** Will anyone at all be justified by works? **(No. “No flesh.”)**
7. Titus 3:5—How are we not saved? **(Works of righteousness.)** How are we saved? **(According to His mercy.)**
8. Romans 11:6—Since we’re saved by grace, what has no place in earning salvation? **(Works.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. John 5:24—Do you ever fear you might not be saved? Why? Does it have to do with faith in Christ or your own behaviors?

## Section 9: Salvation | *Soteriology*

### Lesson 9.5—Living Faith

#### Memorize

Q9.5—Are we allowed to sin all we want since we are saved by grace?

A9.5— “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” – Romans 6:1–2

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Does grace mean a person can live however they want and still be saved?
2. Why should true salvation lead to works?
3. How would you respond to someone saying, “Yes, I agree this behavior is a sin before God according to the Bible, but I’m saved by grace and this is what feels right to me, so I know God will forgive me”?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Romans 6:1–4
  - a. 6:1–2—What is Paul’s answer to whether a person can claim to be saved and yet gladly continue in sin? **(Certainly not!)**
  - b. 6:2—What is Paul’s reasoning for why a person cannot use “grace” as an excuse to keep sinning? **(For someone to be saved means that they have died to sin. So to say, “a person can be saved, and refuse to repent of sin” is essentially the same as saying, “a person can be dead to sin, and refuse to repent of sin.” It makes no sense at all. Why would someone who is dead to sin never change?)**
  - c. 6:3–4—How do we know salvation is a death to sin? **(Because salvation means being hidden in Christ. We were crucified with Christ and made new. It makes no sense to say we have died to sin, risen with Christ, but are content to live our old life.)**
2. Titus 2:11–12—What does real grace teach us? **(Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. This is why it is directly contrary to the gospel for people to argue that grace means we can keep on sinning. Real grace is not just a pardoning grace, but a transforming grace. If we are truly forgiven by grace, then that same grace *will* work on our hearts to change us everyday.)**
3. Galatians 5:13—What were we called to? **(Liberty. We are not saved by keeping the law.)** What should we not use our liberty as an excuse for? **(To live for the flesh. Our liberty is that we were freed from the curse of the law. Freed from sin and death. Freed not to sin, but to live for Christ!)**
4. Jude 1:4—How does Jude describe those who teach that grace means Christians can keep sinning? **(They are “ungodly” and marked out for condemnation. These are the strongest of terms.)**
5. Romans 8:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:17—Why would it make no sense to have no grief for sin?
6. 1 John 2:3–4—This is not John saying that a person who struggles with sin is not saved. This is him pointing out that keeping His commandments is a good mark for us to be reassured of our salvation. Why is it a good thing that habitual sin might make us question our salvation? **(Christians *should* be troubled about their sin. If they remain entrenched in sin, they should not condemn themselves, but they *should* recognize that a fellowship with God has been broken. That sin is opposed to God. That this sin *must* be repented of because it is not fitting of the new life in Christ. Ultimately, yes, we are saved by grace through faith and Christ is enough, so we should not condemn ourselves just because of struggling with sin. But praise God when we feel grieved over our sin and want to make things right.)**
7. Romans 6:18—Why should Christians not be slaves to sin? **(Because we are supposed to be slaves of righteousness.)**

8. Matthew 7:21–23—What warning does this give us?
9. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10—How is this message changed in the church today, in the name of “grace”? **(There are countless churches that even celebrate many of these behaviors as “good.” That even sanction such activities as “God-ordained.” May God deliver us from such wicked times. How much plainer could he be? “Do. Not. Be. Deceived.” What a message for our times.)**
10. Hebrews 12:14—We will not see the Lord without what? **(Holiness. Oh, how many people, in the name of “grace,” cheap grace, are afraid to say exactly what the Hebrews author said. We are indeed saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and we are not ashamed to say it. But we are also not ashamed to see this just as plainly: Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord!)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. 2 Corinthians 7:1—What is our calling? **(To cleanse ourselves from anything filthy. To perfect holiness. We already are sanctified in Christ, positionally. But we must practice holiness as well. A Christian who has no desire to grow, no repentance over sin, no hunger or thirst for righteousness, no passion for God, no biblical thinking, no prayer life... what a shameful testimony to the world of the faith that says that God Himself lives in such a person. May God forbid that any of us would be so lazy!)**



**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
Lesson 9.6–9.7—Justification by Faith

**Memorize**

Q9.6—What is justification?

A9.6— “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21

Q9.7—How are we justified?

A9.7— “Having been justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith.” – Romans 3:24–25

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What does it mean to be justified? **(To be declared righteous.)**

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Justification is the doctrine that we are declared legally righteous before God. Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us (put into our account) by faith. Let’s read about this doctrine.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:20–21
  - a. 5:20—What does the gospel do for us? **(Reconciles us to God. This implies we were at one point *not* reconciled to God. We were enemies of God.)**
  - b. 5:21—What did Christ become for us at the cross? **(Sin.)**
  - c. 5:22—What do we become in this verse? **(The righteousness of God *in Him*. This is what makes justification effective: Being *in Christ*. We receive His righteousness.)**
3. Romans 3:21–26
  - a. 3:21—How is being justified by Christ different than being justified by the law? **(Christ’s righteousness has nothing to do with our own ability to “righteously” follow the law. It is a righteousness *apart from the law*. It is a righteousness testified in the Old Testament.)**
  - b. 3:22—What righteousness do we receive when we are justified by faith? **(The righteousness of God. This is why our salvation is secure.)**
  - c. 3:22—What is this justification through? **(Faith in Christ. Notice it is not faith + works.)**
  - d. 3:23—Why is it necessary that our righteousness come through God and not ourselves? **(Because we have all sinned. Sin makes us fall short of the glory of God.)**
  - e. 3:24—How are we justified in this verse? **(Freely by His grace.)**
  - f. 3:24—What makes this grace effective? **(The redemption [full payment] that is in Christ.)**
  - g. 3:25–26—What about all the people that died before Jesus died? How were their sins covered? **(God passed over them in his forbearance knowing that Christ would pay for those sins. All sins have only been paid for through Christ.)**
4. Romans 2:5—Who does God justify? **(The ungodly. That is, God requires no godliness of our own before justifying us.)** What happens because of faith here? **(It is accounted for righteousness. That is, it is imputed to us/put into our account. Picture money being deposited into a bank account. Christ’s righteousness is put into our account.)**
5. Galatians 2:16—How is a man *not* justified? **(Works of the law.)** How is a man justified? **(Faith in Christ.)**
6. James 2:10—Why can we not earn our own righteousness?
7. 1 John 2:2—Why can we not add to our justification? **(We’ve already been fully declared righteous. Christ is the full propitiation for our sins. He alone satisfied God’s wrath. What would we need to add to such a thing?)**
8. Romans 5:1—What does justification give us? **(Peace with God.)**

9. Philippians 3:9—How does justification change where our righteousness is? (**We do not rely on our own righteousness. We recognized that in Christ we have His righteousness.**)
10. Romans 8:1—What condemnation do Christians have? Why? (**No condemnation. That is what justification means for us.**)
11. 1 Peter 3:18—What do you see?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Ephesians 1:7—How should this change us?

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.8—Sanctification

#### Memorize

Q9.8—What is sanctification?

A9.8— “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” – 2 Corinthians 7:1

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does it mean to be sanctified?
2. How is sanctification different from justification?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Sanctification means being made holy. This includes being declare holy in Christ and also becoming holy in practice. We will look at both those concepts in the coming weeks. This week we will talk about holiness and being set apart by God in general.
2. 2 Corinthians 7:1
  - a. What are we told we “have” in this verse? (**“Promises.” The gospel promises. Who we are in Christ, what God has done for us in Christ.**)
  - b. What should we do since we have God’s promises? (**Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness.**)
  - c. In what two ways are we told to cleanse ourselves of all filthiness? (**of the flesh and of the spirit. That is, how we live in the body. Not defiling it with anything wicked. But also in the inner person. This is total transformation.**)
  - d. What does this verse refer to our cleansing ourselves as? (**Perfecting holiness. This should be our goal. Each day we as Christians, should face our sin just as David faced Goliath and be determined that by God’s power, not ours, we can cut its head off!**)
  - e. How are we called to perfect holiness? (**In fear of God. Knowing that God is holy.**)
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8
  - a. 4:3—What is God’s will for all of our lives? (**People wonder so much about what God’s will is for them. They do not need to wonder. Here God’s Word plainly tells them that it is that they become holy!**)
  - b. 4:3–5—What does holiness look like in this passage? (**Abstaining from sinful behavior such as sexual immorality, or really anything that our lusts might lead us to.**)
  - c. 4:6—Why is this warning so serious? (**God is an avenger of all such sinful behavior. He disciplines those He loves and He punishes the wicked.**)
  - d. 4:7—Why should we be holy and pursue sanctification? (**God called us to it, not uncleanness.**) What does it tell us about what holiness is that it is contrasted with “uncleanness”?
  - e. 4:8—What does Paul say about people who do not take holy living as a necessity in the Christian life? (**They are rejecting God.**)
4. Hebrews 12:14—Why is holiness/sanctification so important?
5. 2 Corinthians 3:18—What does this have to do with sanctification? (**We should be constantly being transformed to look more like Christ.**)
6. 2 Thessalonians 2:13—Who is responsible for our sanctification? (**The Holy Spirit.**)
7. Ephesians 5:26—What is our path to becoming more holy? (**Being washed by the Word.**)
8. Romans 6:19—What does this tell us about our old way of living before Christ? What about our new way of living in Christ?
9. 1 Peter 1:13–19
  - a. 1:13—What does Peter calls us to? (**To be well prepared. To be ready to fight a battle. To prepare ourselves to rest in Christ and be ready for His return.**)

- b. 1:14—What are we called to be? (**Obedient children.**) What are we not to conform ourselves to? (**Our former lusts. That's what we followed when we were in our ignorance, not aware of the truth of God.**)
- c. 1:15–16—Why should we pursue holiness?
- d. 1:17—How are we supposed to conduct ourselves since we call on the Father? (**In fear.**) Why? (**Because we will give account to Him as judge.**)
- e. 1:18–19—Why should this motivate us to be holy? (**If we were redeemed by something so precious, how horrible would it be to despise that precious blood with sin?**)

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Sometimes people think that because we are under grace, we do not need to be concerned about holiness the way the Old Testament people needed to. This is precisely the opposite of what the Bible says. Read and discuss Hebrews 10:28–29 and see how grace should be an even greater motivator toward holy living.

**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
**Lesson 9.9—Positional Sanctification**

**Memorize**

Q9.9—Are we already sanctified?

A9.9— “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” – 1 Corinthians 6:11

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. What does it mean that already are sanctified? (**Positional sanctification is that we are holy in Christ.**)

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
  - a. 6:9–10—What warning does Paul give here? (**Real grace will deliver us from such behavior. If we willingly remain in such sin, we will *not* inherit the kingdom of God.**)
  - b. 6:11—What does the phrase “such were some of you” imply about these people and the behaviors previously mentioned? (**It shows that the people were once content to live in fornication, homosexuality, living as thieves, etc. But when the gospel came, they changed.**)
  - c. 6:11—What three things does Paul say we have already received in Christ? (**washed, sanctified, justified.**) What do these three teach us about who we are in Christ? (**We are totally clean, holy, and righteous in Him. He is all these things for us.**)
2. Hebrews 10:10—How were we sanctified? (**Through Christ’s death.**) How sure is this sanctification? (**Once for all. It will not need to be added to. This holiness of Christ is ours. There is no undoing that.**)
3. Hebrews 2:11—Who is “He who sanctifies”? (**Jesus. Not us.**) Who are those who are “being sanctified”? (**Us as Christians.**) What are we said to be in relation to Him? (**Of one. That is, He has shared in our nature! He has become human and lived a perfectly sanctified life for us!**)
4. Acts 20:32—What are all who call on Jesus referred to as here? (**Those who are being sanctified.**)
5. 1 Corinthians 1:29–31
  - a. 1:29—What is no flesh able to do? (**Glory in His presence. That is, claim anything of themselves as to why they are saved.**)
  - b. 1:30—What is our position? (**in Christ.**) Where did this position come from? (**God. Not our own faith. Our faith itself comes from God.**) What did Christ become for us? (**Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.**) What does it mean that Jesus is all these things for us? (**Is it not clear yet? ALL is Christ. Christ is ALL IN ALL. This must be something we constantly meditate on.**)
  - c. 1:31—What are we called to glory in? Why? (**The Lord. Why? Because any wisdom, holiness, righteousness, etc. that we have is only because of Christ.**)
6. Ephesians 1:4—What did He choose us for?
7. 2 Thessalonians 2:13—God chose us for salvation through what? (**Sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.**)
8. Jude 1:1—What does Jude refer to Christians as?

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. This is a significant doctrine. It concerns recognizing who you are in Christ. The Roman Catholic church canonizes particular Christians as “saints.” While it is certainly a blessed thing to recognize martyrs and remember significant Christians of the faith, we must recognize that *all* Christians are

equally sanctified positionally in Christ. Read and discuss the following verses that show that if you are saved, *you* are a saint:

- a. Romans 1:7—What are all the Christians in Rome called to be? (**Saints. Why? Because they are loved by God.**)
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:2—Where is our sanctification? (**in Christ Jesus.**) Because of that, what are we all called to be? (**Saints.**) Who else is called to be saints? (**Every person in every place that calls on the name of Christ.**)
- c. Ephesians 1:1—Who are saints? (**All who are in Christ Jesus.**)
- d. Ephesians 2:19—What happens when we are saved? (**We become members of the household of God and have fellowship with all the other saints.**)

**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
Lesson 9.10—Progressive Sanctification

**Memorize**

Q9.10— Are we being sanctified?

A9.10— “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” – 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. If we are already sanctified, why do we still struggle with sin?

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - a. How are we transformed in our day-to-day living? (**By beholding the glory of the Lord.**)
  - b. Is this something that God promises will happen immediately? (**No. From one degree of glory to another. But it is certain because it is by the Spirit of the Lord.**)
2. John 17:17—How are we sanctified?
3. Romans 12:1–2
  - a. Paul challenges us to change based on what? (**God’s mercies. That is, in view of the entire gospel of God that he unpacked for eleven chapters.**)
  - b. What is our calling? (**Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God. This is an active day-to-day living.**)
  - c. What are we called to not be conformed to? (**The world.**) What does this mean? (**To be on guard against the lies of the world.**)
  - d. What are we called to be transformed by? (**The renewing of our mind.**)
4. John 15:1–3
  - a. 15:1–2—What happens to the branches that abide in the vine? What about those who do not? Why? (**Branches that are truly connected to Christ will produce fruit. It’s not that some are cut off because they failed to produce fruit. It’s that they did not produce fruit because they were never connected to the vine. For that reason, they are cast off. Sanctification will come for those who are saved.**)
  - b. 15:3—Do we see positional sanctification or progressive sanctification here? (**Positional. We must always remember in warning passages like this that our position is that if we are in Christ we are already clean simply because of His Word. Our practical sanctification is a guarantee that comes from being positionally sanctified.**)
5. Romans 8:13—What are we called to do? (**Put to death our old fleshly deeds.**) How? (**By the Spirit. Of course we cannot put to death the deeds of the flesh by our flesh itself.**)
6. 2 Corinthians 4:16–17—What should be happening as we grow older?
7. Philippians 1:6—What is the promise here? (**God will finish what He began in every believer.**)
8. Philippians 2:12–13—What is our role? How can we be sure we can do this? (**God is the one who is ultimately working it in us.**)
9. 1 Thessalonians 4:3—What is God’s will for our lives?
10. Hebrews 10:14—Last week we learned that Christians already are sanctified in Christ. What does this verse say? (**Even though Christ has already perfected us positionally, we are still being sanctified practically.**)
11. Hebrews 12:1–2—How do we pursue sanctification? (**Casting off anything that might entangle us. Looking to Jesus. Death to self.**)

**Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Read and discuss how God sanctifies us:

- a. James 1:2–4:
  - i. 1:2—What are we to consider trials as? **(All joy.)**
  - ii. 1:3—Why should we consider trials joy? **(They are testing our faith. This testing grows us to have patience.)**
- 2. Romans 5:3–5—What is the pattern? **(Tribulation → perseverance → character → hope. We cannot have hope unless we have proven character. We will not develop proven character unless we persevere through difficult challenges to our faith. We cannot persevere through challenges unless those tribulations come.)**
- 3. Hebrews 12:7–11
  - a. 12:7—What does this tell us about being children of God? **(He chastens His children. That is, He disciplines us in the way we read from James and Romans already.)**
  - b. 12:8—If our life is always good and our faith is never challenge, what concern is there?
  - c. 12:9–11—How does discipline feel when we are going through it? **(Not pleasant!)** What is the result of discipline? **(Peaceable fruit of righteousness... but only to those who have been trained by it. We must view God's discipline as a training.)**



## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.11—Alienated Enemies

#### Memorize

Q9.11— Were we God’s children before we were saved?

A9.11— “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.” – Colossians 1:21

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Are all people “children of God”? **(There is a sense in which unbelievers are called God’s “offspring” by Paul in Acts. We all have God as our source in that He is our creator. But only Christians are referred to as God’s adopted children. Our entire lesson is aimed to show that man, apart from Christ, are not beloved children of God but alienated enemies.)**
2. If the gospel means being reconciled to God, then what was wrong before we were reconciled?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Colossians 1:21–22
  - a. 1:21—How does Paul describe our relationship toward God before we were saved? **(Alienated and enemies.)**
  - b. 1:21—What does the word “alienated” show us regarding our relationship toward God before being saved? **(The word has its root words in another Greek word meaning “other” or “different.” The word “alienated” itself is even stronger. It means to be a complete stranger, a foreigner. We have no rights toward God. It is like any [normal] government would be toward a foreigner on their land trying to claim all the rights of a citizen. They have no citizenship and therefore do not get any citizen-based rights. That was our relationship with God. One Greek definition says, “to be a foreigner...excluded... alienated... estranged.”)**
  - c. 1:21—What does the word “enemies” teach us about our relationship toward God apart from Christ? **(This Greek word implies an opposition to. “Hostility... irrespective of the underlying disposition or of its manifestation or otherwise in visible form.” This is an important definition. It is saying that the person has made themselves an enemy of God whether they would believe they have or not. This means for even the kind old lady who says she believes in God, but does not believe Jesus is His Son, she is at war with God as His enemy. She might be upset at such a thought, but that is precisely what Paul said. She might claim to love God, but this is a God of her imagination and not the God of Scripture. Show such people the holy God of Scripture, one who demands all glory, one who is completely sovereign over all things, one who claims to be their only righteousness because of how depraved they are, and you will see the enmity.)**
  - d. 1:21—Where were we enemies? **(In our mind.)** How? **(By wicked works.)**
  - e. 1:21–22—What is the hope? **(Believe in Christ! Be reconciled.)**
2. Ephesians 2:12—Christ is the way, truth, and life. What are unbelievers said to be here? **(Without Christ.)** What would that mean they are without? **(The way, truth, or life.)**
3. Isaiah 59:2—When people “mean well” are they right with God? **(No. Iniquities separate us from God.)**
4. John 8:44—What did Jesus say about the religious leaders who were dead in their sins? Is this only true of them? Is Jesus exaggerating? **(This is true about them not because they were particularly bad, but because they remained dead in their sins. This is true about all who are in unbelief. They do, even without knowing it, the will of the devil.)**
5. John 1:11–12—What is the distinction here between those who do receive Him and those who do not receive Him? **(Only those who receive Him have the right to be children of God. After**

preaching the gospel at a funeral for a dear saint, one comment came back from a woman weeping over the thought that anyone could be said to be an enemy of God, that we are all God's children and everyone goes to a better place. This simply is not what the Bible says. People must be warned. John 1:12 said it plainly, only those who receive Him and believe in His name have the right to become children of God.)

6. Galatians 3:26—How are people children of God? **(Through faith in Christ. No faith in Christ? Not children of God.)**
7. Romans 8:6–9
  - a. 8:6–8—Can unsaved people please God? **(No. Their righteousnesses are like filthy rags because they are doing it for their glory or the glory of man and not to please God.)**
  - b. 8:9—Who are “His”? Who are not “His”? **(Only those who have the Spirit of Christ in them. Unbelievers do NOT have the Holy Spirit living in them.)**
8. 1 John 3:10—What are our two options?
9. Ephesians 5:6—What are unbelievers referred to as here? **(Sons of disobedience.)**
10. Ephesians 2:1—What was our status before being saved? **(Dead. Not well-meaning, not kind of messed up, not prone to error. Spiritually DEAD. Let that sink in.)**
11. Romans 3:10–12—Is anyone righteous? Does anyone seek God? What if God presents Himself to people instead of just asking them to seek Him? **(They would turn aside if left to themselves apart from the grace of God.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. 1 John 3:1—What should this study do for us? **(Marvel at what love God has had on us. To change us from dead and enemies to alive and children.)**
2. Ephesians 1:4–5—Consider, if everyone in their own nature is an enemy of God, deceived, not seeking God, turning from Him any time He presents Himself to them, and even spiritually dead, how can we be saved? **(By God's grace. Not by God giving us a chance, but by God plucking us out of the fire! By God saying to our dead enemy spirits, “Arise!” By the wind blowing where it wishes. By God predestining us to adoption by Christ to Himself even before the foundation of the world apart from anything we did or would do. Why? According to the good pleasure of *His* will, not ours. Our God's sovereignty is bigger than people know.)**

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.12—Made Alive

#### Memorize

Q9.12—How does God save spiritually dead enemies?

A9.12— “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” – Ephesians 2:1

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What does it mean to be spiritually dead? Can someone who is spiritually dead save themselves?
2. Why does Scripture illustrate salvation as being made alive from the dead?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Ephesians 2:1–9
  - a. 2:1—What was our status before being saved? **(Dead in trespasses and sins.)** How do the words “trespasses and sins” help us understand what it means to be spiritually dead?
  - b. 2:2—We walked in trespasses and sins according to what? **(The course of this world)** And according to who? **(The prince of the power of the air.)** What does this mean? **(Without Christ, we were spiritually dead. That means we gladly followed along with whatever this world set us up to live like. To follow our own desires, led astray by the world “which lies under the sway of the wicked one,” as 1 John says. This is further explained in the next verse.)**
  - c. 2:3—How were we conducting ourselves before Christ? **(The lusts of our flesh. That is, whatever we wanted.)** What things were we fulfilling? **(The desires of the flesh and of the mind. Again, we were following whatever felt good to us.)** What are we described as being? **(Children of wrath.)**
  - d. 2:4—How is God described here? **(He is rich in mercy.)** What does that tell us about God?
  - e. 2:4—Why did God save us? **(Great love.)**
  - f. 2:5—What does it tell us about who is ultimately responsible for our salvation if we were saved when we were dead and had to be made alive? **(Here we see that salvation means dead people were made alive. Just as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead simply by His powerful word, so He can do that for our dead spirits simply by a word.)**
  - g. 2:6—What is the picture of salvation in this verse? **(We are resurrected. We are hidden in Christ in the heavenly places. Our new identity is in Christ.)**
  - h. 2:7—What is the promise here? **(Christ will show us the exceeding riches of his grace.)**
  - i. 2:8—How were we saved? **(By grace through faith. Emphasis being that faith was not produced by spiritually dead people, but by being made alive.)** How are we not saved? **(Of ourselves.)**
  - j. 2:9—Why is our salvation not of works? **(So that we cannot boast about it.)**
2. Colossians 2:13—What do you see?
3. Genesis 2:17—In what sense did man truly die? **(Spiritually. Not only were we going to die physically, but we were born spiritually dead.)**
4. Romans 3:10–11—How does our spiritual death help us understand this passage? **(None is righteous because all are born spiritually dead. We do not become sinners because we sin. We sin because we were born sinners.)**
5. John 6:44—Why can no one come to Jesus unless the Father draws them? **(Because they are spiritually dead.)**
6. Romans 9:16—What is salvation not of? **(Our will! Or our striving.)** What is it of? **(God’s mercy.)**
7. Jeremiah 13:23—How does this show us that salvation is more than just an exercise of the will?
8. Ezekiel 36:25–27—How is this a picture of what happens at salvation? **(Dead hearts are made alive, not by their own will, but by God who had mercy. What can a stone heart do to trust in God unless it is first made alive?)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Romans 6:4—Since we were made alive, what should our goal be? **(To walk in newness of life. Why continue to live like a dead person?)**

**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
Lesson 9.13—Assurance of Salvation

**Memorize**

Q9.13—Can a person who has been born again become dead in their sins again?

A9.13— “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” – 1 Peter 1:23

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Can someone who is truly saved end up losing their salvation? How would this work? **(This is a major doctrine that relates to everything we believe about being born again, justified, sealed by the Holy Spirit. To say a person can lose their genuine salvation is to say that a person can be brought from a dead enemy to an alive adopted child only to at some point become dead and unadopted. It is a disgrace to God’s mercy and promises.)**
2. If Christians cannot lose their salvation, why are there so many who profess the faith who end up renouncing it later? **(Same as 1 John says, “they went out from us because they were not of us. If they had been of us they would have continued with us.” Paul talked in Acts 20 about how their were wolves among even those who he himself had trained to be pastors and was charging to do ministry well. Even he could not tell until a certain point. In the end, it isn’t that these people went from dead to alive and then dead again, but that their profession was false. Even if they deceived themselves. Some say we can lose our salvation by our own will because we can gain it by our own will. This is an oversimplified view of salvation that does not consider the calling of God, election, new birth, being declared righteous, the sealing of the guaranteed Holy Spirit, etc. This is not a doctrine we should agree to disagree on as teachers in our youth ministry.)**

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. 1 Peter 1:23
  - a. What is our salvation described as here? **(Being born again. That is, made from dead to alive. This is God’s doing. Not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God! To claim salvation comes “of the will of man” so we can lose salvation “by the will of man” is a mistake. New birth is *not of man!*)**
  - b. Is our salvation corruptible or incorruptible? **(incorruptible.)**
  - c. Why is our salvation so secure? **(It is founded in God’s Word that abides forever. Our assurance of faith has nothing to do with our own will power. If it did, we would all fall away. It relies on God’s Word keeping us as He promised.)**
2. John 10:26–29
  - a. 10:26—How is this different from if He said, “Because you do not believe, you are not My sheep”? **(That would be exactly what man-centered salvation doctrine emphasizes. But that is not what He says. He says the exact opposite. The reason that these people do not believe is because they are not of His sheep. They are not His elect, therefore, left to themselves, they will not believe.)**
  - b. 10:27—What *will* Jesus’s sheep do in response to Jesus? **(Follow Him.)**
  - c. 10:28—Where do these sheep get eternal life? **(From Him, not from themselves. He gives it.)** What is the promise of Christ about all those who are His sheep? **(They will never perish. No one will snatch them out of His hand.)**
  - d. 10:29—How did these sheep come to Christ? **(They were given to Him by the Father. Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.)** What is the promise about salvation here? **(No one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand.)**

- e. Some people teach that while no one can grab a Christian out of Christ's or the Father's hands, Christians can jump out by their own will. What would that do to all the assurance Jesus seems to be trying to give here? **(Make it totally pointless. What comfort would it give us? If we could jump out any time we have a weak moment of will, isn't that exactly what we would be most fearful of regarding falling away?)**
- 3. Romans 8:38–39—Can anything separate saved Christians from God?
- 4. Philippians 1:6—If a genuine Christian can lose their salvation, what would that do to this promise? **(Make it totally meaningless. "God will finish the work He began in you... except that He didn't begin it, you did... and also, you can stop Him from finishing what He began in you. Rejoice, Christian!")**
- 5. Jude 1:24—Why is our salvation sure? **(God is the one who keeps us from stumbling.)**
- 6. John 6:37–40
  - a. 6:37—Who will come to the Christ? **(All that the Father gives to Him.)** Of all those who come to the Son, what is the promise? **(He will never cast them out. Again, what comfort would this be to us, what sense would it make if we could "jump out"? What sense would it make that the Father would graciously gift specific people to the Son, only for them to run away from Him? To hold to such a view is a small, man-centered view of salvation.)**
  - b. 6:38–39—What is the Father's will? **(That of every single one of those He gave to Christ, Christ would lose not one! What could be plainer?)**
  - c. 6:40—If someone genuinely believes on the Son and has everlasting life, what *will* happen? **(They will be raised up on the last day. That is, the resurrection of the righteous. Straightforward promises like this is why I say we should have no compromises on this doctrine within our church.)**
- 7. Ephesians 1:13–14—What happens to a Christian at salvation? **(They are sealed by the Holy Spirit Himself.)** What is the Holy Spirit called here? **(the guarantee of our inheritance.)** What do these words tell us about whether a genuine Christian can lose their salvation? **(They can't! They were sealed by God Himself living in them! They went from dead enemies to alive children. This identity was sealed by the Holy Spirit who is our guarantee. The promise that God's plans will not fail.)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. 2 Corinthians 13:5—There are certainly passages that warn us about apostasy or examining ourselves, but these do nothing to undermine the countless promises from Jesus Himself that if we are His we will always remain His. These serve as warning passage that we should take seriously holy living and being careful to live a life worthy of the calling we have received.

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.14—Election

#### Memorize

Q9.14—What is election?

A9.14— “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.” – Ephesians 1:4–5

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Can someone who is truly saved end up losing their salvation? How would this work?
2. If Christians cannot lose their salvation, why are there so many who profess the faith who end up renouncing it later?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Election is a doctrine that can easily be misunderstood. To understand this, here's GCC's statement on election in our doctrinal guidelines: *We believe that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously saves and sanctifies.* | What does this statement mean? (**Election is God choosing, based on His gracious will, whom He will save.**)
2. Before we look at Scriptures on this doctrine, what are your thoughts? (**One key thing to point out: Election is difficult for people to believe because it emphasizes that God is the one who deserves *all* the glory. It shows that grace really is grace. Furthermore, it is common to think that this means we believe men and women have no free-will. God's Word clearly teaches that we have free will, but it also clearly mentions words like “predestination” and “election.” To make those words mean something other than their plainest meaning is to dance around the terms because we cannot wrap our minds around how that works**)
3. Romans 3:10–18—Who seeks God? If God did not step in and save people, how many would believe? (**Zero. No one seeks for God**) Is it possible that election just means that God looked into the future and saw what choice you would make? What choice would anyone make according to these verses?
4. Romans 8:28–30—Who is called by God? (**Those whom He predestined.**) Who is justified (saved by God)? (**Those who were predestined and called.**) What does it mean to be “predestined”? (**Literally: “Destined beforehand” That is, the destiny has been pre-decided. Like it or not, able to explain how that corresponds with free will or not, this is what the word plainly means**)
5. Ephesians 1:4–6
  - a. 1:4—Did we choose God or did He choose us? (**He chose us**) When did He choose us? (**Before the foundation of the world**) What purpose did He choose us for? (**To be holy and blameless before Him. Some emphasize the words “in Christ” as the words to pay attention to. This is a means of escaping the concept of unconditional election, but such a thing does nothing to change that all these actions were done before the creation of the world and still do not apply to any except those who are “in Christ” as opposed to all people.**)
  - b. 1:5—What illustration is used as to what God is doing in election? (**Adoption as children**)
  - c. 1:5—What does the text tell us about why God chose us? Was it because He knew we would choose Him, or is it something else? (**It was “according to the purpose of His will.” In other words, because, in his wisdom, He wanted to do it. Our will or future decisions are not mentioned. Also, if God chose us because He saw what we would eventually choose, does that mean God saw something good in us that wasn't in those who never believe?**)
  - d. 1:6—What does election teach us about God? (**His grace. It's easy to think selfishly as humans and say it just proves God is cruel for only saving some. People who think this**)

**don't realize this truth: apart from God's grace, everyone would reject Him and go to hell. It is because of election that anyone is saved at all. It shows His goodness, not unfairness. Even if it were entirely based on free will, we would still have to wrestle with why God does not give every single human a "Paul" moment so that they have every possible chance to be saved. Whatever your view of election, "fairness" by that standard would still be an issue.)**

6. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-4—What do we learn about God and election from these verses? **(God chose them. They did not choose God. God called them so that they could obtain the glory of Christ.)**
7. 2 Timothy 2:10—Why does Paul say he preached the gospel, even in hardship? **(For the sake of the elect. Paul knew there were chosen people ready to be saved through the hearing of the gospel. This doctrine does not stop us from speaking the truth so people will be saved.)**
8. Acts 13:48—Who believed? **(As many as were appointed. Follow up question: Who did not believe? Why not? Not because they were not chosen, but because they were already dead in their sins. If it were not for God saving some, all would have rejected salvation.)**
9. Romans 9:11, 15-16—Did God choose because He knew they would choose Him? **(No. The whole point of it happening before they existed is to show it was not in themselves.)**
10. John 6:44, 65-67, 70—Who can come to Jesus? **(All who are drawn by the Father)** What else do we learn about election from these verses? **(Everyone left—except the twelve—because they were left to their own choice. Jesus makes a point to say: "Didn't I choose you, the twelve?" But remembering that Judas would betray Him, He says, "and yet, one of you is a devil" making it clear he was not part of the "chosen.")**
11. GCC's 2<sup>nd</sup> statement on election: *We believe that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord.* In other words: This doctrine does not mean mankind is not responsible for their own repentance and trust in Christ. People are still responsible for believing in or rejecting Christ.
  - a) Ezekiel 18:23, 32—What do you learn?
  - b) John 3:18-19—Let's say God did not choose anyone before the foundation of the world, and left it up to human will alone. According to these verses, how would everyone in the world respond? **(They would hate Him and reject Him. Remember, we come to Christ because the Father draws us to Him)**
  - c) John 3:36, 5:40—Does God force us to reject Him? **(No. That is our natural choice, which we are accountable for.)**
  - d) 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12—V. 10—Did God make them reject the truth? **(No. They refuse it and aren't saved.)** || v. 11—How does God respond to these people rejecting the truth? **(He hardens them. That is, He lets them believe what is false. He leaves them to their own free will. The result of human free will is delusion and evil)** || v. 12—Why do they reject the truth? **(They love unrighteousness.)**

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Acts 2:23—How is God sovereign? How is man responsible? Can you make sense of that? Just because you cannot make sense of that, does that mean both or just one of them are not true?
2. Philippians 2:12-13—What are we called to do? **(Work out our own salvation)** Why? **(Because God is working in us)**



## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.15—God’s Work and Human Responsibility

#### Memorize

Q9.15—Does God work out our salvation, or is it our responsibility?

A9.15— “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:12–13

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Jesus said that a tree will be known by the fruit that it bears. What fruit should we hope to see if we are truly believing in Christ?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Philippians 2:12–13
  - a. 2:12—What does obedience have to do with working out our salvation? **(This shows that salvation cannot be a situation where a person claims faith in Jesus but is completely indifferent to obeying Him.)**
  - b. 2:12—What is our responsibility here? **(“Work out” our salvation. The picture in Greek is to refine something or to work at something to ensure that the task is finished. So this is not saying to earn our salvation, but to labor over our salvation with obedience. To live in light of our salvation and ensure we are not being lazy in it.)**
  - c. 2:12—With what attitudes should we “work out” our salvation? **(Fear and trembling. This word for fear implies reverence. The word for trembling implies a sincere loyalty to the one being trembled at.)**
  - d. 2:12—What does the word “therefore” relate to and how does that help us interpret this verse? **(This fear and trembling and attempting to work at our salvation is in light of the fact that everyone will bow and confess to Jesus as Lord. Since that day is coming, we are encouraged to make every effort to reverently submit to Him now.)**
  - e. 2:13—Why should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling? **(Because it is God who works in us.)**
  - f. 2:13—What does God work in us? **(To will and to do. That is, even our wants are being worked by God!) Why? (For His good pleasure.)**
2. Ephesians 2:8–9—Is it possible that working out our own salvation can mean earning salvation? **(No. This passage directly forbids such a thought.)**
3. 1 Peter 1:5—Do Christians need to fear that they might fall away because of their own inability to work out their salvation? **(No. We are kept by the power of God.)**
4. 2 Peter 1:5—What are we encouraged to have with our faith? **(All diligence.)**
5. Colossians 3:2—How does this relate to working out our own salvation? **(We are to intentionally set our mind on the right things. We do not drift into godliness.)**
6. Hebrews 12:1–2
  - a. 12:1—What are we supposed to do with sin? **(Intentionally lay it aside.)**
  - b. 12:1—What is the Christian life described as? **(A race. This is not for the lazy who expect that because they said a prayer at an altar one day they can be completely indifferent from their on out and God owes them salvation.)**
  - c. 12:2—How do we run our race? **(Looking unto Jesus.)**
  - d. 12:2—What is Jesus for our faith? **(The author and finisher. He started it, He finishes it. Same as Philippians 2: we work out our salvation, but it is with the understanding that God is the one working in us to do that anyway.)**
  - e. 12:2—How did Jesus set an example for us?

7. Isaiah 66:2—What does it mean to tremble at God’s Word? **(An attitude of repentance and humility.)**
8. 2 Corinthians 7:1
  - a. What are we commanded to do? **(Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit.)**
  - b. Why are we to cleanse ourselves? **(In light of God’s promises.)**
  - c. What is the goal? **(To be perfected in holiness in fear of God. Too many churches seem to be lacking any sense of the fear of God, even in worship services. Much of the Christian life seems trivial. Talk of a pursuit of holiness seems to be severely lacking.)**
9. John 15:5—If a person claims to be a Christian, yet shows zero signs of God working in them at all, how would that relate to this verse?
10. Colossians 1:29—What is Paul’s role? **(Laboring)** What is God’s role? **(Working in Paul mightily.)**
11. Hebrews 2:1–3—Understanding how sure Scripture says Christians can be of their salvation, why give this warning? **(Because holding to assurance of salvation is not the strawman doctrine that people make it out to be. To believe in assurance of salvation is not to say a person should be uninterested in taking careful heed that they are not false professors of the faith. We should maintain a fear of God *in light of* that salvation. It is so great a salvation, why would we not take careful heed?)**
12. Hebrews 6:4–6—What is the warning here? **(Again, to take great heed to such a great salvation and ensure we do not think we can drift. A person who remains glad to take salvation for granted is on dangerous ground. Not that they could become unsaved, but that perhaps they might be mistaken that they are saved. This is one of the few passages used by people to ignore that the Spirit is a guarantee, that no one can take believers from Christ’s hand, that Jesus promised to lose not one, that *all* that the Father gave would come to Jesus and not be lost, etc. We should not be surprised to see this passage has nothing to do with a genuine believer losing their salvation. To be “enlightened” does not mean to be saved. It means to be made aware of. To taste of the heavenly gift does not mean to receive the gift, but to have experienced it. The word “taste” implies a temporary and limited experience. To be a partaker of the Holy Spirit is not the same as being sealed by the Holy Spirit and made alive by the Holy Spirit. It simply means to an association or participation in the benefits of the Spirit’s working. For instance, Judas was called “a devil” by Jesus, yet he partook in Christ’s ministry, even participating in miracles and preaching. Matthew 7:22–23 shows that there will be people who prophesied and cast out demons yet did not know Jesus. To “fall away,” this is the only place this Greek word is used. It implies to walk away from an association with. Notice that the Hebrews author does not say these people need to be renewed to faith. They never had saving faith. They had a repentance, but a non-lasting one. The worldly one of 2 Corinthians 7.)**

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. Philippians 1:6—Who began our salvation? Who will finish it?
2. 2 Timothy 1:12—What should your assurance of salvation rest upon? **(Him.)**

## Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology

### Lesson 9.16–9.17—Glorification

#### Memorize

Q9.16—What is glorification?

A9.16— “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” – 1 John 3:2

Q9.17—What will this glorification look like?

A9.17— “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.” – Philippians 3:20–21

#### Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. When Jesus returns, our bodies will resurrect and be made new. What will they be like?

#### Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 1 John 3:2
  - a. What is our identity “now”? **(Children of God?)** What does this mean? **(It means we have been adopted by God. We are His own.)**
  - b. What does John mean that “it” has not been revealed yet what we shall be? **(“It” refers to us as children of God. The world has not seen, even we have not seen, what we will truly are in full.)**
  - c. When will it be fully revealed that we are children of God? **(When He returns.)**
  - d. What does it mean to be revealed as a child of God? **(To be like Him.)**
  - e. Why will we be like Him? **(We will see Him as He is.)**
2. Philippians 3:20
  - a. 3:20—What do we have in heaven? **(Citizenship.)** What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? **(That is where we rightly belong. It is our real home.)**
  - b. 3:20—What are we waiting eagerly for? **(Jesus our Lord and Savior to return.)**
  - c. 3:21—What will Jesus do for us when He comes? **(Transform our bodies.)**
  - d. 3:21—What are our bodies currently described as? **(Lowly.)**
  - e. 3:21—What will our bodies be transformed to be like? **(Glorious like His glorious body.)**
  - f. 3:21—How will our bodies be changes? **(By His power and working.)**
3. 2 Corinthians 3:18—As we behold Christ’s glory through Scripture, what happens to us? **(We are being transformed into the image of Christ.)** How does this process take place? **(From glory to glory, by the Spirit. It is not an instant change.)**
4. Colossians 3:4—When Christ appears, who will appear with Him? And in what? **(Us. In glory.)**
5. 1 Corinthians 15:35–38—In what way is our current body like a seed? **(A seed dramatically changes into a completely different thing. In the same way, our earthly limited bodies are drastically different from what our resurrection bodies will be like. We have not even imagined what God has prepared.)**
6. 15:42–44—What are the exchanges we see here? **(From corrupt to incorrupt. From dishonor to glory... and so forth.)**
7. 1 Corinthians 15:51–54
  - a. 15:51—Not all of us will die, but what will we all experience? **(Change.)**
  - b. 15:52—How soon will this change happen when Christ returns? **(In the twinkling of an eye.)**
  - c. 15:52—What happens at Christ’s return in this passage? **(The dead are raised and those alive in Christ are changed as well. We are “glorified.”)**

- d. 15:53—What are the two exchanges mentioned here? (**Corrupt bodies to incorrupt bodies, mortal bodies to immortal bodies.**)
- e. 15:54—What is the end result? (**Death is finally fully defeated.**)
- 8. Romans 8:23—What are we waiting for eagerly? (**The full redemption of our bodies.**)
- 9. Colossians 1:27—What hope for glory do we have? (**Christ in us.**)
- 10. Revelation 21:4—What is the end result when we are fully glorified?

#### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

- 1. 1 John 3:2–3—What should be our response to this doctrine? (**Purify ourselves just as Christ is pure. Become more like Him now, knowing that one day we will be transformed to be like Him in a way we cannot imagine.**)

**Section 9: Salvation | Soteriology**  
**Lesson 9.18—Our Precious Salvation**

**Memorize**

Q9.18— How precious is our salvation?

A9.18— “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.” – Philippians 3:8–9

**Exploration (What Do We Think?)**

1. Why would some people take salvation for granted? **(Example: Growing up in the church and taking the precious promises as a given. Compare that to how people groups are totally transformed and thankful when the gospel finally comes to them.)**

**Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)**

1. Philippians 3:1–9
  - a. 3:1—What is Paul’s command? Why would someone rejoice in the Lord? **(Think about all the temporary things people show so much passion over: sports, movies, hobbies, etc. They are passionate about those things because they make them feel a sense of joy, even if it is just a worldly joy. Why would Christ not lead us to have joy? Think of what He has done for us.)**
  - b. 3:4–6—What were Paul’s accomplishments? **(Talk about how these things would have been things people in Paul’s context could have a sense of joy and boasting over.)**
  - c. 3:7—What has Paul done with anything that he thought was gain to him? **(Counted them loss.)** Why would they be loss? **(For Christ. Compared to Christ, all other things should be considered a loss.)**
  - d. 3:8—Why count all things loss? **(For the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.)**
  - e. 3:8—Why is the knowledge of Christ “excellent”? **(Think of all He has done. He has made dead people alive. He has loved enemies into children. He has sealed us with His Holy Spirit!)**
  - f. 3:8—What did Paul suffer for Christ and what did He count these things? **(Rubbish.)** What was Paul seeking to gain by renouncing the old things of the world? **(Christ. The cost is our loved temporary treasures, the gain is Christ.)**
  - g. 3:9—Where does Paul want to be found? **(in Christ. No more Paul, just Christ.)**
  - h. 3:10—What is Paul’s goal? **(To know Christ and the power of His resurrection.)**
  - i. 3:10—What does “fellowship” have to do with suffering? **(We are experiencing suffering just as Christ did.)**
  - j. 3:11—What was the ultimate goal Paul was looking to attain? **(The resurrection from the dead.)**
2. Matthew 13:44
  - a. What is the kingdom of heaven like?
  - b. What feeling did he experience when he found this treasure? **(Joy.)**
  - c. What was he willing to sell to get it and why? **(All he had. It was worth it.)**
3. Romans 8:18—How does salvation help us deal with sufferings that we experience now?
4. 1 Peter 1:18–19—How were we redeemed? How should that impact how we live and think of our faith?
5. Acts 20:28—How did Christ purchase the church? How should that impact the reverence we should have when the church is gathered?

### **Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)**

1. For those who grow up in church it is sometimes easy to take salvation for granted. But if we are truly thinking much on our salvation, it should lead to praise. Read and discuss:
  - a. Nehemiah 8:10
  - b. Psalm 16:11
  - c. Psalm 51:12
  - d. Psalm 73:25–26—Do you know this type of experience? Why or why not?
  - e. Psalm 103:2–4—How does remembering all that God has done for us lead us to have a worshipful spirit?
  - f. Isaiah 61:10
  - g. Habakkuk 3:17–18
  - h. Philippians 4:4
  - i. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18