

Lesson 3 and 4

The solution to sin

Bible verse: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the last lesson we talked about the problem of sin. This lesson we will talk about its solution.

What is the solution to the problem of sin? The solution is the forgiveness from God. There is nothing any of us can do to solve this terrible problem - all men are helpless. We cannot save ourselves. But God has provided the solution through the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers to all men. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Christ's death provides the merit by which we can receive God's forgiveness. Receiving God's forgiveness is many times called conversion or the new birth. It is being transformed from all the sins and the decay and ruination sin has brought to us into the life of Christ where spiritual life, health and healing is found for us. Here are four simple steps to follow to overcome the problem of sin and enter into Christ's salvation:

- 1) Change your mind - stop denying or excusing your sin and accept the responsibility for it. Stop denying the truth about Jesus Christ and accept that he is the only one who can save you.
- 2) Self-surrender - surrender yourself and your sin to God through Jesus Christ. Renounce your self-centered life and accept God's rule over your life.
- 3) Acceptance - accept the free gift of forgiveness and salvation found in Christ through faith (faith is the way you receive).
- 4) Obedience - begin to obey the will of God as it unfolds before you.

The solution to the sin problem is found by living the life of love found in Jesus Christ. As we love God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves, we become free from the problem of sin. Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of

of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law (or problems) of sin and death".

Here are several different definitions of conversion found in E. Stanley Jones' book How To Be A Transformed Person that help describe it better.

- 1) Conversion is the invasion of man's life by the Spirit of God who conforms him into the image of Christ.
- 2) Conversion is the adjustment of one's whole self to God.
- 3) Conversion is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- 4) Conversion is a personal faith in and surrender to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, resulting in a changed life and relationship.
- 5) In modern vernacular, God throws us the ball, we reach out and take the ball and begin running to a goal.
- 6) Conversion is a halt, right-about-face quick march.
- 7) Conversion is conversion from perversion. It is the bringing of the natural powers turned toward unnatural uses back to their natural intention. In conversion you become supernaturally natural.

DISCUSSION AND STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) How is the blood of Jesus important for our forgiveness? Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, I Peter 1:19 and I John 1:7

- 2) Must we do anything before we can receive this forgiveness? Titus 3:5, Romans 11:6 and Ephesians 2:8,9 _____

- 3) Another term for changing your mind is what? Acts 2:37,38

- 4) Other ways to describe self-surrender is? I Peter 5:6, Romans 12:1,2 and James 4:6-10 _____

- 5) What other wonderful things happen to us at conversion?
I John 3:1, Romans 8:15-17, Isaiah 61:1-3, Romans 5:1-5,
II Corinthians 5:17,18. Galatians 5:22,23, John 3:3-8,
John 4:14, John 1:12 13, Romans 14:17, Romans 12:13
and Corinthians 4:6
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