

Cornerstone 1: Repent and Return

C1-1 Salvation

1. What did Jesus preach?

Matt 4: 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Jesus did not preach salvation directly. Why?

Where is the Kingdom of God?

[NLT] Luke 17: 20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. 21 You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."

- The Pharisees were thinking of a physical kingdom, like the kingdom of David and Solomon when Israel prevailed against her enemies. But Jesus said something quite different – "the Kingdom of God is already among you".
- Why were the Pharisees not able to understand Jesus?

- What is the NATURE of the Kingdom of God and can it be seen?

- The Kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God. So where is the Kingdom?

- God rules over everything. There is also the **manifested rule and reign** and where this is, what will we see?

- This is normal as the Kingdom of God is a supernatural Kingdom. What happens when the supernatural invades the natural?

- Therefore people are healed. You experience the rule and reign of Jesus the King in the Kingdom of God. We are to bring the good news of the Kingdom everywhere we go.

2. Why did Jesus preach the good news of the Kingdom of God?

Luke 12: 29 "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- What is the ultimate gift of the Father?

- Why is this the most important gift?

- The Kingdom is supernatural and God will bless and supply supernaturally.

What must we do to receive the Kingdom of God?

[NLT] John 3:3 Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.' ...5 Jesus replied, 'I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.'

- Nicodemus did not understand some things despite being a teacher of the law and a Pharisee. He wanted to know how Jesus could do such miraculous things.
- Jesus told him that if he was truly born again, he too can begin to do miracles – Why?

3. Meaning of salvation

What is the meaning of salvation? It is

4. Why is salvation needed?

[KJV] Rom 3: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- Where is the glory of God found?

- What is the only way to come into the glory of God?

- **The key thing is the glory.** We were created in His image and in glory. Adam and Eve had dominion. Adam could rule but because he sinned against God, he lost that and the glory.
- Why did Jesus the last Adam come?

5. The facts of sin

[KJV] Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

- Everyone has sinned against God. All our good works, our seeming righteousness are like filthy rags before the Lord.
- Sin is lawlessness. Sin entered through one man Adam and it must be dealt with. How was sin dealt with by God?

Have the right perspective

We have to have the right perspective about sinners and sin.

- Why do we sin?

- We are born sinners. No one is born good. If our nature is a sinner, we will sin.
- How can we not sin?

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

- God dealt with His people Israel in the Old Testament according to them – they were their important laws.
 - The laws of God are good. The only problem is because we are born sinners, we are not able to fulfil the laws perfectly. Our natural tendency is towards evil.
 - The Ten Commandments were given to guide us. They are like a tutor to lead us to Jesus Christ.
 - Why do we need Jesus Christ?
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Have you broken any of the Ten Commandments?

Everybody has the sin nature and broken the laws of God. Since we have sinned against God, what must we do?

The result of sin

[KJV] Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- There are consequences of sin. Do not be tempted for the temporary pleasure. Grave consequences follow our actions.
 - What is the result of sin?
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[KJV] Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

- Who is the source of sin?

- What will happen if we continue to sin?

- Who will enter life eternal?

6. What is salvation?

Salvation is to be

6.1 Saved from the punishment of sin

[KJV] John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

- What is the punishment of sin?

- Salvation is being saved and delivered from eternal death.

6.2 Saved from the power of sin

[KJV] Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

- Salvation is about being freed from the power of sin.
- How can we be set free from the power of sin?

- What is at work within us?

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6.3 Saved from the presence of sin

[KJV] Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- Jesus came to cleanse us of all our sins. We are forgiven. The presence of sin is eradicated.

- Instead of walking in sin, what do we walk with?
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7. Salvation is new life in Christ

7.1 Spiritual life

1 John 5: 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

7.2 Abundant life

John 10: 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

7.3 New life

2 Cor 5: 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

8. How can we be saved?

[KJV] Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- We do not deserve it. It is given freely to us.

Only by faith in Jesus Christ

[KJV] Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

MEMORISE: John 3:3, Rom 3:23, Rom 5:12, Rom 6:23, John 5:24, Rom 6:14,
1 John 5:12, John 10:10, 2 Cor 5:17, Eph 2:8 – 9, Acts 16:30, John 1:12

9. When can a person be saved?

[KJV] 2 Cor 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

- NOW is the time.

Believe Jesus and His finished work

Acts 16: 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- Receive the salvation provided by Jesus Christ. Believe that He is the Son of God who died on the cross for you. Believe that He was buried and that on the third day He rose again and after forty days, ascended to heaven.

10. How do you receive God's salvation?

Acts 2: 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [k]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Recognise that you are a sinner. Be sorry for your sins and confess all that you have sinned to God. Ask God for forgiveness through His Son Jesus Christ.

Exercise the right to become His children

John 1: 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Conclusion

When we live in obedience under the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, our sins are not only forgiven, they are forgotten. Today we can live free of guilt and condemnation because of the wonderful grace and mercy of God.