

BELIEVER BASICS 101

Session 1

A Christian and Their Life in Christ (Leader's Version)

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Session Plan

Opening Prayer and Review Memory Verse (5 min)

Principles of the Lesson (30 min)

Putting it Together (20 min)

Practice Assignments and Closing Prayer (5 min)

Opening Prayer

Memory Verse

"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED ." Romans 10:9-11 (NASB)

Principles: Romans 10:8-13

1. Assurance (Faith/Belief in your heart) *If you... and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, V.9*

- a. Your Salvation is assured by God's nature.** Salvation is based on God the Father's goodness, not your goodness or works. Let us look at some verses that show this.
- i. *"The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth ; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."* Ex 34:6-7 (NASB)
 - ii. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (NASB)
 - iii. *"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."* Ezek 18:32 (NASB)
 - iv. Have you doubted your salvation?
 - v. Do you know where to go with you doubt salvation?

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- b. **Your Salvation is assured by God's promises.** Salvation is based on God the Son's (Jesus') actions, nor your feelings. Let us look at some verses that show this.
- i. *for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." Romans 10:13 (NASB)*
 - ii. *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." John 6:37 (NASB)*
 - iii. *For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. Heb 6:13-18 (NASB)*
 - iv. Does God lie?
 - v. Can you trust Him in what He says about salvation?
 - vi. Are you at peace?

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- c. **Your Salvation is assured by God's Spirit.** Salvation is based on the activity of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Let us look at some verses that show this.
- i. *"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross . 31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." Acts 5:30-32 (NASB)*
 - ii. *In Him , you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed , you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." Eph 1:13-14 (NASB)*
 - iii. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. John 14:26 (NASB) and "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; John 16:8 (NASB)*
 - iv. *It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth... 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14*

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:6, 11-14 (NASB)

- v. *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:5-7 (NASB)*
- vi. Do you have the Holy Spirit?
- vii. What role does the Holy Spirit fulfill in the Believer's life?

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2. Profession (Testimony/confession with your mouth) “if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,” V.9

a. You must confess with your words.

- i. Public confession involves giving public, verbal testimony to other people that you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Jesus said, *“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” Matt 10:32-33 (NASB)*
- ii. Public confession involves making a commitment to a local church to participate with them as part of the family of God.
 - 1. *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints , practicing hospitality. Romans 12:10-13 (NASB)*
 - 2. *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Heb 10:24-25 (NASB)*
- iii. Why is it important to make public confession of salvation in Messiah?
- iv. What happens if someone does not make public confession?
 - v. What are ways one can make a public confession?
- vi. Have you made a public confession?

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b. You must confess with your actions.

- i. Public confession involves noticeable repentance that leads to forgiveness means “to change one's mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge.” repentance consists of:
 1. a true sense of one's own guilt and sinfulness;
 - a. *For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.* Psalms 51:3-4 (NASB)
 2. an apprehension of God's mercy in Christ;
 - a. *“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,”* Acts 3:19-20 (NASB)
 3. an actual hatred of sin and turning from it to God;
 - a. *Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.* Isaiah 55:6-7 (NASB)
 4. a persistent endeavor after a holy life in a walking with God in the way of his commandments.
 - a. *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please . 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law... Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.* Gal 5:16-18, 24-25 (NASB)
- ii. Why is it important to back up your words with public actions?
- iii. What happens if someone does not follow up their words with actions?
- iv. What are ways one can make a public action?
- v. Public confession involves Baptism in water after conversion.
 1. The meaning of Baptism
 - a. It illustrates our Savior's death, burial and resurrection
 - i. *"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again."* I Cor. 15:3-4
 - ii. *"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."* Col. 2:12
 - b. It illustrates our spiritual death, burial and resurrection
 - i. *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have*

come. 2 Cor. 5:17 & "By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!" Rom. 6:4

- c. It illustrates our physical death, burial and hope of resurrection
 - i. *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,... for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1 Cor 15:51-52*
 - ii. Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - its the outward symbol of the inward commitment. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. Eph 2:8*
2. Who should be baptized?
 - a. Every person who has believed in Christ.
 - i. *"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41*
 - ii. As Baptists, we wait until our children are old enough to understand the true meaning of baptism and believe for themselves before we will baptize them.
 - iii. Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was *only* for those old enough to believe. The real purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.
3. Why be baptized by immersion?
 - a. Because Jesus was baptized that way. *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." -Matt. 3:16*
 - b. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.(Example) *"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." - Acts 8:38-39*
 - c. The word "baptize" is Greek and means "To immerse or dip under". It best symbolized a burial and resurrection!
4. When and how should one be baptized?
 - a. As soon as you can after being born again.
 - b. *Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as*

we did, can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Acts 10:46-48 (NASB)

- vi. Have you made a public confession?

Putting it Together

1. How are you saved?
2. Why do you think people try to obtain salvation through other means?
3. How can you know you are saved?
4. In what ways and why does Satan want you to doubt your salvation?
5. What is the evidence in your life that indicates that you are saved?
6. Why do you think some people hold to "once-saved always-saved" even though there is no evidence in their lives of salvation?
7. How does God want you to publicly confess Him before men?
8. What other ways do you see God working in lives proving that they have been born-again?
9. Do you believe the entire Gospel in your heart?
10. Do you openly confess Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?
11. Have you made a public confession before a church and express your desire to join in membership and fellowship?
12. Have you followed the Lord's command to be baptized after being born-again?

Practice Assignments

1. Read and write down any insights that God gives and any questions you have about the text.
 - a. Monday 1st John 1
 - b. Tuesday 1st John 2
 - c. Wednesday 1st John 3
 - d. Thursday 1st John 4
 - e. Friday 1st John 5
 - f. Saturday 2 Tim 3
2. Pray each day.
3. Tell someone this week about what Jesus has done for you and what He is doing in your life.
4. Participate in the worship service and take notes while listening to the Pastor's sermon about how you can apply the message that he preaching from God's Word in your life this week.

Memory Verse for Next Week

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17 (NASB)

Coming Up NEXT

Week 2) A Christian and their Bible (How to Study the Bible)

Closing Prayer