

Studies In Christianity
Becoming A New Creature
Text : Romans 6: 1-18

S#1.

S#2.

S#3.

A. This is the first lesson in a series of studies about the basics of Christianity.

1. Only 3 world religions are monotheistic and they all stem from Judaism.
2. Christianity is the only world religion based upon the death of its founder.
3. All around the globe, the Christian religion is under strong persecution
 - a. Catholic church says Muslims kill 100,000 Christians each year.
 - b. North Korea is the most anti-Christian country on earth, yet 36% are believers.

B. However, the most dangerous threat to Christianity comes from within.

1. Ignorance and apathy are destroying us faster than our external enemies.
2. For two generations we have been losing 70% of our young people.
 - a. Pre-WW2 70% of young people became believers who were active in church.
 - b. Barna polling shows that only 4% of young now become active believers.
3. The typical American church assembly has increasingly become a sea of gray hair.

C. Churches have lost their identity as they become increasingly secular.

S#4.

1. Fewer churches of all descriptions focus on teaching and advocating core beliefs.
2. Some focused on minor issues and knit-picked themselves to death.
3. MANY more just slowly drifted off into spiritual nothingness.
 - a. They confined their religion to the church house.
 - b. More and more they live as members of this earth's society.
 - c. Eventually, they became indistinguishable from the world.

D. As the so called Christians became indistinguishable from the world, they lost the ability to call people OUT of the world.

1. It is essential that a church function as a family, **but** it must be more than social.
 - a. This congregation is negligent in its social life ... in functioning as God's family.
 - b. There must be a balance so people do not attend primarily for a social outlet.
2. Being called out indicated being separated to something different.
3. The lifestyle of the religious practitioners reflects on the God of that religion.

ILL – Treasure at Lord's Table after cursing referee at Basketball game night before

E. Worldliness is even brought into the assembly.

1. We conduct our assemblies more from biblical examples than direct commands.

2. However, we are instructed that they are to be orderly and efficacious. **I Cor 14**
3. The modern trend is to attract worshippers by the entertainment value of the assembly

F. The result of all of this is that many cannot explain what they believe. S#5.

1. Those who cannot explain what they believe, generally do not actually understand what they claim to believe.
2. The scriptures teach that every Christian is required to be able to communicate our faith to anyone who is willing to learn it.

I Pet. 3: 14-16 – But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, **S#6.**
 you are blessed. and do not fear their intimidation, and do not be
 troubled, **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being
ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an
 account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and
 reverence; **16** and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in
 which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in
 Christ will be put to shame.

S#7.

Therefore, we are embarking of a study of the fundamentals “*Studies in Christianity.*”

Our first observation is how one can obey the command to become a “**New Creature.**”

II Cor. 5: 17 – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature:
 the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

What changes when one becomes a Christian ?

How does this change transpire ?

I. One must have faith before he can become a “new creature.” S#8.

A. Relationship with God is on the basis of faith.

1. **Heb. 11: 6** – Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to **S#9.**
 God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
2. **Eph. 2: 8** – For by grace you have been saved through faith:
 and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

B. Faith is a response to knowledge. S#10.

1. Knowledge must be acquired, learned ; one is not born with it.
2. Knowledge can be acquired in three ways.
 - a. One learns some things by observation. (*Pig sees another get through the fence ..*)
 - b. Some learning is a result of experience. (*Only way to learn how to ride a bike,*)
 - c. Most knowledge is communicated by way of words.

3. Faith in God and His Christ comes as a result of a message taught.

- a. **I Cor. 1: 21** – For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
- b. **Acts 11: 14** – And he (*Cornelius*) reported to us how he had seen the angel **S#11.** standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; **14** and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'
- c. **Rom. 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

C. The words, the message that saves is about Jesus the Christ.

1. **I Cor. 15: 1**– Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached **S#12.** to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
2. When the word is received into one's heart it causes one to obey and be saved.
James 1: 21 – Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **S#13.**
3. Compare ... Vs. **22ff**

II. Faith in one's heart will motivate him to repent of his sins.

S#14.

S#15.

A. Faith that does not affect one's life is not faith at all, only academic acceptance.

1. **James 2: 18** – But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."
2. **Matt. 7: 21-23** ... Only obedient faith produces a saving relationship with God. **S#16.**

B. Jesus will save one FROM his sins, but not IN his sins, he must turn from sin.

1. Jesus taught that all who do not repent will perish.
Luke 13: 3 – I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **S#17.**
2. The Christian message is that repentance is an essential prerequisite to forgiveness.
Luke 24: 47 – Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, **47** and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

3. Repentance must occur before Jesus comes in judgment or it will be too late.

Acts 17: 30 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now **S#18.** declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness

C. Faith will cause one to regret having sinned against God..

1. **II Cor. 7: 10** – For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
2. The repentance of sin produced by faith will never be regretted.

S#19.

III. When faith has motivated one to turn from sin, he wants to tell others about it.

- A. It is hard to keep great news to one's self. (Engaged, win a golf tournament, etc.)**

- B. Jesus wants for His followers to be proud of their relationship with him. **S#20.****

Matt. 10: 32 – 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.

- C. The public confession of one's faith in one's heart is linked to salvation.**

Rom. 10: 8 – But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and **S#21.** in your heart" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** 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;

- D. Neither being shy nor being ignorant are acceptable excuses.**

1. **I Pet. 3: 14** – But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, **S#22.** you are blessed. and do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
2. Notice that this text requires :
 - a. "Not fear" We must not be shy to speak out for Jesus
 - b. "Always being ready" ... We prepare and practice a presentation
 - c. "With Gentleness" ... We must be respectful in our presentation of the gospel.

IV. Faith in the gospel message will motivate one to obey it.

S#23.

- A. Can you imagine a conversation in which you are convincing someone about the gospel, but you have not obeyed it ? Just believe. But it says ...**

B. The gospel is the power of God to save people.

Rom. 1: 16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. S#24.

C. The gospel that saves is the Death, the Burial, and the Resurrection of Jesus.

1. **I Cor. 15: 1-4** – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I S#25.
preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²
 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached
 to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first
 importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according
 to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on
 the third day according to the Scriptures,

2. Notice what is conveyed in this text :

- a. A message was preached; it was received; and it saved those who received it.
- b. The message was about the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus.

S#26.

D. The scriptures declare that one must OBEY the gospel or be separated from God.

1. **I Thes. 1: 8** – ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His
 mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do
 not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

2. How does one “obey” a death, burial and resurrection ? Must he be killed ?

S#27.

E. One obeys a FORM of the gospel, not the actual death, burial and resurrection.

1. **Rom. 6: 15** – What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under
 grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present
 yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of
 the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of
 obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that
 though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the
heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and
 having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

2. What is this text presenting :

- a. This group of sinners stopped sinning and became obedient.
- b. The believed a form of teaching and obeyed it.
- c. Upon their obedience they were freed from sin. --

3. **Review :** In order to be :

- a. saved from sin one must receive a message about the D.B.R.
- b. with Jesus when he returns, one must obey the gospel.
- c. freed from sin one must obey a form of teaching in which he has faith.

F. What is that form of teaching about the death burial and resurrection ?

1. **Rom. 6: 1-7** – What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace **S#28.** may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore **we have** been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too **S#29.** might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.
2. What does this text present ?
 - a. Vs. **1** ... The first verses are talking about the same thing as Vss .. **15-18**
 - b. Vs. **3** ... Baptism is a form of the death of Christ.
 - c. Vs. **4** ... Baptism is a form of the burial of Christ.
 - d. Vs. **4b** ... Baptism is a form of the resurrection of Christ.
 - e. Vs. **4c** ... In baptism one becomes a new creature. (**newness of life**)
 - f. Vs. **7** ... One is freed from sin in baptism thus **it is the obedience of** Vs**17.**

CONCLUSION :

A. In order to be saved one must become a “new creature.”

B. In order to become a “new creature” one must :

S#30.

1. Have faith
 2. His faith must cause him to turn from sin ... to repent
 3. His faith must be strong enough to motivate him to confess it, to share it with others.
 4. His faith must fill his heart to the point he will obey the gospel by being baptized.
- (*This is “Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be baptized’ properly explained.)*

INVITATION :

A. Do you have this kind of active faith ?

S#31.

B. Have you committed your life to Christ by being baptized ?

S#32. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Romans 6: 1-18**

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. **10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, **13** and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.