

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #8

S#1.

An Example of Love For The Lost

S#2.

Text : **Rom. 8: 31--9:5**

A. Our last lesson introduced the topic of loving the lost.

1. It is a subject that was repeatedly taught by our Lord Jesus Himself.
 - a. Jesus identified evangelism as the cornerstone of His ministry. S#3.
 - b. **Luke 19:10** – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
2. Our last lesson surveyed three parables which taught about love for the lost. S#4.
 - a. The shepherd left all to search for one lost sheep.
 - b. A woman took aggressive action to find her lost coin.
 - c. A father longed for the return of his wayward son and rejoiced upon his return.
3. **Matt. 24** ... We will be judged upon the basis of how we responded to others.

B. Christians today do not have the same love for the lost as before. S#5.

1. The Jews of old had an evangelistic zeal to take God to the heathen world.
Matt. 23: 15 – Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.
2. Even when persecuted the early Christians continued evangelizing.
Acts 8: 1b, 4 – And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ... **4** Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. S#6.
3. The Apostle Paul felt compelled to preach the gospel to the lost. S#7.
I Cor. 9: 16 – For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.
4. What about us ?
 - a. Do we feel compelled to share the gospel with the lost around us ?
 - b. What if we faced the loss of all things to share salvation with the perishing ?

C. Most commonly the modern Christian's attitude toward sinners is : S#8.

1. Animosity / hatred ... Look down on sinners because of their sinful acts

2. Apathy ... Too busy with their own lives to even care
3. Welcome ... Not disapprove their actions, amused by them
4. Seeking ... Attentive to their need for salvation

* Jesus received sinners and gave them access to Him and to His teachings.
He neither participated nor endorsed their sin and established no commonness.

D. This lesson will attempt to remind us

S#9.

1. The need for salvation is universal.
2. Jesus is the only way one can be saved.
3. Most of the people you know will be lost.
4. You function as God's ambassador.

I. The need for salvation is universal.

S#10.

A. The cross is the greatest witness for the necessity of salvation.

S#11.

1. Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

I Tim. 1: 15 – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

2. When Jesus came to be born as a man, He understood that He would be crucified.

a. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **S#12.**
 but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

b. **Matt. 20: 18** – ... on the way He said to them, **18** "Behold, we are going up **S#13.**
 to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief
 priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,
19 and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge

3. Even knowing He would be brutally crucified, Jesus came joyfully.

a. **Heb. 12: 2** – fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **S#14.**
 who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the
 shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

b. The JOY which was set before Him was the saving of souls.

B. Every person sins and becomes spiritually dead because of their sin,

S#15.

1. God is just so He must punish sin.

a. **Nah. 1: 3** – The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
 And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

b. **Ezek. 18: 4** – Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as
 the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

2. Every person is guilty of sin.

a. **Rom. 3: 10** – (**Psa. 53: 3**) There is none righteous, not even one;

S#16.

b. Why are there no righteous people.

Rom. 3: 23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3. Sin separates one from God **and** that separation is spiritual death.

a. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b. **Isa. 59: 1-2** – Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

S#17.

C. The sins that separate people from God can be forgiven only on this earth. S#18.

1. **Heb. 9: 27** – And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.

2. The separation of the righteous from those guilty of sin is a principle of judgment.

Matt. 24: 32 – All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; **33** and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. **34** "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

S#19.

D. There is a place called Hell and MOST people will go there. S#20.

1. The same bible that teaches about Heaven teaches about Hell.

a. Thus, if Hell is not real, Heaven is also not real.

b. Jesus teaches more about Hell than He does about Heaven.

2. In the original text the word Hell is "Gehenna."

a. This refers to a small valley near Jerusalem where some of the kings of Judah sacrificed their children by fire.

b. It was so pollutes by this idolatry that it was made the city dump.

c. Fires burned there perpetually and dead animals were left to decay.

3. Thus, in the minds of the Jews, when Jesus referred to being cast into a fiery Hell, they conjured the image of being cast into an eternal dump site.

Matt. 18:9 – If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.

4. Hell lasts just as long as Heaven.

- a. **II Thes. 1: 7b** – when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with **S#21.**
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. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- b. **Jude 6** – And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned **S#22.**
their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, **7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

E. Apostolic example .. Love will never abandon anyone to such an eternity.

- Rom. 9: 1** – I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience **S#23.**
testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

S#24.

II. Jesus is the only way people can escape eternal punishment for their sin.

A. We have already seen that all who sin are separated from God by their sin.

B. The only way one can get forgiveness is to receive it as a gift from Jesus. **S#25.**

- 1. No one can earn merit with God by doing good works.

Isa. 64: 6 – For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our **S#26.**
righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

- 2. Salvation is by God's gift of grace apart from man's works.

- a. **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. **Tit. 3: 5** – He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in **S#27.**
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.

S#28.

C. Jesus affirms that HE is the only way anyone will again entrance into Heaven.

John 14: 6 – Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

S#29.

III. Most of the people you know will be lost eternally, separated from God.

A. It will be especially hard for an American to be saved. **Luke 13:23**

S#30.

Matt. 19: 24 – Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

B. The entrance into Heaven is limited and very restrictive.

S#31.

1. **Matt. 7: 13** – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14** For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. Salvation is “by grace through faith” but there are some things man must do.

Matt. 7: 21 – A Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

S#32.

C. One must know the gospel before he can trust / have faith in it.

S#33.

1. In order to be saved one must hear the message of the gospel of Christ.

Rom. 10: 14 – How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?

2. One must learn the gospel and develop faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

D. One must obey the gospel in order to be saved.

S#34.

1. The gospel is “THEE” power for salvation, NOT “A” power for salvation.

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.

2. The gospel must be believed and obeyed before it will save a person.

II Thes. 1: 7b – 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. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints ...

S#35.

E. All who have not obeyed the gospel of Christ will spend eternity in hell.

S#36.

1. Have your relatives OBEYED the gospel ?
2. Are your neighbors DOING the will of the Father ?
3. Are they IN Christ ... in salvation ?

Acts 4: 12 – And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

IV. You are the ambassador sent by God to point them to salvation.**S#37.****A. Remember :****S#38.**

II Cor. 5: 20 – Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

S#39.**B. Imagine that every person turned blue the moment he was reconciled to God.**

1. How many blue people would you meet every day ?
2. You would stand out as an oddity ... **“FEW THERE BE THAT ENTER.”**
3. You may be the only one they know.

C. Now imagine that everyone who is not blue has a flesh-eating virus and you have vials of the only antidote.**S#40.**

1. To whom would you give the antidote ? Whose life would you save ?
2. You would share it with those you love and everyone with whom you associate.

D. It is much more urgent that we share the only cure for sin with them.**S#41.**

1. Jesus taught us to prioritize the eternal.
Matt. 10: 28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
2. If we believe in the deity of Christ we must believe that He alone can save.
3. If we believe in the bible is God's word, we must believe that Hell is real.

E. We must then ask ourselves, am I sharing the cure for terminal sin.**S#42.**

1. Being a nice person will not save anyone from his sin.
2. Coming from a good family will not save anyone from his sin.
3. Going to a church won't save anyone from his sin.
** **Going to church won't make a person a Christian anymore than going to McDonalds will make them a hamburger.***

INVITATION : Salvation is **ONLY** in Christ Jesus. Are you in Christ ? **S#43.**

S#44. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Romans 8: 31 – 9: 5**

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, "*For your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*" **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord

9:1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, **4** who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, **5** whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.