

Studies in Christianity Christian Lifestyle #8

S#1.

Incomprehensible Peace

S#2.

Text : **Ephesians 2: 1-10 , I John 3: 9-13**

A. Jesus warned us of conflicts caused by following Him.

1. **Matt. 10: 33** – But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. **34** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
35 "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
36 and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. S#3.

2. Jesus even instructed His disciples to prepare for trouble.

- Luke 22:16** – And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. S#4.

B. However, the scriptures also promise Christians unfathomable peace.

1. **Phil. 4: 6** – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. S#5.

- a. Worry, fear is caused by a lack of faith.
- b. One who expects God to save him, must trust God.

2. This peace is to rule our hearts so fear is vanquished. S#6.

- a. **Col. 3: 15** – Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- b. The peace comes from Christ and is supposed to DOMINATE to “rule” our life.
- c. It makes such a significant difference in one’s life; gratitude should be spontaneous

C. This appears to be a conflict, an inconsistency in the scriptures. S#7.

1. Are we to prepare for conflict **or** should we expect to live in peace.
2. There is no inconsistency in the scripture. If one has peace with God, he can be at peace in the midst of chaos. *Nothing on earth can affect his eternal spirit.*

3. One who has peace with God should never fear.

- 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. (**Rom 8:35** .. who can separate us from the love of C) S#8.

D. With this lesson we want to see :**S#9.**

1. Everyone sins, so everyone becomes lost.
2. Anyone can be saved.
3. Those who are saved can know they are saved.
4. Salvation does not depend upon merit.
5. Salvation can be rejected, but not lost.

I. Everyone eventually becomes lost, i.e., spiritually dead because of sin.**S#10.****A. Everyone is born sinless.**

1. **Gen. 1: 27** –cf– **Psa. 139: 13** ... Each man is created sinless by God.
2. We all start life as righteous people, **but** we all eventually sin.
 - a. **Eccl. 7: 29** – Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices.
 - b. **Ezek. 28: 15** – You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

S#11.**B. Without exception, everyone sins.****S#12.**

1. **Isa. 53: 6** – All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way;
2. **Eccl. 7: 20** – Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
3. **Rom. 3: 23** – there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

C. People who sin are said to be “lost” or to be spiritually “dead.”

1. “Lost” refers to the fact that God no longer has the person in His fellowship.
 - a. In **Luke 15** Jesus told parables about a lost sheep, lost coin and lost son.
 - b. Jesus described His ministry as seeking that which was lost to God.
Luke 19: 10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
2. “Dead” refers to those who are separated from God by their sins.
 - 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. The word translated as death (*thanatos*) means separation, separation of the soul from the body by which the life on earth is ended

S#13.

3. This concept is most succinctly clarified in :

Isa. 59: 1 – 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#14.**

D. Everyone who sins is separated from God and the separation will become permanent if it still exists when Jesus returns.

1. When Jesus returns, one's relationship with God will be made permanent.

II Thess. 1: 7 – ... 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 on that day, **S#15.**

2. **Heb. 10: 26** – For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. **S#16.**

II. Anyone can be saved if he will repent and submit to Jesus.

S#17.

A. Jesus left Heaven and came to earth specifically to save people.

S#18.

1. **Luke 19: 10** – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
2. **John 3: 17** – For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

B. Those sent out by Jesus carry a message of salvation of sinners.

1. Those who crucified Jesus obeyed the message about Jesus to have their sin removed

a. **Acts 2: 37** – Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" **38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **S#19.**

b. Having their sins removed saved them because sin separates.

Acts 2: 47 – ... they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. **S#20.**

2. Paul addressed the brethren in Corinth who had formerly been wicked as saved.

a. **I Cor. 1: 2** – To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: **S#21.**

Compare :

- b. **I Cor. 6: 9** – Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the **S#22.** kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (Is your neighbor this bad ?) **11** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

C. The scriptures refer to Christians as having been saved.

1. Christians are “*standing in the state of having been saved.*” (*arist*) **S#23.**
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.
2. Christians were saved and set aside to lead holy lives. (*not by works – for works*) **S#24.**
II Tim. 1: 8 – Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, **9** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus

D. Jesus has proven His willingness to forgive even the vilest of sinners. **S#25.**

1. He prayed forgiveness for those who crucified him.
Luke 23: 34 – But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”
2. He forgave the chief persecutor of Christians,
I Tim. 1: 15 – It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, **S#26.** that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. **16** Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

**** God’s point is, if He will forgive these, He will forgive anyone.** **S#27.**

III. Those who are saved can know they are saved. **S#28.****S#29.****A. One of the greatest heresies ever introduced into the church is that of doubt.**

1. “We are saved by a hope so all we can do is hope.”
 - a. The word which is translated as “hope” in the N.T. has nothing to do with chance.
 - b. “hope” elpis from a primary elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence:--faith, hope.

2. We are “*saved by a hope*” only in that it has not yet been revealed.
 - a. **Rom. 8: 23** – ... Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly **S#30.** for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. **24** For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.
 - b. Salvation is by grace through faith; thus, salvation depends upon one’s ability to trust in what he cannot see based upon the testimony of others he has not met.
3. *To doubt one’s salvation is to doubt the veracity of the promise or the promisor.*

B. One whole book in the N.T. was written to reassure Christians of their salvation.

1. The Apostle John told us why he wrote his gospel.

John 20: 30 – Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the **S#31.** presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
2. The Apostle also stated the purpose of his first general epistle.

I John 5: 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.

C. God wants you to have a sense of peace within.

1. **Phil. 4: 6** – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and **S#32.** supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
2. The Christians peace is twofold.
 - a. When one’s sins are forgiven he has peace with God, a restored relationship.
 - b. One whose sins are forgiven is secure in his anticipation of Heaven.
3. Remember **II Thes. 1: 7-9** ... The return of Christ fixes one’s relationship with God. **S#33.**

D. One can sin without being aware of it, BUT he knows if he has faith in Jesus.

IV. Salvation does not depend on meritorious living. **S#34.**

A. Salvation is an ongoing process so it cannot be based on merit. **S#35.**

1. **Eccl. 7: 20** – Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
2. Everyone sins so everyone needs forgiveness regularly.

Rom. 3: 22 – even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for **S#36.** all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified as a gift by His grace

through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

B. The scriptures clearly state that salvation is not dependent upon works of merit.

1. **Tit. 3: 4** – But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5** 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, S#37.
2. **II Tim. 1: 8** – ... But join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, **9** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, S#38.

C. Salvation is a gift to be received, not a wage to be earned.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. S#39.
2. **Eph. 2: 8-9** – 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.

V. Salvation can be rejected, but not lost. S#40.

A. Since salvation is by grace through faith, what is essential to be saved? S#41.

1. There must be sufficient knowledge about Jesus upon which to found faith.
2. That knowledge must be received in a way that generates faith.

B. Faith must develop to the point that it motivates commitment. S#42.

1. Commitment requires a decision to become a part of Christ.
2. Commitment motivates obedience ... surrender to Christ's lordship.

C. Faith cannot be destroyed, but it can be rejected or allowed to die. S#43.

1. Satan never eases up his tempting Christians to return to the world.
2. Accepting the values of the world destroys faith.

Heb. 10: 26 – For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. S#44.

S#45.

CONCLUSION : Summarize .. If you are saved you know it .. you choose it daily

S#46. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Ephesian 2: 1-15**

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **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. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called " Uncircumcision" by the so-called " Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands — **12** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

I John 5: 9

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. **10** The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. **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.