

Lesson # 3 -- Deliverance from Guilt, Condemnation and Death.

Introduction

- A. This third lesson has been designed to be very important for all of us.
- B. I wish to address myself to a serious problem that plagues many Christians. This can be stated very simply: Why doesn't Christianity work?
  - 1. By this question we refer to the inner areas of the heart which are often seemingly unaffected by becoming a believer and living the Christian life.
  - 2. We know that salvation saves the total person. We also recognize that it is possible to be a genuine believer and still have deep emotional and spiritual needs that are not experientially met.
  - 3. There are reasons for this lack of fulfillment. In this lesson I wish to talk about a few of these and suggest a solution.
- C. The place where we must begin is with the attributes and revelation of God.
  - 1. In the last lesson we considered that God has revealed Himself to us in His Word and law.
  - 2. The only basis that exists for any relationship with God is His own infinite person of truth, love and holiness.
  - 3. This simply means that man must be perfectly obedient to God in order to be accepted by Him.
  - 4. Adam chose to disobey God and this act plunged the whole human race into a state of unrighteousness, guilt, condemnation and death (Rom. 5:12).
  - 5. Jesus Christ came to be our Deliverer. He obeyed the law for us and died under its curse. The value of this great work is imputed as a gift to all believers. In Christ we are righteous (justified) and forgiven.
- D. In this lesson I wish to concentrate on the legal and experiential effects of guilt, condemnation and death as well as on the legal and experiential deliverance we possess from guilt, condemnation and death.
- E. Our theme for this lesson is found in Hebrews 2:14,15.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, the Devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

I. The Meaning of the Fallen State.

(Because of the brevity of this lesson and for the sake of clarity only three facets of our fallen state will be considered.)

A. As sinners -- we are guilty before God.

1. The Scripture:

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them that are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Romans 3:19

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. James 2:10

2. The explanation:

a. Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God. (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

b. Negatively, sin is a shortcoming, a failure to do the will of God.

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin. James 4:17

c. Positively, sin is a transgression, a violation of a divine command.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law. I John 3:4

d. Every member of the human race has failed to obey God and is therefore unrighteous (Romans 3:10), and every member of the human race has transgressed God's law and is therefore a sinner (Romans 3:23).

B. As sinners -- we are under divine condemnation.

1. The Scripture:

He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18

. . . For the judgment was by one to condemnation . . . Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation . . .  
Romans 5:16,18

2. The explanation:

a. The just condemnation which God has pronounced upon all deviations from His holy law is a testimony to the seriousness of our sin. All sin is ultimately a sin against the Living God of absolute truth, love and holiness.

b. As sinners under condemnation we recognize that we have brought ourselves to the place where we cannot in ourselves return to God. We are, by sin, in a state characterized by helplessness and hopelessness. Paul described it as " . . . Having no hope and without God . . . ." Ephesians 2:12

C. As sinners -- we are under the sentence of death.

1. The Scripture:

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.  
Romans 5:12

For the wages of sin is death . . . . Romans 6:23

And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins . . .  
Even when we were dead in sins . . . . Ephesians 2:1,5

2. The explanation:

a. The meaning of death, in the Bible, revolves around the concept of separation.

b. Because we are sinners we are justly condemned and the sentence passed upon us is eternal separation (death) from God.

c. It is important to understand that this death and judgment is what we have brought upon ourselves by our sinful choice and rebellion against God.

II. The Deliverance, in Jesus Christ, from Our Fallen State.

A. The basis of this deliverance.

1. The statement: The Lord Jesus Christ was born into the human race to be our Representative.

2. The Scripture:

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Galatians 4:4,5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:5,6

B. The explanation of this deliverance.

1. The statement: The Lord Jesus took upon Himself the penalty of our guilt, condemnation and death.

2. The Scripture:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by Whose stripes ye were healed. I Peter 2:24

C. The benefits of this deliverance.

1. The believer, once guilty, is now pardoned. (Eph. 1:7; Hebrews 10:17)

. . . Having forgiven you all trespasses. Colossians 2:13

2. The believer, once condemned, is now absolved. (John 3:18; Rom. 8:32-34)

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus . . . . Romans 8:1

3. The believer, once sentenced to death, is now alive to God. (John 10:28; Ephesians 2:4-6)

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. John 5:24

Observation: These benefits are all the free gifts of God's grace. They admit of no degrees and are permanently ours.

III. The Continuing Effects of the Fallen State in the Life of the Christian.

A. It is possible for a believer to be carnal (live as a selfish and self-centered person), I Cor. 3:1-4.

B. It is possible for a believer to be worldly, II Timothy 4:10.

C. It is possible for a believer to so demand his own way that the work of the Lord is severely hindered, III John 9,10.

D. It is possible for a believer to live with unconfessed sin in his life and to so refuse to correct his life that the effects may be sickness and even death, I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16.

E. It is possible for a believer to be so proud and covetous that he may lie to and tempt the Blessed Holy Spirit, Acts 5:1-10.

F. It is possible for a believer to temporarily fall into the sin of immorality, I Samuel 11 and I Cor. 5.

- G. It is possible for a believer to live without controlling his mind, emotions or bodily desires, I Cor. 9:27; II Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:23; Titus 1:12,13.
- H. It is possible for a believer to have such a poor list of values and priorities that the Word of God and its fruitfulness is greatly restricted, Matthew 13:22.
- I. It is possible for a believer to have such a mistaken understanding of truth and self that he allows himself to become the tool of Satanic influence, Matt. 16:21-23; II Tim. 2:25,26.
- J. It is possible for a believer to be so untaught in the Christian life as to live with doubt and unbelief (Heb. 3:12); pride (III John 9,10); fear (I Cor. 16:10; II Tim. 1:7); sensuality (I Cor. 5); anger (Eph. 4:26, and 31); bitterness (Eph. 4:31); and covetousness (Col. 3:5) in his daily life.

Observation: When a Christian honestly tries to live the Christian life and is not able to succeed due to being untaught or because of unrecognized problems in his life - the result is often a response of bitterness, frustration, disappointment, confusion and hopelessness.

#### IV. The Solution to these Continuing Effects in the Deliverance Found in Jesus Christ.

##### A. The solution regarding authority.

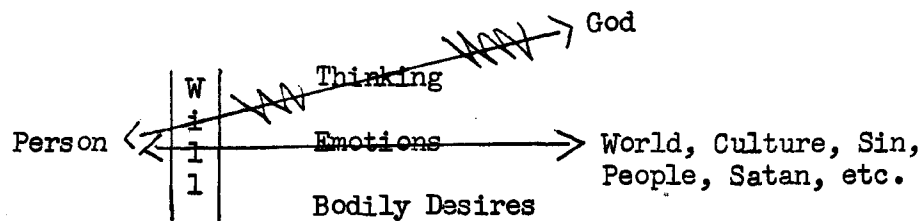
1. In the Fall we transferred the authority for life from God to ourselves. We became the controlling factor at the center of our life and our own authority.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Romans 1:21,22

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk (live) not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who being past feeling (ceased to care) have given themselves over unto lasciviousness (shameless lust), to work all uncleanness with greediness. Ephesians 4:17-19

2. We also transferred the source of authority from our thinking to our emotions. We became more controlled by our emotions than by what we knew to be true or to be false.

(Note Ephesians 4:17-19 above.)

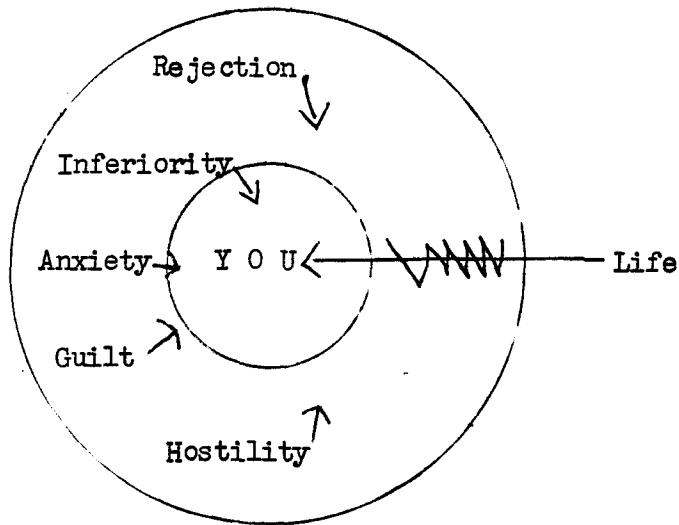


3. Even though we know the truths of redemption it is possible to regress to giving our functions, and primarily our emotions, a place of authority in our daily life. This results in conflict, doubt, fear, anxiety, frustration, disappointment and confusion. The pattern of thought and action which we once had before salvation, or while living as an immature Christian, may cause us a great deal of difficulty. II Cor. 6:14-7:1; Eph. 4:21-32; Col. 3:5-10
4. The solution is to recognize the source of our problems, get into the Word, choose to believe God and reject the influence of error and emotions. Ephesians 4:21-32; Col. 3:1-17

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. II Cor. 10:4,5

#### B. The solution regarding alienation.

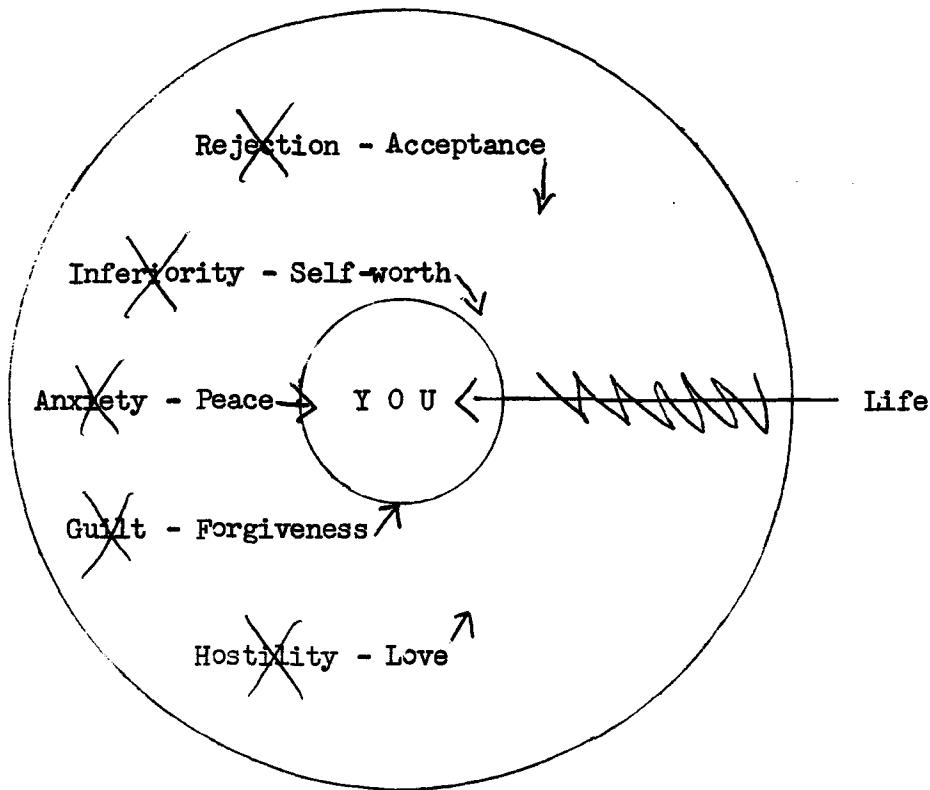
1. In the Fall our relationship with God and all the personal potentiality related to that was destroyed.
  - ~~Unlimited potentiality for goodness . . . to be sinful.~~
  - ~~Unlimited potentiality for creativity . . . for inability.~~
  - ~~Unlimited potentiality for fulfillment . . . for unfulfillment.~~
  - ~~Unlimited potentiality for fellowship . . . for alienation.~~
2. Every believer has a deep inner awareness of the effects of the Fall.
  - a. We have a profound memory of what we could have been as unfallen.
  - b. We have been deceived by sin, due to the Fall, and therefore believe that we were rejected by God.
  - c. Our awareness of the Fall makes us feel guilty, rejected, alienated, inferior, hostile, and anxious. We often try to cover this with pride, work, escapism, religion, hostility, sensuality, etc.
3. We therefore interpret life and ourselves on the basis of our awareness of the Fall.



Result

Frustration  
 Confusion  
 Bitterness  
 Unfulfillment  
 Covetousness  
 Hopelessness

4. The solution to this is the acceptance of the truth so we may correct our inner awareness with the truth and do it daily.



Result

Unlimited  
 potentiality for  
 goodness,  
 creativity,  
 fulfillment, and  
 fellowship.

Conclusion: When we accept the truth and live by it we open the door to the power of God. Romans 6:16-18; Phil. 2:12-16; I Peter 1:22.

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free, John 8:32