



Faith

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Focus



for
Teens

Sunday
School
Services

Zion Assembly Church of God

Basic Bible Teachings

“Regeneration” – April 5, 2020

Lesson – Spiritual Death

Scriptures – Ephesians 2:1-6

Introduction to lesson

In the beginning, God made man in his own image. Adam and Eve were perfect creations. They were created to live forever – to enjoy the life that God had given them. The Lord told them that they could eat of every tree in the Garden of Eden, except one: the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said, “For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). Nevertheless, they disobeyed the Word of God and ate of the forbidden fruit. The results were disastrous. Through Adam’s transgression, sin entered the human race. Furthermore, God’s penalty for sin was death. “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). In today’s lesson, let’s consider the spiritual death caused by sin.

Key Verse: “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).

Questions to Discuss:

- What has God done for the believer? (v. 1)
- How did Paul refer to the Ephesians before they believed?
- What kind of death was Paul writing about? (v. 1)
- Describe the spirit that works in the sinner? (v. 2)
- How did Paul describe sinners? (v. 3)
- Why did God make a way for sinners to be saved? (v. 4)
- Describe what it means to be saved by grace? (v. 5)
- What did Paul mean by being “raised up?” (v. 6)
- As Christians, where do we now sit? (v. 6)

Think about it:

The penalty of natural death has passed to all people through sin – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin” (Romans 5:12). Because of sin, we physically die. Yet there is another side to the penalty of sin – spiritual death – being “dead in trespasses and sins.” The very moment Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he spiritually died. The apostle Paul taught, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Because of sin, people are spiritually dead. But Jesus Christ has made a way for us to have eternal life – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Ro. 6:23). By faith in Jesus’ shed blood, our sins can be forgiven (justification), and we can be raised up to spiritual life in Christ (regeneration).

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Basic Bible Teachings

“Regeneration” – April 12, 2020

Lesson – Spiritual Resurrection

Scriptures – John 3:16; 5:24; 11:23-26

Introduction to lesson

The apostle Paul wrote about the lost human condition as being spiritually dead. He described this spiritual death as being “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). He placed those who are spiritually dead under God’s judgment and called them “by nature the children of [God’s] wrath” (Ep. 2:3). In short, sinners abide in death and judgment. However, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and through faith in his atoning blood, God restores life to every believer. In today’s lesson, we will see that regeneration is spiritual resurrection – God’s solution to spiritual death.

Key Verse: “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 to life” (John 5:24).

Questions to Discuss:

- What does believing in Jesus Christ deliver us from? (Jn. 3:16)
- What does believing in Jesus Christ do for us? (Jn. 3:16)
- What two things are necessary to have everlasting life? (Jn. 5:24)
- When we are given eternal (everlasting) life, what are we delivered from? (Jn. 5:24)
- When we are given everlasting life through Jesus Christ, what has happened to us? (v. 24)
- In John 11:23, Jesus told Martha that Lazarus will rise again. Did Martha believe in the resurrection (being raised to life)? (Jn. 11:24; see also Jn. 5:28-29)
- How did Jesus explain resurrection and life? Who is the giver of life? How do we receive life? (Jn. 11:25)
- On this occasion, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:43-45), but of course, naturally, Lazarus physically died again when his time came. Therefore, what kind of life (and death) is Jesus really talking about in verse 26? (Jn. 11:26)

Think about it:

Our natural bodies perish because of sin (Ge. 3:19; Ro. 5:12), but through Jesus Christ we have spiritual life, even eternal life. Our bodies die, but our souls never die, because Jesus Christ is our resurrection and life. Through him, we are regenerated and live forever. In fact, all who believe and have life through Christ will be given new bodies in the resurrection of life and at the rapture when Jesus comes for his church (Jn. 5:29; 1 Co. 15:50-53; Ph. 3:20-21; 1 Th. 4:14-18).

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Basic Bible Teachings

“Regeneration” – April 19, 2020

Lesson – You Must Be Born Again

Scriptures – John 3:1-8

Introduction to lesson

Jesus taught, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). Thus, he taught the difference between true salvation and merely having a profession of faith in God. No doubt, many people’s professions are false and self-righteous. They are religious, but their hearts have not been changed. However, regeneration (being born again) is an act of God’s will in our lives (Jn. 1:13; Titus 3:5-7). We are not saved because we have a profession of faith and do righteous works, but rather, we have a profession of faith and do righteous works because we are saved, having been born again to new life.

Key Verse: “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).

Questions to Discuss:

- Describe Nicodemus. (vv. 1-2)
- What did Nicodemus think of Jesus? (v. 2)
- What did Jesus say was the requirement for seeing God’s kingdom? (v. 3)
- Did Nicodemus understand Jesus? What kind of birth did he think Jesus was talking about? (v. 4)
- What is the one word that explains exactly what Jesus meant by being born again? (v. 5, see also verse 6 and 8)
- What is Jesus contrasting in verse six? (v. 6)
- What is “born again?” What kind of birth is it? Why must we be born again? (v. 7)
- Describe the wind. (v. 8)
- How is the work of the Spirit like the movement of the wind? (v. 8)
- When we are born again, of whom are we born? (v. 8) When someone is born again, how do we know it?

Think about it:

Being born again, or the new birth, refers to regeneration. It is a spiritual birth. Experiencing new life in Jesus Christ comes through being born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:8). Jesus emphasized this spiritual birth through contrasting it with the fleshly, natural birth. Nicodemus needed to understand that neither his position as a Jewish leader nor even his Jewish lineage were sufficient to gain him a place in the kingdom of God. Salvation is not received on the basis of natural birth or by our human will, but we must be regenerated by the Spirit of God. Regeneration is a spiritual transformation in the heart of the believer through placing one’s faith in Jesus Christ.

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Basic Bible Teachings

“Regeneration” – April 26, 2020

Lesson – The Blessings of Regeneration Scriptures – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Introduction to lesson

Being convicted by the Spirit of personal sinfulness, an individual repents, calling on the name of Jesus, and he is justified (forgiven) and regenerated (given life) by God. We call this genuine salvation. When a person is regenerated, he experiences a radical change. Regeneration is that experience of receiving new life through faith in the work of Jesus Christ. A person passes from death to life, and it happens in a moment. In today’s lesson, let’s consider the spiritual blessings of regeneration. These blessings give witness to the spiritual transformation and change in the born again believer.

Key Verse: “Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Questions to Discuss:

- Building on the lesson introduction, discuss what it means to be “in Christ.” (v. 17)
- How does the apostle Paul explain “a new creature (creation)?” (v. 17)
- If a person is “in Christ” and is “a new creature,” can he follow after the “old things” he did as a sinner? (v. 17)
- As new creatures in Christ, what will we follow after? What kind of spiritual fruit will we bear? (v. 21; Ep. 5:9; Ga. 5:22-23)
- When we are “in Christ,” what becomes new? (v. 17)
- Who makes “all things” new? (v. 18)
- Who made our newness possible? (v. 18)

Think about it:

When we are regenerated by faith in Jesus Christ, experiencing new life in Christ, everything changes – all things become new. We are brought into a new relationship with God – we are reconciled to God by Jesus Christ (2 Co. 5:18-20). We are no longer the same person. We may look the same on the outside, but our inner man has been radically transformed by God. We are made completely new in Christ. Attitudes and actions change; purposes and goals change; practices and habits change. As new creatures in Christ, we receive many spiritual blessings – the fruit of the Spirit. Because of Christ, we experience love, joy, and peace, as well as many other spiritual blessings (Ga. 5:22-23). The righteous fruit of Christ in our hearts opens up a whole new world.

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