

Salvation – God’s Way for All People – Lesson 3

August 18 & August 25, 2013

Class 3 - Integrating Key Verses for Salvation, Faith and God’s Wrath against Unsaved

Romans 1:18-28 – No One is Without Excuse

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.³² Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 2:12-16 – God’s Law Written On Their Heart

¹² All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.¹⁴ Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares

Key Points:

- God’s existence is plain to all that live
- God’s Majesty and Power is shown through the creation of the world and invisible qualities
- God’s existence is understood by man, whether they want to accept it publically or not
- External evidence deals with the complexity and breadth of human beings, animals, planets, solar system and intricacy of science all speaks of a master creator.
- It is simply impossible that the current earth, humans and life would first be created and then evolved to the complexity, beauty and awe that currently exist.
- From both external and internal spirituality, we know God exists
- Therefore God’s Salvation, condemnation and wrath is upon all that have lived
- God’s Revelation can be accomplished in different ways:
 - General Revelation – Creation, Indirect or other methods to make known His Majesty
 - Specific Revelation – Direct knowledge, exposure or evangelized

Group Questions:

1. How can someone deny the existence of God after observing nature and the solar systems?
2. How does God hold every person (Pagan, Jew, and Gentile) on earth accountable and without excuse? If held without excuse, does this not by default directly mean that salvation is available to all?
3. While this may be easier to understand and explain in today's current world after Jesus, discuss and explain how this can be eternally true for all people?
4. Integrate your discussion of Melchizedek and these scriptures. Does this start to tell you something about God's eternal salvation process and what is required?
5. Can someone who has never heard of Jesus be saved?

Galatians 3:17-29, 4:1-6 – The Law and the Promise

¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

²³ Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise

Key Points:

- Inheritance and the Promise existed first as God gave to Abraham
- Law was our guardian, held in custody
- Faith was revealed through Christ, unlocking the bounds of our guardian
- Belonging to Christ imparts being Abraham's seed and heir
- This is related to Jews, Gentiles Pagans, of all ages and types?

Group Questions:

1. While for the Jews these scriptures clearly lay out the sequence of Promise, Covenant, Law and Christ, does this equally apply to all? Gentile? Heathen?
2. Does this imply different salvation processes over time?
3. Discuss and be clear how salvation is based on God, but different avenues have existed for different groups over time?

Matthew 12:30-32 – What is the Unpardonable Sin and How Does it Impact Salvation?

³⁰“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Key Points:

- Final rejection of Jesus Christ as savior and recognition of our need to repent
- Willful blindness of the heart for which there is no excuse
- Man can render themselves unforgiveable
- Holy Spirit is no longer available for Salvation to the individual
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, not the Son of Man
- Not clear if this can be a living decision or finalized at death
- Interesting to consider how this integrates with God hardening the hearts of some
- Examples provided in some commentaries - Numbers 14:26-45; 1 Samuel 3:14

Group Questions:

1. Exactly what is the unpardonable sin? Describe and talk about?
2. How can you sin against the Holy Spirit and not the Son of Man?
3. At what point does a person actually arrive at the unpardonable sin?
4. As an example you can look at Paul’s life as an example, so can a person actually arrive at the unpardonable point while living?
5. How does the unpardonable sin impact salvation opportunities for a person?
6. Are the Holy Spirit and God always ready and open to a person regardless of past actions and behavior?
7. Discuss the times in the Old Testament where God hardened a person’s heart and blinded them to His Spirit and Grace (this was both temporary and permanent)
8. Could the hardening of the heart be related to the “unpardonable sin” for that person? Are these different?
9. Was God’s action to blind someone a result of His foreknowledge of a person’s decisions? Could this be related to pre or post timing to a person decision?

Summary Diagram – Review of Key Principles on Salvation:

- Diagram
- Current World Application
 - Pre-Jesus Jews/Israel
 - Pre-Jesus Gentiles/Heathen
 - Post Jesus World for all People
 - Specific Revelation
 - General Revelation
 - All Held Accountable
- General Group Discussion