

- 4 Who bring conviction in man and through what?
- 5 What is self- realisation?
- 6 What does a sinner do when he realises his own condition?
- 7 What are the steps leading to the saving faith?
- 8 Explain these steps in comparison to the experiences of the prodigal son in Luke 15.



LESSON - 22

SALVATION - Related Spiritual Experiences

PART - 1

Repentance, Rebirth and Justification

- References** : *Mar. 1: 1-15*
 : *Rom. 3 : 24-5 : 18*
 : *John. 3 : 1 -16*

- Memory verse:** *Acts. 17 :30*
 : *Rom. 5 :18*
 : *John. 3 :3*

Objective: Understanding the depth and breadth of such spiritual experiences as Repentance, Justification and Rebirth which are the basic preliminaries of the vast subject of salvation.

Introducton: Remember what you have studied about the vast subject of salvation! What is salvation? Why is it that we need salvation ? What are the aspects of salvation to the three tenses. Can you name a few experiences related to salvation? There are several experiences related to salvation. Important among them are repentance, Justification, rebirth, sanctification, glorification etc. Let us study about in brief.

I) REPENTANCE:

A person feels deep conviction of sin, feels sorry about it and turns towards God hating and forsaking all the sinful and evil ways. This is repentance. For example, the return of the prodigal son (Lk.15:17-21).

The need of repentance : Because of Adam's disobedience, all have shared the nature of Adam and have become sinners. If man must become radically good in contrast to his inherently evil nature, an internal transformation or repentance must take place in man.

How it occurs : The hearing of the word of God and the work of the Holy spirit are the factors leading to repentance (Rom. 10: 13- 14). When a person listens to the word of God , the Holy Spirit brings conviction and sorrow into his heart and leads him to repentance. (Jn. 16:7-11, Act. 5: 30-31).

Its Importance : Repentance is one of the most important teachings of the scriptures. In the Old testament, God used to call people to repentance (Isa. 55:7, Ezek.18:30-32. Hosea.14. 1-2 Joel 2:12, 13, Jonah: 3.1-10). The New Testament begins with the preachings on repentance by John the Baptist (Mtt. 3: 1,2, Mk.1:24, Lk. 3:1-20,Jn. 1:6) Jesus Christ also began His public ministry with the exhortation to repent (Mk. 1:14 Mtt. 4:17) Moreover Jesus Christ had sent out His disciples appointing to preach repentance (Mk.6:12). After the death and resurrection of Christ, the apostles also preached this subject very emphatically. (Act. 2:38, 3:19, 3:30, 31, 8:22, 19:14, 20:21). Hence this is a very important subject indeed.

REPENTANCE MANIFESTED:

Repentance is a spiritual act of the Holy spirit in the heart of a man. Even then, it is manifested in the following manner:

- 1) In confession of sins and prayer to God for mercy (Act. 8:22, Lk, 15:21)
- 2) In reconciliation with other men for the wrongs done to them (Lk. 19:8-10)
- 3) Forsaking the old sinful ways, serves God (2 Cori. 5:17, Rom.6:13).
- 4) Produces fruit in keeping with repentance (Lk. 3: 7-15). It means to fit his works with the will of God as stated in the Bible.

When a person accepts the Gospel and repents, his sins are forgiven. As a result, he receives joy and peace from God (Psa.32:1-5). Those who neglect their opportunities of repentance are, in fact, storing up Gods wrath for themselves (Rom. 2: 4-5).

II) REBIRTH:

When a sinner is converted, he is counted as righteous on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ. At that time, a transaction takes place which means he is no more partaker of Adameic curse and sin but born into new heavenly realm. Together with that comes a transformation into him by the Holy spirit which changes his nature. This is what rebirth is. Being renewed in the spirit of our mind, we put on the new man which is created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:23, 24) Such a one is a new creation (2 Cori . 5:17)

Need of Rebirh:

All are born into the earth sharing the same fallen sinful nature of Adam. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." The sinful nature in man keeps developing as he grows. To do away with this sinful nature, the Holy spirit must powerfully deal with it. Jesus Christ taught that unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (Jn.3:3)

How Rebirth Takes Place:

Nicodemus could not understand the meaning of rebirth. He asked Jesus how a man could be born again. Do you know what Jesus replied? Jesus answered. "Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (Jn. 3:5). Here the water signifies the word of God." The apostle Peter says that we are born again by the living and incorruptible Word of God (1 Pet. 1: 23). It is supported by other Scriptures as well. (James 1:18, 1 Cori. 4:15). Rebirth takes place in man when the Holy spirit activates the Word of God in his heart.

The Results of Rebirth:

- 1) We become God's children (Jn. 1:12, Gala 3:26, 1 Jn. 3:1) We can be well assured of our sonship by the inner witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16).
- 2) We get the right and privilege to address God as "Abba, father!" (Gala. 4:6. Rom. 8: 15:16)

- 3) We become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. (Rom. 8:17, Gal. 4:17).
- 4) We become partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) The new man created in us by rebirth must be nourished by the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2) and strengthened with might through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:16) and must grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ (Eph. 4:15, 16)

III) JUSTIFICATION:

The first blessing that the Lord gives to those who repent is justification. When you believe and accept Christ, not only are your sins forgiven but God puts Christ's righteousness on to your account and considers you to be righteous as having done no wrong. This imputation is justification.

Its Need:

God is righteous or just. He wants His creation, man to be righteous upto the divine standard. But man stands before God as corrupt and unrighteous. "There is none righteous no not one. They have together become corrupt (Rom. 3: 10- 18, Psa. 53: 1-3). Both the jews who received the law and the gentiles who did not have the law are condemned before God without any excuse. Therefore man desperately is in need of justification.

How to be Justified:

Though the Divine Law given to the Israelites was holy and good, no man could be justified by the Law. As a matter of fact, the Law declared that man is condemned before God (Gala. 3:10-13) At such a crisis, God prepared a way through Jesus Christ died on the cross a cursed death for the sake of the cursed and condemned mankind. God accepted the death of Jesus Christ that was on behalf of man and declared that acceptance by raising Jesus Christ from death. Therefore when we believe in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, we are justified and accepted before God (Rom. 4:24, 25, 1 Cori. 1:30 Rom. 10: 9,10, Acts. 13:39). Justification is available by faith alone.

The Results of Justification:

We can see the results of justifiaton in the book of Romans.

- i) Peace with God (Rom. 5:1)
- ii) Having access into, and standing in the grace of God (Rom. 5:2)
- iii) Hope of the Glory of God
- iv) Outpouring of Gods love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5)
- v) Abundant life (Rom. 5:10),
- vi) Rejoycing in God. (Rom. 5:11) etc.

EXERCISE -22

Answer the following questions

- 1 Which are the experiences related to salvation?
- 2 Which factors lead to repentance?
- 3 In which manner is repentance manifested?
- 4 What is rebirth?
- 5 What are the results of rebirth?
- 6 How must the new man be nourished?
- 7 What is the first blessing received after repentance?
- 8 How is Justification available?
- 9 What are the results of Justification?

