

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 2

Relationship through Repentance and the Blood of Jesus

In Lesson 1, we spoke of the experience of a personal revelation of Jesus as the Christ. It is a relationship of living with God's providence and promises for our lives. **Hebrews 13:5** "*for he hath said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*". The revelation of Jesus, as the Christ, does not in itself bring about this relationship but rather is the opening or invitation to this relationship. This requires an action or decision on our part. **Revelations 3:20** "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*"

He has revealed himself to us as the Christ. Now we must decide how we will respond to Him. It is the Father's cry to us to "open the door" of our hearts and avail ourselves to the Father's gift of a restored relationship with Him, through Jesus Christ. **John 3:17** "*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.*" God created us to walk in his ways. We can be saved from the ravages of a broken relationship and walking alone without Him and from the hold of sin which works death in us. **Romans 6:23** "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

God-Given Repentance

How do we open the door of our heart for Jesus to come in? We hear His words (His voice) and follow Him in the pathway of restoration. This pathway is ordained by God through Jesus and the path of restoration is made clear in the Holy Bible. **Luke 24:46-47** "*Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead on the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*".

Repentance is the sincere and God-given turning of our hearts and minds from our own ways to follow God's ways. The revelation of Jesus as the Christ comes only by the Spirit of the Father. So also does the revelation of our need to repent. This is a turning back unto our heavenly Father because we have strayed from His plan in His Word. **Romans 2:4** "*the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance*". **Acts 26:18** "*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith*". **Matthew 4:17** "*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (or here now). **Mark 1:15** "*And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the gospel.*" **2 Peter 3:9** "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" In these scriptures, we see two distinct instructions from Jesus: Repentance and Remission of Sins. These two go hand-in-hand and both are come from God Himself unto us.

The revelation by the Spirit of our heavenly Father creates a deep sense of remorse because we are separated from God. It is the revelation of our own sins. From the depth of our souls, there is a cry to be forgiven and be close to our heavenly Father. With God-given repentance, comes the revelation of our sins and the decision to acknowledge our sins to Jesus. **Luke 5:32** *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* It would be tragic if this was where we were left but God, full of mercy and grace, made a way for us to find forgiveness for our sins that only He could provide. Jesus Christ died and shed His Blood, that our sins could be forgiven or washed away. As we read earlier, it is both repentance and remission of sins that are to be preached in Jesus’ name.

Remission of Sins by the Blood

In the Old Testament, we see the plan of our Heavenly Father to deliver his people by the shedding of the blood of the Passover Lamb. The instruction of the Lord for each house was to take a lamb without blemish and kill it, then apply the blood to the doorposts and lintels of the house. **Exodus 12:13** *“And the blood shall be to you a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”* **Leviticus 17:11** *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*

The necessity of the blood is made clear. **Hebrews 9:22** *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood there is no remission”*. In **Genesis 22**, Abraham was called by God to go up the mountain and offer his own son, Isaac, upon the altar. Isaac, seeing the altar for sacrifice, asks Abraham in **Genesis 22:7** *“but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”* Abraham replies in **Genesis 22:8** *“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering”*. Then an angel of the Lord appeared and told Abraham to do no harm to Isaac. Finally, in **Genesis 22:13** *“And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son”*. This is a beautiful foretelling or shadow of Jesus, God’s own Son, whom He would provide as the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus now takes the place of the lamb sacrificed for sin on the altar.

Without the remission of sins, there can be no relationship with God because it is our sin that separates us from God. **Isaiah 59:1-2** *“Behold the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; But your iniquities (sin) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* This separation from God began in the garden with Adam and Eve disobeying (which is sin) the Word of God. In the garden, God gave instruction (His Word) to Adam. **Genesis 2:17** *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”*

God is truth and cannot go back on His Word. For if He did, how could we ever trust anything He said? So now death and shedding of blood was required to fulfil God's own Word and make atonement for man's sin. Without the blood, man cannot restore a relationship with our heavenly Father. **2 Corinthians 6:14** *"for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* The Lord cannot fellowship or have a relationship with darkness or our sin. As sin is against God, then it must be only God himself who can grant forgiveness of sin; for He alone is God.

Jesus and His blood shed for the remission (washing away) of our sins.

Here is how John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world: **John 1:29** *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (the Passover Lamb)."* Jesus himself speaks of His blood which he would shed on the cross. **Matthew 26:28** *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* **John 6:53-54** *"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."* This speaks of the necessity for us to make a conscious decision and declaration to accept the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross as the sacrifice or ransom for our sins.

We must each make a personal prayer to Jesus to ask to be forgiven of our sins and to be restored into a relationship with our Heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. "Jesus, I believe that you are the Christ and I acknowledge that I am a sinner. I ask that you wash my sins in your precious blood and forgive me my sins. I invite your Holy Spirit to come into my heart and ask you to lead me that I may follow you all the days of my life." For this is the fulfilling of the law that Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 5:17** *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."* Jesus is the blood sacrifice sent by God to fulfil the law. He shed His blood and died that we might be reconciled unto God again to follow His original plan for our lives. This is not a new way that we have to figure out but a way already established by God in His Word. With Jesus blood, now we can live again; not beholden to sin, death, and hell; for there is Power in the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus).

Many believe that they are Christian, but sadly, still find themselves separated from a true, life-changing experience with God. They find themselves still battling with the sins of their past or trying to earn forgiveness from God. Until we appropriate the blood of Jesus for our own lives, we cannot find true forgiveness and restoration. For only the blood of Jesus, today and forever, has the power to cleanse our souls from sin. It is sin that separates us from His Love, His Forgiveness, and His Promises for our lives. There is nothing we can offer; we must avail ourselves of the blood of Jesus. It is only the Blood of Jesus that brings us back into a relationship with God the Father. **Ephesians 2:13** *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."* And we are not only made nigh, but redeemed from death itself. **Hosea 13:14** *"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death:"*

Notes:

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>I John 1:5-10. <i>“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned we make him a liar, and his word is not in us”</i></p>	<p>1. Do darkness (sin) and light (righteous) dwell together? In Jesus? In Us?</p> <p>Can we truthfully say we have a relationship with God (believe) when we walk in sin (darkness)?</p> <p>What does it mean to “walk in the light”?</p> <p>What is the effect of walking in the light?</p> <p>What is the effect of us saying we have no sin?</p> <p>What does the scripture say about confessing our sins?</p>
<p>Hebrews 10: 1-4. <i>“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”</i></p>	<p>2. What is the shadow of things to come?</p> <p>Could the “blood sacrifices” of animals take away sin? Why not?</p>
<p>Hebrews 10: 9-12. <i>“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”</i></p>	<p>3. What is meant by “I have come to do thy will, O God”?</p> <p>How are we sanctified (restored unto righteousness)?</p> <p>Is there another offering for sanctification?</p>

<p>Hebrews 10: 16-18. <i>“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord. I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”</i></p>	<p>4. What is the covenant made by God in these scriptures? How does this differ from the previous offerings for sin?</p>
<p>Hebrews 10:19-22. <i>“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God, Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”</i></p>	<p>5. What is the effect of the blood of Jesus outlined in these scriptures? Who is the high priest?</p>

ANSWER KEY

1. Read I John 1: 5-10

Q1 No, light and darkness do not dwell together in Jesus “in him is no darkness at all”.

No, darkness and light are not to dwell together in us, either

Q2 No, we deceive ourselves in both our thoughts and the way we live

Q3 To walk in the light is to walk obediently according to the Word of God

Q4 When we walk in the light, we have fellowship (relationship) with God and with one another because Jesus’ blood cleanses us from all sin

Q5 We lie to ourselves and rob ourselves of the opportunity to find repentance and forgiveness for our sins.

Q6 He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Read Hebrews 10: 1-4

Q1 The shadow of things to come was God sending His Son Jesus Christ to the earth to fulfil the law, thereby restoring man’s relationship with God

Q2 No, because there was a remembrance of sin every year and therefore always a time of separation from God.

3. Read Hebrews 10: 9-12

Q1 Jesus came to earth to do the will of His Father. This was to shed His Blood on the cross as the offering for our sins and restore our relationship with God. Jesus willingly went to the cross for us in obedience to God’s plan.

Q2 We are sanctified through the offering of Jesus Christ at the Cross

Q3 There is no further offering for sin. These scriptures tell us plainly that Jesus offered himself once and for all. He is now seated at the right hand of God awaiting His time to return to the earth to gather His church

4. Read Hebrews 10: 16-18

Q1 He will put his laws (way of righteousness) in our hearts and in our minds. He will remember our sins and sinful ways no more.

Q2 This differs from all previous “blood sacrifices” in that there was remembrance of sin and every year there was need for a new blood sacrifice

5. Read Hebrews 10: 19-22

Q1 The effect of the Blood of Jesus is to give us boldness and the right to come back into the presence of God. We can do this with full assurance (confidence, without doubt) that our sins have been forgiven and our separation from God is no more. For Jesus has made a “new and living way” for all mankind!

Q2 Jesus is our High Priest. He is now always advocating for those who follow after Him.

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