

Lesson #12

God's Plan After Salvation



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Preparation for study

The only thing that prevents the Holy Spirit from teaching us is our personal sin(s). King David of the Old Testament clearly put it this way:

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; (Psalms 66:18).

Therefore, if the Lord cannot hear a believer's prayer due to unconfessed sin in his soul, it follows doctrinally that the Holy Spirit will not teach the individual.

Here is the solution:

If we confess [acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sins, known or forgotten] (1 John 1:9).

At this point, you may want to pause and acknowledge directly to God any sin that may hinder you from being fully blessed through the Word of God.

Believers Have Been Sworn in to Serve (continued)

In lesson 11 we concluded by looking at Romans 1:20 and now we pick up there and continue by listing some points of applicability from this verse.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

This verse is directed to the evolutionists and heathenists at large, but there is also application for the believer. He can see that God the Father has done everything possible for us.

- 1) He sent His Son, the Unique and beloved One, to the Cross to be judged as a substitute for us, at absolutely no cost on our part.
- 2) He graciously imputed (assigned) His righteousness to us at the point of our personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22).
- 3) He gave us His Holy Spirit, to teach, to guide, and to guarantee that our salvation is a completed task (John 16:13; Ephesians 1:13-14).
- 4) He gave us a completed canon of scripture-the Bible.
- 5) He distributed gifts of communication to male believers. Some He called to be pastors and others evangelists (Ephesians 4:11).
- 6) The Holy Spirit gave every single believer at least one spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).
- 7) He provided every believer-male and female-equal access to His throne (Hebrews 4:16).

To further demonstrate to us that our age is unique, he made all Church Age believers priests in His kingdom.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

In the Old Testament the Levitical priesthood retained the exclusive privilege of representing others before God as priests. For one to serve as a priest he had to be a male without any birth defect, and must be from the tribe of Levi. But today, in the Church Age, every believer, male and female, has the awesome privilege of being a priest, representing himself or herself directly before God.

And has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father-to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever! Amen (Revelation 1:6).

God also did something even more unique, appointing every believer to represent the Heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Office of Ambassadorship

In America today, there are many ambassadors from all over the world. There is an ambassador from Israel, Great Britain, Russia, Canada, Nigeria, South Africa and many other countries. The question one may want to ask is, what do these ambassadors have in common? To answer this question, I first need to ask: What is an ambassador?

By examining the word, “ambassador” from the original languages of the Bible-Hebrew and Greek-we see the true meaning. In the book of Isaiah, chapter 18:2, there is a Hebrew word, malak. This word means, “a priest, a messenger, a prophet, a teacher, a king,” or an “ambassador.” In the Old Testament, this word is often used for men of HIGH RANK as in 2 Kings 18:17: “The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army.” In Greek the word “ambassador” is presbeuo. This word is also found in 2 Corinthians:

Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as through God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

It means to be a SENIOR which, by implication, means to act as a representative. On the other hand, Webster’s New World Dictionary defines the word ambassador this way: “an official of highest rank sent to represent his government in a foreign country.”

Back to the original question. What do all these ambassadors from various countries have in common?

*They are men of high rank.

*These ambassadors have been sent by their governments. No one can represent his country as an ambassador unless he has been sent by his government.

*They are the spokespersons for their countries.

*They are the link between the country in which they reside and their own countries.

*Their logistical support comes from the government of their native country.

Now that I have answered the question, I want to apply the overview of this protocol to the Word

of God. The Bible calls every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, “an ambassador.” Why? The answer is very simple: The resurrected Christ is no longer physically present on earth. This is what the apostle Paul wrote about Him:

Which He [God] brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and made Him [His humanity] sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come (Ephesians 1:20-21).

These two verses are in reference to the finished ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. When He completed His task which was His substitutionary spiritual death on the Cross, He was taken up to the third heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, a place of honor and glory (Acts 2:24, Hebrews 1:3). Believers no longer see the humanity of Christ:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... AND THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HIM [JESUS CHRIST], you love Him, and THOUGH YOU DO NOT SEE HIM NOW, but you believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory (1 Peter 1:3, 8).

This verse makes it clear that even when Peter was writing this letter, believers no longer saw the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God, seeing that He has no representative on earth after the ascension of His Son, Jesus Christ, swore every believer into service in the HIGHEST RANKING OFFICE that the Trinity can offer to anyone. The apostle Paul wrote:

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20a).

We pray that you will meditate upon your wonderful assignment of ambassador for Christ until we resume our study in lesson 13. May God bless you and keep you until then.