

Lesson #1

God's Plan of Salvation

1. God's Plan—to express Himself through man

Romans 8:29

But those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

2. Man—a Vessel in God's Image

Genesis 1:26a

And God said, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...

Romans 9:23-24a

In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy which He had before prepared unto glory, even us, whom He has called...

3. Man's Fall

Romans 5:12

Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned

Ephesians 2:1

And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,

4. Christ's Redemption for God's Dispensing

John 1:1, 14a

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh...

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4

... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He has been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures;

5. Man's Regeneration

John 3:3b

...Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

6. God's Full Salvation

Ephesians 3:17a

That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...

Romans 12:2a

And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind...

God's Plan of Salvation

God's Plan to Express Himself Dispensing Through Man

God desires to express Himself through man (Rom. 8:29). For this purpose, He created man in His own image (Gen. 1:26). Just as a glove is made in the image of a hand to contain a hand, so also man is made in the image of God to contain God. By receiving God as his content, man can express God (2 Cor. 4:7).



Man is a Vessel in God's Image

To fulfill His plan, God made man as a vessel (Rom. 9:21-24). This vessel has three parts: body, soul, and spirit (1 Thes. 5:23). The body contacts and receives the things of the physical realm. The soul, the mental faculty, contacts and receives the things of the psychological realm. And the human spirit, the innermost part of man, was made to contact and receive God Himself (John 4:24). Man was created not merely to contain food in his stomach, or to contain knowledge in his mind, but to contain God in his spirit (Eph. 5:18).

Man was created to contain God and express Him

Man's Fall

But before man could receive God as life into his spirit, sin entered into him (Rom. 5:12). Sin deadened his spirit (Eph. 2:1), made him an enemy of God in his mind (Col. 1:21), and transmuted his body into sinful flesh (Gen. 6:3; Rom. 6:12). Thus, sin damaged all three parts of man, alienating him from God. In this condition, man could not receive God.

Christ's Redemption for God's

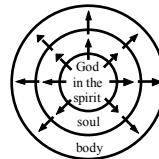
Nevertheless, man's fall did not deter God from fulfilling His original plan. In order to accomplish His plan, God first became a man called Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14). Then Christ died on the cross to redeem man (Eph. 1:7), thus taking away his sin (John 1:29) and bringing him back to God (Eph. 2:13). Finally, in resurrection, He became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) so that He could dispense His unsearchably rich life into man's spirit (John 20:22; 3:6).

Man's Regeneration

Since Christ has become the life-giving Spirit, man can now receive God's life into his spirit. The Bible calls this regeneration (1 Pet. 1:3; John 3:3). To receive this life, man needs to repent to God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21; 16:31).

God's Full Salvation

After regeneration, a believer needs to be baptized (Mark 16:16). Then God begins the lifelong process of gradually spreading Himself as life from the believer's spirit into his soul (Eph. 3:17). This process, called transformation (Rom. 12:2), requires human cooperation (Phil. 2:12). The believer cooperates by allowing the Lord to spread into his soul until all his desires, thoughts, and decisions become one with those of Christ. Finally, at Christ's return, God will fully saturate the believer's body with His life. This is called glorification (Phil. 3:21). Thus, instead of being empty and damaged in each part, this man is filled and saturated with the life of God. This is God's full salvation! Such a man now expresses God, fulfilling God's plan!



Key Verses

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image and according to Our likeness and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that

Romans 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mery which He had before prepared unto glory,

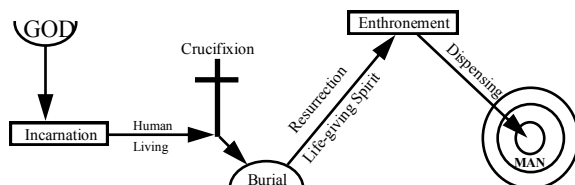
Romans 5:12 Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, because a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God

Romans 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well-



Morning Devotional Verses

| Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ephesians 3:10-11 | Romans 8:28-29 | 1 Thess. 5:23, 2 Cor. 4:7 | Romans 3:22-23 | John 1:29, Eph 2:13 | 1 Peter 1:23, Romans 10:9 | 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 3:17 |

Weekly Memory Verses

1 Thessalonians 5:23

And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 9:23

In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mery which He had before prepared unto glory

Notes