

Module 05 – 37 Responsibility - New vs. Old – Salvation 4

Session 37

This new versus old module is about the transition between the Pathway of Relationship and the Pathway of Responsibility

Following the pathway of relationship leads to knowing the truth revealed in a face to face relationship with God

- **When we leave the old ways and embrace the new our minds will begin to be deconstructed and renewed by the true reality of who God is, which begins to unveil who we are as His sons**

We will reconnect with our destiny so that we can rule with righteousness (love) and justice which are the foundations of kingdom government

God's justice is synonymous with God's love and mercy and is the result of the positive judgment of the 'not guilty verdict' given to all mankind through the cross

- **Justice administrates God's desire, will and intent that all would come to the knowledge of the truth.**

We rule in responsibility, the ability to respond in love and mercy just as God responds to us with love and mercy

- **It is vital that we know the true character and nature of God who is love not the religious construct of GOD, the distant angry deity**

Experiencing God in face to face intimacy will also expose false doctrines and theologies as lies, distortions and misrepresentations of truth

We will see our salvation from a new or renewed perspective

Last time we saw that being born from above by the Spirit occurred before the foundation of the world

Mankind's salvation being reborn from above occurred at Jesus' resurrection where everyone was made alive and therefore everyone is already included in Him 1 Cor 15:22

Eph 3:16-18 I desire for you to become intimately acquainted with the love of Christ on the deepest possible level; far beyond the reach of a mere academic, intellectual grasp. So that you may be filled with all the fullness of God! Awaken to the consciousness of his closeness! Separation is an illusion! Oneness was God's idea all along!

- The power of salvation still needs to be realised by encountering God and experiencing the love, joy and peace of a restored face to face, breath to breath relationship
- **It is only this relationship that reveals our true identity and our responsibility as His sons**

We talk about when we first came to faith or had a conversion experience but that wasn't the moment Christ first included us.

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love

- Our inclusion may have first become visible to us on particular date but we were included in Him predestined from the foundation of the world
- All people, before and after Christ, were included in His grace but that truth was revealed at the resurrection and experienced when we encountered Him

What did happen at our conversion experience when we prayed a prayer or responded in some way that date?

That was the point when we first realised and experienced what Jesus had already done and we became aware of God's presence and we entered into relationship with Him from our perspective but God already knew us

Is when our salvation takes place just a matter of semantics or does it make any practical difference?

- In one sense it makes no difference if it was before the foundation of the world or at the resurrection or when we pray a prayer because whenever it occurs we all still have to come to experience the truth at some point
- It does make a real difference to the assurance of our salvation whether it depends on ourselves or completely on God
- It makes all the difference to our expectation of salvation and to the true nature and character of God
- It makes a real difference to how we present good news to the world
- It makes a difference if we think salvation is about our decision and its power to save us which produces insecurity

I prayed the same prayer numerous times because of my lack of assurance
It makes all the difference to what happens when we encounter God either faith is produced or we try to have faith to produce the encounter

The power of our encounters was not in our acceptance of Him, but in the realisation His acceptance of us.

God has accepted us and blessed us long before we ever realised it.

We need to stop thinking about when the new creation occurred and start thinking about the power of engaging the person who saves us

John 3:7 Don't be so surprised when I say to you (plural) You couldn't get here in the flesh unless you got here from above! These are the ones who discover their genesis in God beyond their natural conception! This is not about our blood lineage or whether we were a wanted or an unwanted child - this is about our God -origin; we are his dream come true! We are not the invention of our parents! [You are the greatest idea God ever had!]

John 3:8 We can observe the effect the wind has and hear its sound whenever it touches objects - yet those objects do not define the wind; it comes and goes of its own accord - if life was not born out of spirit in the first place, it would not be possible to detect spirit influence at all! We are spirit-compatible by design!

There is a great example of the power of an encounter in the life of Saul who engaged God and was renamed Paul

Paul's encounter was life changing but was it characteristic of what we should all experience?

How did Jesus reveal Himself to Paul?

Paul did not pray a sinner's prayer

Act 9:3.. suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

Acts 26:13 I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

Gal 1:15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him (among) in the Gentiles, God has set us all apart for destiny as sons

→ The light from heaven revealed that Jesus was already **in** Paul
Paul never prayed a prayer in fact he was murdering believers yet Jesus was already in Him
He saw the light and heard a voice that revealed the truth in an encounter

The encounter with the light revealed the truth that Jesus was already **in** him but he was fighting against it because of his religious mindset
He then was given the mission to reveal that Jesus was also **in everyone else**

Gal 1:16 This is the heart of the gospel that I proclaim; it began with an unveiling of his Son in me, freeing me to announce the same sonship in the masses of non-Jewish people. Gentiles

→ **All mankind are already sons from God's perspective not His enemies**

It pleased the Father to reveal his Son **in me** in order that I may proclaim him **in the nations!**"

The words translated as "in me," should also be translated in the Gentile nations not "among" the Gentiles as most translations have it.

In is a little word but with so much meaning

In Greek *En* means in, inside, within, as in the condition (state) in which something or someone operates from the inside (within).

Preach Him (Jesus) in the gentiles not Paul being among as it is translated

- Paul's whole mission was to preach the good news that Jesus was already in everyone and everyone was already included in Him
- This totally changes our presentation of the gospel the good news of mankind's salvation because people are not separated from God as enemies but already accepted as sons

God sent Paul on a mission to open people's eyes so they can turn from darkness to light

He was fulfilling the heavenly vision by calling people to live from what Jesus had done through the cross and resurrection

- **His message was Jesus in you the hope or expectation of glory**

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery (among) in the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. The revelation is that Christ is already in everyone and that is the hope or expectation of salvation

Col 1:27 In us God desires to exhibit the priceless treasure of Christ's indwelling; every nation will recognize him as in a mirror! The unveiling of Christ in you exceeds your every expectation! (He is not hiding in history, or in outer space nor in the future, neither in the pages of scripture, he is merely mirrored there to be unveiled within you)

Col 1:28 This is the essence and focus of our message; we awaken everyone's mind, instructing every individual by bringing them into full understanding (flawless clarity) in order that we may prove (present) everyone perfect in Christ.

- After Paul's encounter he did not look for confirmation from the people who new Jesus in the flesh
- Paul went to the desert to encounter God in deeper intimacy
- Paul went into heaven to encounter God more and everything he wrote later reflects those encounters

2 Cor 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are lost, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ask Jesus to remove the veil so you can see the light of the way, truth and life

Another concept that we connect with salvation is forgiveness

Greek *Aphesis* - a sending away, a letting go, a release, pardon, complete forgiveness, remission of a penalty
= Releasing someone from obligation or debt.

- Forgiveness has 2 perspectives we need to engage with: being forgiven by God and forgiving others on the basis of how we have been forgiven
- English definition - Forgiveness the action or process of forgiving or being forgiven

Forgive: stop feeling angry or resentful towards (someone) for an offence, flaw, or mistake.

Cancel a debt

Pardon, excuse, exonerate, absolve, acquit,

→ **God is not angry towards us because He has already forgiven us**

When were we forgiven, what were we actually forgiven from?

Forgiveness is associated biblically with various words e.g. debt, transgressions, trespasses and sin

→ Religion mostly associates forgiveness with sin as negative behaviour rather than loss of identity

Luke 1:77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God,
To know salvation we need to experience and understand forgiveness which reveals God's mercy but what about repentance?

Luke 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:47 to be proclaimed in the name of him metanoia and forgiveness of the sin to all the nations having begun at Jerusalem

Luke 24:47 and reformation and remission of sins to be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem: YLT

- We don't have to do something to make forgiveness happen it has already happened.
- We need to accept it, receive it and proclaim to the world that it has already occurred in Christ

Jesus engaged people with forgiveness

Matt 9:6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins

Luke 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

Luke 7:48 you have been forgiven the sin

John 8:11 Did no one condemn you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way
Matt 18:12 "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?"

Matt 18:13 If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14 So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

- We are forgiven for going astray from going our own way and its consequences

Forgiveness deals with the debt of being owed and the debtor the one who owes Debtors; someone under obligation to pay back (discharge) a debt.

→ **God deals with us as a debtor and pays back the debt we owe**

Transgression Trespass - noun

Paraptóma properly, fall away after being close-beside, i.e. a lapse (deviation) from the truth; an error, "slip up";

God deals with our separation and loss of relationship and identity

Matt 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of the sin. (*hamartia*) = loss of image, identity

- **Forgiveness removes the consequences of lost identity which was spiritual death.**
- Prodigal son was restored to relationship after wasting His inheritance but he never stopped being a son to his father

Sin noun, *hamartia*, from *ha* meaning negate or negative and *meros* meaning form or allotted portion;

→ **Sin represents anything that robs us of our allotted portion which is our identity the true measure of our life.**

→ **Forgiveness removes the sin and restores our identity and relationship**

Francois du Toit quote

"God's memory of our sin was not what needed to be addressed in the redemption of our innocence.

God did not have a problem with sin consciousness, we had!

He wasn't hiding from Adam and Eve in the garden; they were hiding from him!

What needed to be addressed were our perceptions of a judgmental God, which were the inevitable fruit of the "I-am-not-tree-system" and mentality.

If rules could do it, then the law would be our opportunity to save ourselves, simply by making the correct decisions! Revenge, judgment, guilt, condemnation, inferiority, shame, regret, suspicion etc. could not be treated lightly; they are the enemies of romance!"

If willpower could save us then Moses would be our saviour! But, alas! "The good that I want to do I cannot!"

Sin has consequences but we often blame God for punishing us for sins, when it is sin that punishes us... Sin does not dictate God's character or His actions

God was gracious before Adam sinned and after Adam sinned God did not change. Our choices cannot change God

Only an understanding of what Christ has already accomplished causes men to live reconciled, enjoying the relationship that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit offer.

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (into) the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For something implies as a result of the action e.g. repent to receive forgiveness is incorrect

Into implies entering into forgiveness that already exists not causing it by our action *eis* (a preposition) – properly, into (unto) – literally, "motion into which" implying penetration ("unto," "union") to a particular purpose or result.

Repent *metanoéō* from *metá*, "changed after being with" and *noiéō*, "think" – properly, "think differently after," = "a change of mind"; to repent literally, "think differently afterwards"

Not do repeated penance

When we encounter God it changes our mind

- When we encounter Jesus we are changed and think differently
- Repentance is the effect not the cause of encountering Jesus
- We don't have to repent (change our thinking) to be forgiven
- When we know we are forgiven our thinking changes

2 Cor 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them

Trespasses are falling away from closeness, because of the sin hamatria

When did forgiveness take place?

- On the cross when we were reconciled

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Jesus said Father forgive them on the cross whilst He being crucified

- When do we feel forgiven?
- When we repent?

- When we ask forgiveness?
- **Or always because of what Jesus did and how God views us as a being made righteous**

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Did anybody ask for forgiveness or say they were sorry or repent either by changing their minds or doing penance?

→ **No Jesus forgave them unconditionally and the Father forgives us unconditionally but whether you know that is another matter**

When do we forgive others?

- When they repent are sorry and ask us to forgive them?
- Or whenever they do anything that needs forgiving?
- Do we treat people the way the Father treats us?

Matt 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matt 6:14 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Is our forgiveness conditional?

Our experiencing forgiveness can be blocked by the enemy if we do not forgive others

Matt 18:34 handed him over to the torturers 35 My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

If God expects us to forgive everyone it would be hypocritical if He did not

- How do I know I am forgiven?
- Do I have to do anything to be forgiven?
- What about confession?
- Does how we live really matter if how I behave is already forgiven?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This seems to say we are only forgiven when we confess but if we understand confession we will see forgiveness is not a consequence but an agreement

The word traditionally translated "confession" is the word *homologeō* from *homo*, the same, and *logeō* to speak. Agree with, acknowledge, praise, declare, and profess, to speak the same thing

To agree with God about the sin (fallen mindset) what did God say?

We are forgiven already and our debts and trespasses are cancelled

1 John 1:9 When we communicate what God says about our sins, we discover what he believes concerning our redeemed oneness and innocence! We are cleansed from every distortion we believed about ourselves! Likeness is redeemed!

If we associate confession with re-penance in regards to the sin focusing on behaviours it will be from the motivation of religious fear, guilt, shame or condemnation rather than agreement with what God says

Religion always tries to motivate through guilt and the DIY works

1 John 1:7 We are invited to explore the dimensions of the same light that engulfs God; when we see the light in his light, fellowship ignites! In his light we understand how the blood of Jesus Christ is the removal of every stain of sin! The success of the cross celebrates our redeemed innocence!

1 John 1:8 To claim innocence by our own efforts under the law of personal performance is to deceive ourselves and to deliberately ignore the truth. The truth about you does not mean that you now have to go into denial if you have done something wrong!

I am not minimising the importance of our behaviour as if it is not important
Our behaviour is a consequence of what we believe about ourselves and God

- Do we see ourselves as sinners or righteous?

Religion focuses on trying not to sin so the problem just gets bigger

The consequence for us is that it allows the enemy to deceive us and afflict us with guilt, shame and condemnation so we don't live in the grace of God but under the DIY law of self-effort confession and re-penance

You foolish Galatians

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace