

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

Chapter 1 Lesson 2:

Chapter's Subject: Clothed in Christ's Righteousness

Today's Study: Clothed in Christ's Righteousness

Introduction

1. Review Lesson 1 (allow 15 to 20 minutes)
 - (a) Discuss the answers for lesson 1 review questions
 - (b) If time allows briefly discuss any other important point from the lesson.
 2. God has given to man the power to make decisions of his own.
 - (a) We resemble God in our capacity to display such qualities as love and justice; and like our Creator we have a free will.
 - (b) Adam, in his original state, was created in splendor, integrity, etc. As we have seen in this study, we noted that before "The Fall", "Adam was the embodiment of all purity and goodness."
 - (1) Adam exercised his God given will to choose and fell by transgression.
 - (2) As we will see later the result of such transgression has been passed on to everyone.
 3. Many years ago we used the statement: "Life is short, death is sure, sin is the cause, and Christ is the cure. This is still a fact and the reason for man's problems resulted from sin which came because of man transgressing God's command. Jesus Christ is the way back to God's righteousness!!
 4. Christ's Righteousness
 - (a) Remember, man has no righteousness of his own (Isa. 64:6)
 - (b) **We experience righteous ONLY in Jesus Christ!! To be clothed in Christ's righteousness is to be declared righteous in Jesus Christ.**
 5. **In this lesson (Clothed in Christ's Righteousness) we will briefly discuss three sub-points**
 - (a) Rebellious Nature
 - (b) Repentance
 - (c) Recreation/Righteousness
- A. Rebellious Nature**
1. Using the term "Rebellious Nature" may not be politically correct nor an acceptable word among many but that's exactly the state of the unregenerate man's nature.
 - (a) Defining "rebellious"
 - (1) Inclined to resist or disobey authority.
 - (2) It can also be defined as: defiant, disobedient, insubordinate, unruly, wayward, etc.

- (b) The usage here is not meant to condemn anyone, nor make anyone feel inferior, etc. but in truth that is exactly what a sinful life is ... rebellion.
2. **Sin consists of the acts of transgression and impurity of nature.**
 - (a) Whether its transgression or impurity, sin is a violation of the moral law of God (Example see 1 John 3:4)
 - (b) Acts of transgression occur when one does not obey the command of God. Many examples could be listed, note two:
 - (1) Adam and Eve knew God's command, yet they transgressed (See Gen. 3)
 - (2) Achan knew the command of God, yet he transgressed (See Josh. 7)
 3. As we used to say so many years ago: "In essence, sin is rebellion against the known law of God."
 - (a) We may also refer to sin as "missing the mark." The word "sinner" in Rom. 5:8 mean "missing the mark."
 - (b) God has given the light of His Word but men love darkness more than the light so they can continue in a life of disobedience because their deeds are evil. (See John 3:19 ... see also Job. 15:16; Ps.52:3; Jer. 14:10; 2Thess. 2:11-12).
 4. All of us are naturally born with a sinful nature and this is because of Adam's transgression.
 - (a) All that we need to become a sinner is to be born (See Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21)
 - (b) As children of Adam we are all dead in trespasses and sin but there is hope in Jesus Christ, who became the first fruit of the new creation. By Adam's transgression the penalty of sin (which is death) was passed on to all men but through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ we can experience everlasting life (Study 1 Cor. 15; for example note vv. 12-28)
 5. It should also be noted that sin is a universal problem (Gen. 6:5; 1 Kings 8:46; Ps. 53:3; 64:6; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:18).
 6. Many pulpits have gone silent about the sin factor while others water it down but **sin is the foulest monster that has ever entered the universe!**
 - (a) Sin is a dominating tyrant (Rom. 6 an 7 NB 7:14-20)
 - (b) Sin is a hereditary evil (Rom. 5:12; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9)
 - (c) Sin as an inward enmity . . . "The carnal mind" (Rom. 8:5-8; 1 Cor. :1-4)
 - (d) Sin as a corruption of the moral nature (Rom. 8:8; Gal. 5:16-21)
 - (e) Etc.
 7. Sin corrupts the personal nature which consists of mind heart and will. *Note briefly:*
 - (a) **MIND**
 - (1) The mind of the unregenerate is controlled by sin (Eph. 4:17-19)
 - (2) The mind of the unregenerate must be renewed (Eph. 4:23 ... for context read vv. 17-32; see also Eph. 2:3)
 - (3) The depraved mind (the mind of the unregenerate) must be reprogrammed (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10) to the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)
 - (b) **HEART**
 - (1) The heart is said to be deceitful and desperately wicked (Je. 17:9)
 - (2) Heart in Scriptures refers to mind, emotion and will.

- (3) You may have also heard some referring to the heart as the inner man, the real you.
- (4) It is also referred to as **“The Center of Life.”** This should further help to clarify that heart in Scriptures and as used in context here is not referring to the organ in our bodies.
 - That’s why it should be carefully guarded (Prov. 4:23)
 - It determines character (Prov. 23:7)
- (5) Out of the depraved heart proceeds sin (Matt. 15:18, 19)
- (6) There is cleansing for the depraved heart (Ezek. 11:19; 36:23-27)

(c) **WILL**

- (1) NOTE BRIEFLY: “Will” means wish, or desire.
 - Let’s expand on the definition of “will” (briefly) due to its importance:
 - Will express desire, choice, willingness, consent or in a negative construction refusal.
 - Will express customary, or habitual action or natural tendency or disposition
 - Or we could also look at will in the aspect of action. What a person does is determined by his will; we all have the will to make our choices
 - (2) One example of man exercising his will to choose is seen in the situation with Balaam.
 - Balaam knew the facts; he knew that Israel was divinely blessed and protected by God but because of his personal desire he almost got himself slain. He exercised his will but not wisely.
 - See Numbers 22
 - (3) We should never have any doubt that sin enslaves the will of man.
 - For example see Rom. 7:14-23
 - Note carefully in verse 14 the expression *“sold under the power of sin.”*
 - This speaks of the bondage to sin’s power
 - Note also 1 Kings 21:20, “sold yourself” indicates the power of sin. See also 1 Kings 21:25
 - I must note before moving on that Jesus Christ delivers from sin as seen in Rom. 7:24-25
 - (4) Jesus Christ is our perfect example of one who exercised His will in submission to the Father’s perfect will, for example see Matt. 26:36-42.
8. **Sin is rebellion against the known will of God and the underlying cause for such inclination for sin must be properly dealt with. It must be remembered that sin is a “dominant tyrant” and despite one’s outward show he needs deliverance from such an enslaved situation because sin ruins! Briefly note three examples of the disaster of sin, in chapter three we will discuss the “consequences of Disobedience.”**
- (a) Sin separates man from God (Isa. 59:2; see also Josh. 7:11-12; Ps. 68:18; Isa. 64:7; etc.)
 - (b) Sin cannot enter the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21; see also Eph. 5:5; Rev. 21:27)

- (c) Sin strips you of your righteousness
 - (1) This is seen in the account of “The Fall” (Gen. 3)
 - (2) Sin will strip you and leave you to perish, just as the traveler from Jerusalem to Jericho was robbed, stripped and left to die, (Luke 10:29-37).
 - (3) Beloved, Satan’s objective is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)
 - (4) The “Prodigal Boy” (“Lost Boy”) was stripped and left to perish, until he had an awakening and returned to his father’s loving care where he was once more clothed and restored (Luke 15:19-2).

B. Repentance

1. As we have seen above, the unregenerate man by nature is a sinner.
 - (a) He has that sinful nature which we also referred to as a depraved nature with the propensity to transgress God’s moral laws

NOTE:

(1) **Deprave** means to make evil; corrupt the morals; etc. (2) **propensity** means a natural talent or liking; bent.)
 - (b) As we have seen before, the heart of the unregenerate is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9)
 - (1) As noted before the heart refers to the inner nature of man (inner you) which consists of mind, emotion and will.
 - (2) Without the victory provided by God, man will continue to sin; he can be changed only by the power of God. The good news is God has not only made a way but He is willing and ready to deliver anyone who comes to Him (Isa. 55:1-6).
2. This will not be a detailed study on repentance but with God’s help I will present sufficient material for you to understand what is being discussed.

Briefly note what repentance is:

 - (a) One of the most commonly used definition for repentance is: “A U Turn from the pathway of sin to God and His righteousness.”
 - (1) This definition simply means, man who was going away from God, acknowledges his true condition, yield to the wooing of the Holy Spirit, turn away from that sinful lifestyle to a life of righteousness in Jesus Christ.
 - (2) This U Turn is clearly seen in many Scriptural examples as “The Prodigal Boy” in Luke 15:11-32.
 - (3) Please note **the hymn “Just as I Am.”**

The first verse

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come.
 - (b) Two things are involved in the act of repentance
 - (1) **Sorrow for sin**

2 Cor. 7:10 (read verses 9-11) “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of...” (See also Ps. 34:18; Jer. 3:22; Micah 7:18; Luke 15:7; etc.)

(2) **Stop Sinning or (Quit Sinning)**

- Too many have taken step 1 (sorrow for sin... at least so it seems) but they have not gone on to step 2 (stop sinning or **quit sinning habitually** and God has made a way, which we will discuss in chapter 2)
- There are far too many who have professed to be “born again” but still actively, daily live in sin (this we will follow-up and build on this subject throughout the study). The fact remains Christ says, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36).
- If Christ delivers anyone from the shackles of sin he/she is free indeed and is expected to live a liberated life (this we will also see through this study that we are saved from the compulsion of sin and yes the possibility of sin is a reality but we do not have to habitually sin). **God expects us to continue in the new life that has been freely given to us.**
Note briefly one example: see John 8:1-11 ... let’s note verse 11
 - KJV ... “go and sin no more.”
 - Amplified Bible ... “and from now on sin no more.”

(3) Beloved, genuine repentance involves these two acts (a) Sorrow for sin and (b) Stop (Quit) Sinning. There is absolutely no exemption to this rule and what is required of one is required of all!

3. **Repentance is commanded of God!!**

(a) There are some who teach “Irresistible Grace,” noting that God has destined some people to be saved ... etc. While we will not go in a detail discussion of the doctrine, this I must state that there is a need for **everyone to repent** (no exemption)!

Jesus states: Luke 13:3 Amplified Bible

“I tell you, No; but unless you repent (change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins) you will likewise perish and be eternally lost.”

(b) In our (The Church of God) Declaration of Faith, Article 4 reads:

“We believe that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is command of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.”

(c) In today’s religious world and even among some who profess to be Pentecostals, we are witnessing a gross neglect of fundamental doctrines. In some cases these doctrines are ridiculed, watered down, etc. and the need for genuine repentance is one of those neglected doctrines. Irrespective of what man has done and is doing, repentance is still mandatory!!

(1) Acts 17:30 (KJV)

“And the time of this ignorance, God winked at; **but now commanded men everywhere to repent.**”

- (2) See also: Ezek 18:31; Hosea 14:2; Joel 2:12; Matt. 3:2; Luke 13:1-3; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22.-
4. What it means for anyone to genuinely repent is neither complicated nor confusing.
- (a) The most difficult phase of genuine repentance that I have witnessed is man's unwillingness to **sincerely** meet God's conditions. This is something that we have seen throughout history.
- (1) This we have seen before that man has a free will to choose, unfortunately many have made the wrong choices which eventually lead to disaster. See Proverbs 1, note verses 24-33
- (2) Examples of man's stubbornness: Ex. 2:9; 1 Sam. 8:19; Jer. 6:16; 32:33; 44:16; Zech. 7:11; Acts 7:51.
- (b) What is needed is a sincere acknowledgement of one's sinful condition and seek God's forgiveness which He will freely give (Read Isa. 55)
- (1) John 3:16 must be more than head knowledge; a Savior provided is good news but we need to repent before we receive.
- (2) We need to fall on the Rock and be broken; "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Ps. 51:17
- (3) As long as God's conditions are met victory of the new life will be experienced ... Rom. 10:9-10; 1 John 1:8-9; Is.1:18-19.
5. It is very important to allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish salvation in our lives.
- (a) Without Him the experience of salvation is not possible (1 Cor. 12:3)
- (b) He has come to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-15)
- (c) The path of restoration begins with and accomplished through Him by faith based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. **He bears witness to the spiritual adoption of believers** Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 5:6.
6. **Do not stop short of your blessing ...** I must repeat, "Head knowledge is not enough!" Go all the way; get the heart, mind and will 100% engaged!!
- (a) Remember that there are different types of soil (or hearts) that respond to the gospel call and Christ has illustrated this for us in Matthew 13:1-23.
- (1) The first three were unproductive, even though two had very impressive beginnings (these first three types of hearts are, The Stolid Heart, The Stony Heart and The Strangled Heart.
- (2) The type that we all need to pattern is the fourth example which typifies "The Steady Heart."
- (b) We have seen too many far too many, who believe but not fully persuaded!! "Almost persuaded" now to believe
"Almost persuaded" Christ to receive;
Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way.
Some more convenient day on Thee I'll call.
- (c) Beloved, you may believe and that's good but the devils also believe and tremble!! (James 2:19)

- (d) **“Believe” is much stronger in meaning than what so many are emphasizing today.** Details not possible, but “believe in Jesus Christ” requires a persuasion that leads to **CHANGE!!!** Two quick references ...
- (1) John 1;12 . . . observe
- We “believe”
 - We “receive”
 - We “become”
- (2) Read Acts 16
- Note Paul’s advice to the jail guard in verse 31
 - See the results of the jail guard’s belief ... verses 30-34
7. As noted before, if you repent and turn to God, He will forgive!! This is guaranteed!! You have God’s assurance!! (Is. 55:7; Ps. 103:2; etc.)

The need for genuine repentance is very important because it is a most essential step in taking the pathway to a life of holiness as provided in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

Remember this quote:

“Holiness of life begins with salvation from sin and the redemptive power of God’s grace.”

C. Recreation/Righteousness

1. As we have discussed above:
- (a) Man is born a sinner ... that is, we are all born with a depraved nature (Rom.5:12)
- (b) Because of our inherited sinful nature repentance is compulsory for everyone ... there is no exemption.
- (c) For the penitent soul who comes to God his/her forgiveness is assured (Is. 55:7)
2. Man’s recreation in righteousness involves two great acts of God; they are “mercy” and “grace”
- (a) **Mercy**
- (1) Meaning, not getting what we deserved.
- (2) The wages of sin is death (separation from God resulting in eternal damnation) but through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, God has given to us eternal life (1 John 5:11-13). What we deserved is eternal damnation but God gave us eternal life.
- (b) **Grace**
- (1) The most common usage is: “God’s unmerited favor” or “God’s unearned and undeserved favor.”
- (2) In essence grace is getting what we did not deserve.
- John 3:16 ... God so loved the world ... it was a sinful straying world rebelling against His law, yet He freely gave to us His Son.
 - What was our condition like when such love was freely given?

- We were wandering, going away from our Creator Is. 5, NB vv. 5-6
- We were sinners controlled by our depraved disposition, not really caring about God nor His righteousness (Rom. 5 NB. vv. 6-16)
- We were transgressors deserving only the wrath of God, but He poured out His love upon us. We got what we didn't deserve!!!

(c) The mercy and grace of God has been clearly noted in the hymn "At Calvary
Note the Refrain

Mercy there was great and grace was free

Pardon there was multiplied to me

There my burden soul found liberty at Calvary.

3. This renewal transaction is essentially important; in fact it is mandatory! As seen above we have all inherited a sinful nature which is bent on transgressing God's moral laws. Note carefully the following two quotes these will continue to be repeated as God leads).

(a) **Our service or ministry without this renewal will be useless!**

"Our efforts at effective service/ministry are powerless when coming from an unclean vessel."

(b) **The likeness of God in which man was created was a moral likeness or righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10) which was lost because of "The Fall." (I will briefly expand on "Created in the Image of God" in the additional information in lesson 3 of this chapter.) The following quote will show just how important, very important the experience of salvation is to everyone; notably in the "restoration process."**

"Salvation re-creates the moral image of God in people and opens the door to God's work of sanctification and growth in holiness."

(c) We cannot pursue holiness of life if we are not saved (that's first and foremost); then we need to be sanctified (which starts when we got saved) and we need the help of the Holy Spirit to lead us as we obediently pursue a life of holiness.

4. I have used such terms as obedience, humility, renunciation, surrender, etc. and these are all important as we pursue a life of holiness. It may be early in the study but I am thus led to introduce it at this time; note carefully the hymn "I Surrender All." *The fifth stanza has been quoted below:*

All to Jesus I surrender

Now I feel the sacred flame,

Oh the joy of full salvation,

Glory, glory to His name!

5. **The new birth (also referred to as recreation, spiritual birth, regeneration, born-again, etc.) is mandatory!!!**

(a) Jesus made this explicitly clear . . . see John 3:1-21 note carefully vv. 3-7 (see also 2 Cor. 5:17; Titus 3: 5; etc.).

(b) For emphasis see the two quotes above at "3a and b."

6. Despite man's effort to twist, thwart, etc. the Word of God, His Word is unchangeable!! Nothing changes the Book!! Salvation can be experienced exclusively, only on God's term!!
- (a) Earlier we made mention that "believe" requires more than mental assent and requires a life changing act ... for example I made reference to John 1:12.
 - (b) In Acts 2:38 we clearly see the "Three Acts of God's Grace."
 - (1) **Repentance**
 - (2) **Remission** of sin (forgiveness, pardon)
 - (3) **Receive** the gift of the Holy Spirit.
7. **The significance and perspective of "in Christ"**
- 2 Cor. 5:17 (JKV)**
 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."
- We have time only for a brief look at "in Christ."*** This should also help us to focus on the subject for the chapter "Clothed in Christ Righteousness. In-fact this we have been building on from the first and second sub-points (Rebellious Nature and Repentance)
- (a) Paul vividly portrays his conviction that to be in Christ is an intimate personal relationship with the risen Christ. That's how salvation is realized and will continue to be maintained in Christ!!
 - (b) To be in Christ is to be taken into the sphere (domain) of God's total redemptive activity (Rom. 5:21; 1 Cor. 1:30).
 ("**sphere**": domain, realm, arena; kingdom, etc.)
 - (1) This results from a realistic identification with the person of Christ, both crucified and risen, a dying and rising Christ.
 - We are dead to sin!! (Rom. 6:1-2)
 - Dead to sin but alive in Jesus Christ!! (Gal. 2:20)
 - (2) The concept is social as well as individual
 - (3) To be in Christ is sharing-together in Christ. (1 Cor. 1:9).
 - (4) Paul conceive Christ in virtue of the resurrection . . .
 - As the second Adam (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:45)
 - As the head of a new humanity of which He was the "first fruits" (1 Cor. 15:20, 23)
 - As the first born (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18), and the "life giving spirit" (1 Cor. 15:45)
 - (5) **Christ is realistically and intimately bound up with the new humanity as its constitutive Head.**
 ("**constitutive**": fundamental, integral, vital, key main, etc.)
 - (c) "**In Christ**"
 - (1) In this key phrase, "in Christ", Paul appears to have made use of the Hebrew idea of corporate personality by which a community can be thought of in

terms of its representative head. Indeed Christ is head of the Church (Eph. 4:15; 5:2; Col. 1:18); it is all about Jesus Christ, clearly seen in the gospel that we preach (1 Cor.15:1-4).

- What is the Church? “The Church is a called out community in a hostile environment.” We are called out, to a life of distinction (2 Cor.6:17; Eph. 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9-12). We are also referred to as the “Bride of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 21:2; 22:17).
- We are Christians because of Jesus Christ. We are named after Him!! Christian was first used as nickname, looked on with scorn and ridicule (Acts 11:26). Still scorned by the world but we are privileged and blessed to be so named!!!
- The genuine Christian seeks to be like Christ, the priority is to be Christlike!! **Christlikeness** is holiness of life and **made possible because we are “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness.”** (Study Eph. 4, note carefully vv. 23-24; see Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; etc.)
- **This experience of “Christlikeness” is secure through our union with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1). WE MUST REMAIN IN HIM!!**
 - Some have placed emphasis on the doctrine that teaches the “perseverance of the saints (Eph. 6:18)
 - While it is necessary for us to persevere it should be noted that we cannot do so without being preserved.
 - We cannot be preserved if there is still the old man dominating our lives. The old man and the new man cannot blend (Matt. 9:17). The flesh is always fighting against the Spirit and the old flesh must never be in control (Gal. 5:17)
 - Just as how we preserve fruits and other produce in various types of syrup even so the Christian is preserved **ONLY IN JESUS CHRIST!!** (Jude 1)
 - Therefore, if we are going to be preserved **in Christ** means that **we must continue to remain in Christ!!** Your fruits and other products will remain preserved only in the solution provided for such items; also think of items in the freezer, how long they can remain when taken out!! **We are going to persevere only when we are preserved and we are preserved ONLY BY ABIDING IN JESUS CHRIST!! (John 15:1-8; 1 John 2:6, 28; 3:6; 2 John 9)**

(d) You are encouraged to study **2 Cor. 5**, there is much to be learnt from this chapter; for example:

- (1) **Verse 17** ... “new” is not referring to a makeover, etc. but a new creation ... meaning it was never in existence before and there is no other like it anywhere. The born again is indeed a **NEW CREATION, A BRAND NEW MAN!!!**

- (2) **Verses 18-19** ... take for example the usage of the word “reconciliation.” I will have some information on this term in the additional information in Lesson 3 of this chapter.
- (3) **Verse 21 Amplified Bible**
 “For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] righteousness of God [what we ought to be approved and acceptable, and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]”.
- (4) You are urged to carefully go through this chapter 2 Cor. 5.
8. This I am repeating for emphasis: **we are righteous ONLY because of Jesus Christ!!**
- (a) As noted before, we have no righteousness of our own by our own initiative.
 Is. 64:6 Amplified Bible
 For we have all become like one who is unclean [ceremonially, like a leper], and all our righteousness (our best deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags or a polluted garment; we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away [far from God’s favor, hurrying us toward destruction. [Lev. 13:45, 46]
- (b) **Therefore, to be “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness,” is to be declared righteous IN CHRIST.**
Study carefully Col. 3. I will have time to highlight four pointers:
- (1) We, the redeemed, are risen with Christ (Col. 3:1-2)
- (2) Our new life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3)
- (3) **Compulsory, there must be a putting off!!** (Col. 3:8)
- Take off the rags of sin
 - It’s time to let go ...
 - Of the sinful walk (2 Pete 2:10)
 - Of the old life (Rom. 6:6)
 - Put away evil (Deut. 13:5; 24:7)
- (4) **There is also a putting on!!** (Col. 3:10, 12)
- We must put on Christ, He is our righteousness.
Rom. 13:14 KJV
 “Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ...”
 - The renewed man becomes like Christ
Eph. 6:24 KJV
 “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

NOTE:

In conclusion, I will close these sub-pointers by briefly noting three things:

First: Calling your attention to **Eph. 6:10-17**, where we are encouraged to be clothed in Christ who is our armour. I will make a brief presentation in the “Additional Information” section found in Lesson 3 of this chapter.

Secondly: We will highlight some main points in (a) Luke 15:11-32 looking at being “**Robed**” and (b) Rev. 7 noting vv. 9-17, looking at “**The Redeemed.**” Please note these are only highlights.

9. **ROBED!!**

The repentant Prodigal Boy was robbed! (Luke 15:11-32)

- (a) Three items were given to him
 - (1) Ring ... which signifies “The Gift of Authority”
 - (2) Sandals ... which signifies “The Gift of Son-ship”
 - (3) Robe ... which signifies “The Gift of Honor”
- (b) The prodigal lifestyle was spiral degradation.
 - (1) Can you imagine a Jewish boy living among swine, eating like them, etc?
 - (2) His life was characterized by shame, defeat, hopelessness, etc.
 - (3) The Bible says sin is a reproach (disgrace) to anyone (Prov. 14:34) and this was the Prodigal’s experience.
- (c) The sub-points of this lesson can be compared with the experience of the Prodigal Boy:
 - (1) **Rebellious Nature ...** This young man was in a state of rebellion, being tired of his father’s control, he made his request and left home (note he went far away and observe the life that he lived). Similarly, man has rebelled against God’s moral laws and enjoys the deeds of darkness.
 - (2) **Repentance ...** He did repent and that is the essential and necessary step in one’s restoration. Keep in mind that repentance is demanded of God (Acts 17:30; etc.)
 - (3) His restoration corresponds with our third sub-point
Recreation/Righteousness ... God has promised to heal the backslider (Hosea 14:4); definitely, there is forgiveness for the penitent (1 John 1:9; Eph. 1:7; etc.)
 - (4) Note five things in the restoration of the Prodigal See Luke 15:11-32
 - **He Remembered ... v. 17**
 - **He Became Remorseful ... vv. 18-19**
 - **He Retuned ... v. 20**
 - **He Repented ... v. 21**
 - **He was Reinstated ... vv.22-24, 31-32**
 - (5) As noted above the Prodigal was also “**ROBED.**”
 - He was reinstated to a place of honor.
 - For all believes it is an honor, a grand privilege, to be “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness.”
 - It is a great honor bestowed by God’s mercy and His grace for us to be called Children of God!!! (Rom. 8:16-17)
 - (6) Like the Prodigal there is victory for all. I have time to quote only the first verse of this great hymn.
There is Life for a Look at the Crucified One
There is life for a look at the Crucified One,

There is life at this moment for thee;
Then look, sinner, look unto Him and be saved,
Unto Him who was nailed to the tree.

Look! Look! Look and live!
There is life for a look at the Crucified One,
There is life at this moment for thee.

10. THE REDEEMED ... Rev.7, NB vv.9-17

(a) The multitude that we have seen in this chapter consists of those who were redeemed and were before the throne of God.

(1) They were “clothed in white robes.” V. 9

- They were Gentile believers . . . a numberless multitude!!
- **White robes (v. 9) because they have been made pure and free from all blemishes of sin and corruption of the world.**
- Oh! Beloved, no matter what man says or does God is a God of holiness and will have it no other way.

(2) THE WHITE ROBE SIGNIFIES THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!!

- A sign of righteousness through Jesus Christ!!
- A sign of being made free from the defilement and smut of sin through Jesus Christ!!
- A sign of victory over sin, death and judgment through Jesus Christ!!
- A sign of being perfect forever through Jesus Christ!!
- A sign of being heavenly creature, of having the glorious privilege of living forever in the presence of God through Jesus Christ!!

To be “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness,” is to be declared righteous IN CHRIST!! Oh beloved let us abide in Him!!!

(b) Please note these references in regards to the “Robe of Righteousness.”

(1) Is. 61:10 (KJV)

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adareth herself with jewels.”

(2) See also: Job 29:14; Ps. 12:16; Is. 52:1; Zech. 3:4; Matt 22:11; Luke 15:22.

CONCLUSION

A. Are You Robed?

Are you “Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness?” If so, then you need to exercise vigilance and vigor in guarding and maintaining your blessing!!

1. Take heed lest you fall (1 Cor. 10:12).
2. Satan’s objective is to destroy; resist him!! (1 Pete 5:8-9).

3. Satan wants to rob, strip, and leave you to die. Jesus Christ is our source of life. (John 10:10; Luke 10:25-37)
4. Protect what you have! It is priceless! We are redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pete 1:18-19; also Rom. 5:9; Rev. 1:5; etc.)

B. Joseph was Stripped of His Robe

See Gen. 37, NB vv. 18-34

1. His brothers objectives were:
 - (a) To literally vent their hatred/jealousy for this father's favorite (vv. 3-4)
 - (b) To silence this dreamer, he is too ambitious (vv. 5-11)
 - (c) Joseph's lifestyle was also a rebuke to their standard of living (v. 2), and it is time to get him out of the way (v. 20).
 - (d) **It is time to strip him of this robe, this symbol of honor given to him by our father. Ultimately, we will rid him not only of his special robe but of his honor, his ambition and all else about him that irritates us (vv. 31-32).**
2. **Little did they know!!**
 - (a) Even when they took Joseph's physical robe he would still be clothed with the righteousness of God!!
 - (b) They could not take his God given honor; Joseph was still precious in the sight of God!!
 - (c) Beloved someone may puncture your reputation but they cannot hurt your character. (For example see 1 Pete 3:16; etc.)
3. **JOSEPH WAS NEVER DISROBED OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!**
 - (a) He **remained** intact even under the most difficult situations (Gen. 39-50).
 - (b) He **resisted** evil, even the most alluring, aggressive temptation (Gen. 39:7-13).
 - (c) He was **renowned** and **remarkable**; outstanding under any condition, even in the worst prison (dungeon) (Gen. 39:1-9, 20-23).
 - (d) He **relieved** burdened hearts, even while in bonds (Gen.40)
 - (e) He **released** his brothers from their enslaved, troubled minds that haunted them for years (Gen. 45)
 - (f) He was a **redeemer** to Pharaoh, Egypt, other countries and his entire family (Gen. 41-50).
 - (g) He **remembered** that he had a covenant with the True and Living Go!! (Gen. 9:9)

Such level of integrity was not possible without abiding in God who clothed him in righteousness. (Gen. 39:7-12)

C. Your Determination is Imperative!!

1. Be determined to stand! Remain unmovable! (Eph. 6:10-17; 1 Cor. 15:58).
 - (a) This chorus reminds us to persevere: "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back!"
 - (b) However, the victory will be realized **only when we abide in Christ (John 15:1-17)**

2. We must endure to the end (Matt. 24:1; James 1:12) and as seen before, we will endure through Jesus Christ (Phil. 4:13); He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

D. HOLINESS IS IMPERATIVE!!

1. It is God's standard of living for His people (Lev.11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
2. Without holiness no man shall see God
Heb. 12:14 Amplified Bible ... "Strive to live in peace with everybody and **pursue** that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord."
3. God has made it possible to experience holiness of life:
 - (a) It is the will of the Father (1 Thess. 4:3)
 - (b) It is the work of Christ (Heb. 13:12)
 - (c) It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (2 Thess. 2:13)

E. The Theme Song: Holiness Unto The Lord

1. "Call unto holiness," Church of our God,
 Purchased of Jesus, redeemed by His blood;
 Called from the world and its idols to flee,
 Called from the bondage of sin to be free.
2. "Called unto holiness," children of light,
 Walking with Jesus in garments of white;
 Raiment unsullied, nor tarnish with sin;
 God's Holy Spirit abiding within.
3. "Called unto holiness," praise His dear name!
 This blessed secret to faith now made plain;
 Not our own righteousness, but Christ within,
 Living and reigning, saving from sin.
4. "Called unto holiness," bride of the Lamb,
 Waiting the Bridegroom's returning again;
 Lift up your heads, for the day draweth near
 When in His beauty the King shall appear.

Refrain

"Holiness unto the Lord" is our watch word and song
 "Holiness unto the Lord" as we are marching along.
 Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
 "Holiness unto the Lord" now and forever.

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial) a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling an skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth”.

Chapter 1 Lesson 2 Review Questions

1. Define “rebellious”

2. Complete the following:

Whether its transgression or impurity, sin is (a) _____
(b) _____ of the (c) _____ of
God.

3. Sin is transgression of God’s moral law. When such transgression occurs in one’s life?

4. Sin corrupts the personal nature. What are the components of the personal nature?

5. As seen in our lesson, man has a “will.” Define “will.”

6. How would you explain Rom. 5:12? (Briefly)

7. (a) Define repentance. (b) What two acts are involved in genuine repentance?

8. Answer True or False (a) Because of our sinful nature all mankind need to repent (b) Explain your answer (c) Give Scriptural references (minimum of 4).

9. In what ways the Holy Spirit helps to accomplish salvation in our lives?

10. Believe in Jesus Christ requires more than head knowledge. Complete the following as seen in John 1:12.

- (a) We _____
- (b) We _____
- (c) We _____

11. God has freely outpoured His mercy and grace upon us. Define (a) mercy (b) grace (as discussed in our lesson).

12. Complete the following with the correct answer from the list below:

“Holiness of life _____
_____ and the redemptive power of God’s grace.”

- (a) begins when we experience joy
- (b) begins with our church membership
- (c) begins with salvation from sin
- (d) begins when baptized in water

13. Complete the following:

“Our effort at (a) _____ service/ministry are (b) _____ when coming from an (c) _____ vessel.”

14. How did Paul portray his conviction and what it means to be **in Christ**?

15. How did Paul see Christ in virtue of the resurrection; seen in 1 Cor. 15? (Three examples were noted in our lesson ... give references)

16. Why is **abiding in Christ** so very important?

17. What does it mean to be **“Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness”**?

18. What five things were involved in the restoration of the Prodigal Boy (Luke 15:1-11)?
As discussed in our lesson. Give references.

19. In Rev. 7, NB vv. 9-17; the saints were dressed in white robes ... (a) Why were they given white robes? (b) What do the white robes signify?

20. Choose the correct answer: The word “follow” in Heb. 12:14 (KJV) may also be translated as _____.

- (a) Pursue
- (b) Precede
- (c) Think about
- (d) Reconsider

We will discuss the answer to as many questions as possible in our next class.