

IN SUMMARY

- Eternal life is a free gift (Romans 6:23; 5:17,18)
- But the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- We can't save ourselves (Jeremiah 13:23; John 15:5)
- God loves us and doesn't want anyone to die. (2nd Peter 3:9)
- God can't ignore sin or change His law. It is a transcript of His character. (Exodus 34,5 – 7)
- God's plan to save us was the gift of His Son. (John 3:16, 17)
- If we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord by faith, repent and confess our sins, we can have eternal life!! (1st John 1:9; 1st John 5:13, Acts 16:30,31)
- God's true disciples will listen to His voice. (John 10:27,28)

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECY SAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

LESSON 5 BORN TO LIVE FOREVER

Harry Orchard, known as the “Dynamite-killer” who took the lives of over 21 men, including the life of governor Frank Stuenenberg of Idaho. He was a “hit-man” for hire! Orchard was caught and sentenced to death for his heinous crime. Mrs. Stuenenberg had every reason to hate this man but she was a Christian. She sent him a message of forgiveness and a little book entitled, Steps to Christ. When Orchard began to read this book of God's love and forgiveness his heart was strangely warmed. He found that not only was there hope and forgiveness for him but for every other sinner on earth! See Romans 6:23

The bible says, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23. What joy this murderer experienced when he learned that Jesus had taken the penalty for his sin. By faith he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. He was baptized and joined Mrs. Stuenenberg's family church.

If a person has a terminal illness, and never sought medical help he would die. That is the fate of the sinner who fails to recognize his spiritual condition and to seek help. Isaiah 59:2 says, “Your iniquities have separated you from God.” But the good news is “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.” Romans 6:23
Salvation cannot be earned or bought.

In India holy men torture their bodies and walk on hot coals – all seeking favour of their gods by acts of physical abuse. Buddhists gain merit for a future life by building pagodas or feeding the priests, and for Moslems you earn favour with God with a pilgrimage to Mecca or dying in defense of Islam.

Many Christians unwittingly do the same thing by giving offerings and following the Golden Rule thinking they are in favour with God. This is impossible.

Ephesians 2: 8, 9 says, “For by grace you are saved by Faith; and that not of yourself: it is the gift of God.” We must depend totally on God’s goodness. We earn our pay cheque but we can never earn salvation.

Why is God so concerned about the human race? 2nd Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish . . . “ No matter how bad your past may have been, God loves you!!

The bible says that we have all rebelled against God and broken His law. Even though God is a God of everlasting love, He is also a God of justice, See Exodus 34: 6,7. In Jesus Christ, God’s own son, and the representative of humanity, love and mercy and law and justice have kissed one another at Calvary. God took upon Himself the penalty of His broken law so that we might live. See Romans 5:19. Jesus was the Lamb of God!!!

In the early Sanctuary service in the Old Testament, the sinner had to take a knife and kill the innocent lamb symbolizing that his sins would cause the death of the one who had come to earth, Jesus, the sacrificial lamb. This act of God demonstrated that sin brings death, either to the sinner or to the innocent animal. Sin is a very serious business!! See John 1:29.

When Jesus died on the cross it was not due to his physical suffering. The holy Son of God died of a broken heart due to separation from his Father for this first time in all eternity to save you and me.

We are saved by the initiative and divine will of God. And if we appreciate this wonderful act of love on our behalf, we will, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and we shall be saved.” Acts 16:31 However, it is very important to know that mental assent to the historical fact of Christ’s life and death is not **saving** faith. The bible says, “the devils also believe and tremble”, James 2:19. A saving faith, as the apostle Paul has said, means **to obey** the gospel. See also Proverbs 3: 5, 6.

In obedience to the Good News, we give glory to God, for no man shall boast. This means we must accept Christ as Lord as well as Saviour. Anything short of this is not the true gospel of salvation. The glory of man must be laid in the dust. When we lift up the cross of Jesus, the bible says, “All men will be drawn to Him.”

The true Christian is willing to do whatever God asks us to do in His holy word. We put Him first in our life and our plans. When we kneel at the feet of Jesus, it is grace on God’s part and faith on man’s part: trusting God completely – willingly letting Him control our lives. All His commandments are promises full of life and true happiness, a hedge of protection from a caring God.