

Program Transcripts

July 2026



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

SEARCH PROGRAMS

July 2026

Topics subject to change without notice

JULY 5 – ONE NATION UNDER GOD

This week the United States of America celebrates its 250th anniversary. Nations exist because God allows them to exist. We're exploring how God deals with nations and every nation's accountability to God.

JULY 12 – MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION

Many people today want to follow their own path and often forget the words God spoke. Christians must pay close attention to the teaching of the Lord so they will not drift away from the Lord and His blessing.

JULY 19 – CONDITIONAL

Does God place conditions on His grace and our salvation? Some suggest our salvation once given can never be lost. Conditions are often introduced with the word "if." Does Scripture present "if" statements about our salvation?

JULY 26 – BORN IN SIN

Many popular theologians through the ages have suggested infants are born with the stain of original sin. We are exploring whether God looks at infants and small children as innocent or in need of saving from sin.

One Nation Under God

This weekend the United States of America celebrates 250 years since its Declaration of Independence in 1776. The founders of this nation often quoted Scripture and pointed to the God of the Bible. Thomas Jefferson with others wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” On September 6, 1774 the Continental Congress voted to open Congress with Scripture reading and prayer.

Did you know they were kneeling, bowed with reverence, and praying in the name of Jesus Christ? This was not a church service—this was in their hearts. Who was kneeling? Patriots like George Washington, Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay. Did you know that they began every day with prayer at 9 o'clock? They sought the wisdom and favor of God. They knew that without the help of God they could not achieve anything. They knew that it's God who plants nations and uproots them. He is the ruler of all in every nation.

Our reading today comes from the prophet Jeremiah chapter 18 verses 7 to 10 and they reflect the heart of God as He deals with the nations.

At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

That's God's warning for us. Let's and live like we ought to live before the Lord. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that you make know Your will to us. Father help us to listen to Your words, to take them seriously and to live lives that please You and give glory and honor to Your name. Help us to love You with all our heart and soul. In Jesus name, Amen.

Psalm 111:10 says that, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.” Again Ecclesiastes 12:13 reminds us, “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” To fear the Lord means we take His words and His warnings to heart and observe His commandments carefully, realizing that God means what He says. We respect and love Him so we make it our priority to do His will. Nations are often filled with some who take God seriously and others who don't. And according to the American Worldview Inventory 2024 “the Don'ts” are defined as people who don't know if a god exists, or don't believe that a god exists, or they don't care if a god exists. Don'ts make up about 25% of the adult population in America.

In the 8th century B.C. Isaiah described Israel in chapter 1, verses 3 to 4, “The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.”

The prophet told them plainly in Isaiah 1:15 to 17, “When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's

cause.” Because they had become a corrupt people, God would not hear their prayers but urged them to cease their evil.

He frankly confronts them in verses 18 to 20, “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD (God) has spoken.” God’s compassion gives us an opportunity to repent and to change our lives from evil to obedient; He’ll bless us when we do His will. But if we refuse and rebel, we’ll suffer punishment. We are freewill agents, after all, and choose whether we will serve God or serve sin.

When Solomon became king over Israel, he prayed to God on behalf of the people in 2 Chronicles 6:36 to 39, “When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near, if they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned, we have committed iniquity and have acted wickedly’; if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which You have given to their fathers and the city which You have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Your name, then hear from heaven, (he says for) from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.

God’s answer to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:13 to 14. He says, “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Does our nation or your nation, or your nation, because we speak to people across the world, do your nation need to humble itself and seek God’s face? This message is going global these days, and I wonder, wherever you live, if your nation needs to humble themselves, pray, and seek God’s favor. Whether we serve God or not matters greatly. Those who are right with God need to stand up and say so. If we remain silent, we can be sure that those who serve sin and serve Satan will speak even louder and influence the young and the innocent to choose evil pleasures.

We need a revival of faith and a return to the God who gives us life and freedom from the evil that’s in this world. When a people turn away from God to follow false gods and evil, they commit the same error as did Judah in the seventh century B.C. The Lord declared in Jeremiah 2 and verse 13, “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.” In the dry areas of Israel, the people dug out cisterns or pits to catch every drop of the rain. They sealed the inside to keep the water from leaking; but if the least crack formed in the cistern, they would lose what little water they had and they will suffer.

Our God is like a fountain of living water. And when a person delights in God and His word, he prospers! Psalm 1 verses 2 and 3 speaks of the man who is blessed by God: “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.” God will certainly bless those who are close to Him and take His words seriously.

Psalm 145:17 to 20 says that, “The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. The LORD keeps all who love

Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.” The Lord Jesus proclaimed in John 15:7 that, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

Now prior to the time of Christ, the Jews were the people of God and other nations often fought against them. Jeremiah 12:14 to 17 says: Thus says the LORD concerning all My wicked neighbors who strike at the inheritance with which I have endowed My people Israel, “Behold I am about to uproot them from their land and will uproot the house of Judah from among them. And it will come about that after I have uprooted them, I will again have compassion on them; and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance and each one to his land. Then if they will really learn the ways of My people, to swear by My name, ‘As the LORD lives,’ even as they taught My people to swear by Baal, they will be built up in the midst of My people. “But if they will not listen, then I will uproot that nation, uproot and destroy it,” declares the LORD.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, did conquer and uproot the people of Judah. Jerusalem was completely destroyed, including the temple, in 586 B.C. The Jews, however, did return to their land and this prophecy was fulfilled.

Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, was a wicked city. And God told Jonah in Jonah 1 and verse 2, “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

Now this phrase carries weight—their wickedness had “reached a high degree or the highest pitch,” suggesting a moral corruption so pervasive it demanded divine attention. Nineveh was known for its violent savagery. There was a violence in their hands. Jonah reluctantly went to Nineveh.

Jonah 3 verses 4 to 10 the bible says: Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said: “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.” When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Mothers and fathers, put away your sins and live for the Lord, so that your children will know how we live matters. Young people find the Lord and follow Him. Find a church of Christ and study the word of God. Start praying daily. As the people go, so goes the nation. And if you live a godless life, will your children have hope? Israel sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind (Hosea 8 and verse 7). Why was it that way? Well, Hosea explained in Hosea 4 and verse 6, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, (God says) I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Oh my, when we forget God and don't care, we leave a horrible heritage for our children. My friend, Greg Tidwell, recently wrote a book, I Want My Children to Go to Heaven. What will your legacy be without Christ? Where will you spend eternity? A Christianity that never addresses sin or never addresses obedience to Christ is not the Christianity of the Bible, no, ah it will get no one to heaven. A Christianity that never finds fault and never offers reproof will never get anyone to heaven. A Christianity that treats faith as optional and never gets involved, refuses to worship at church, is really a dead and useless faith.

James 2 verses 14 to 20 says: What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?"

Isn't it time that we changed our hearts and lives to serve the Lord? The best thing we can do in life for our homes, our cities, and our nation is to serve the Lord.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have loved us and given us so many blessings. Help us Heavenly Father to not waste our lives by living for evil but to turn to You that we may please You and show You our love. Father help us to love You and to love one another. Give us strength and faith. In Jesus name, Amen.

The best thing anyone can do for the sake of the nation, state, and community where he or she lives is to be a faithful Christian. Proverbs 14:34 says that, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." We must understand our behavior matters. Galatians 6:7 to 8 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." Now what is true of an individual is also true of a nation.

The nation that sows wickedness will reap corruption, and the nation that sows righteousness will last. The Lord God makes his moral and spiritual laws for our blessing and our benefit. When people assume the right to change God's ways, to rebel against His teaching, they only reap corruption and misery.

Isaiah 55:6 to 7 urges us, "Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

To become a Christian trust in the Lord and in the gospel of Christ. Let your faith and love lead you to confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God repent of your sins. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Now when you're baptized God will wash away your sins and you'll be born again as a child of God (Galatians 3:26 to 27). As the people go, so goes our nation. Do what is right.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

Please do not return to SEARCH.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633 searchtv@searchtv.org www.searchtv.org

Much Closer Attention

We seek to be authentic Christians who follow the New Testament teaching of Jesus Christ. We focus on the New Testament, because we know it reveals the words of the Lord Jesus and His apostles. The Lord Jesus said that He would send forth prophets, wise men, and scribes to reveal His teaching. And He says this in Matthew 23 verse 34. Now if we wish to be true disciples, we must listen to Him. The Lord Jesus said to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31 to 32). Now true disciples stay in the word, and today that word is found in the New Testament.

Sadly many who claim to be disciples listen to the world or the culture of the times. And they forget God and strive to please people. Paul wrote in Romans 12 verse 2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." We have no right to change God's plan of salvation, God's way for us to worship, or God's way to organize the church, or God's morals. The worldly religions that call themselves Christians think they can change God's ways and still please Him. Well, they're fooling themselves.

Our reading today comes from the book of Hebrews chapter 2 verses 1 to 4. And there the writer of the book of Hebrews encourages the people to really pay close attention and warns them not to drift away.

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

God wants us to do what is right and to pay close attention. Let us pray. Father we're thankful that You have revealed Your will to us. And that we can know what You would have us to do and to be so that we may please You and show You our love. Help us to live in such a way that glorifies Your name. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

People don't usually intend to drift away from God, or His teaching, or the church. It usually happens when people forget or neglect their faith. They focus on their daily lives and become distracted from eternal things. They assume that they have all the time in the world to draw close to God in their later years. And they don't realize that when they drift away from God, they can lose the blessing and promises of God.

Hebrews 5:12 to 14 speaks of Christians who had become dull of hearting. They hadn't matured enough to distinguish good from bad. The Hebrew writer said: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

Sadly, many today who call themselves Christians know very little about the Bible, about what to do to be saved, about the worship God desires, about the nature of the church, or about the morals that God desires them to practice. They simply don't know what it means to be righteous in God's eyes. Now being religious is not the same thing as being righteous. A righteous person knows the truth and holds

fast to it. A religious person is often more concerned about appearances and pleasing himself than he is knowing and practicing the will of God.

The Pharisees often practiced their righteousness before men to be noticed by them, but they rejected Jesus as the Christ. Their righteousness was keeping the commandments of men. And Paul described them in Romans 10:2 to 3, "For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God." Paul's prayer to God for them was for their salvation. To be saved they needed to truly believe and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and his words.

The Pharisees grew up with an oral, human tradition that came from their fathers not from God and not found in Scripture. The Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5 to 7 frequently contrasted such traditions. You can see the contrasts that use the phrases well, "You have heard that it was said" and then, "But I say to you." You see, Jesus was tearing down the human and showing God's real teaching. Authentic Christianity sees the difference between what is of human origin and what comes from God.

People, however, who have grown up hearing and obeying a human tradition have often never realized that their human traditions were not biblical and don't really come from God. For instance, many people teach a "sinner's prayer" leads a lost soul to salvation; but the idea of a sinner's prayer was never taught until well into the twentieth century, yes. The apostle Peter, who spoke as the Spirit gave him utterance, said in the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 verses 38 to 39, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for (that is in order to) the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

The human tradition of sprinkling infants came into play centuries after the New Testament was written. It's an innovation not a biblical practice. It has drifted away from what they practiced in the first century. Now, those who are bound to that tradition need to really think about what the Scripture says. Hearing with understanding, faith, love, and repentance always come before one is baptized into Christ. And infants have no need of baptism, for they haven't sinned and cannot inherit other people's sins.

No one has the right to change the gospel found in the New Testament. You remember, Paul said in Galatians 1:8 to 9, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." Now drifting often leads to leaving the truth and changing it to something that people invented.

The human tradition of using instruments of music in worship started many centuries after the New Testament was written. There's nothing in the New Testament that commands, implies, or gives an example of early churches using instruments of music in worship to God. Instrumental music was a Jewish practice a pagan practices, but not Christian one. The New Testament teaches Christians to sing from our hearts and with our lips (Ephesians 5:19; and Hebrews 13:15).

Authentic, true Christianity is devoted to the Lord Jesus, not to some human hierarchy or council. It doesn't look to some culture-bound authority but to the one Lord of all, and that's Jesus. Jesus is the head and the Lord of His church. And He hasn't abdicated His throne to a human substitute. The Lord rules His church from heaven through His words found in the New Testament not through some church law decided by men. Today's councils cannot change what the New Testament says and then think that they still please God.

Drifting from the word of God isn't a new problem. Before his death, you remember, Moses warned Israel not to forget the Lord but to keep His commandments. He said in Deuteronomy 8:11 to 14: "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

He adds in Deuteronomy 8 verses 18 to 20, "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God."

A generation later Joshua also warns Israel to remain faithful to God and to keep what is written. Joshua 23:6 to 8 says: "Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, (no he doesn't want that) so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. But you are to cling to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day." Now, Joshua didn't want the people he loved to drift away from God.

Joshua adds in Joshua 23:12 to 13: "For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know with certainty that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you."

God always remembers His people and seeks to bless them, but He expects His people to remain faithful and obey Him. God always takes note of what His people do or fail to do.

Judges 2:1 through 4 says: Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' (and then he says) But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.' " Now when the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.

We too should weep when we realize that we could lose our relationship with the Lord if we forget Him, neglect Him, or drift into error or human traditions. I pray that you're obeying the Lord and doing His will. I pray you'll pay much closer attention to what the Bible says and not fall prey to the traditions of men that fail to obey the Lord.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians at a time when the pagan culture was surrounding them on every side. And he wrote in 2 Corinthians 6 verses 14 to 18: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my

people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

We must separate from the false religion outside of Christ and the false traditions of men who call themselves Christians. Paul concluded in 2 Corinthians 7 and verse 1, “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” We must respect what God says.

One must avoid the distractions that lead us to stop listening. We cannot give in to the things of this world, we must listen to the Lord, we must read the Bible, and we must put God first. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 6 and verse 46, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? On the mount of transfiguration we hear God speaking from a cloud in Matthew 17:5, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

Peter spoke of the prophecy about the Lord Jesus in Acts 3:22 to 23, “Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ Friends, let’s have ears that hear what God says.

Let’s pray together. Heavenly Father we’re thankful that You have given us Your word through Jesus Christ. And You have taught us about how You treat those who fall away from You, in the Old Testament. Help us Heavenly Father to always give ourselves clearly to You, to serve You and to love You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ezra was a priest and a scribe. And Ezra 7 verse 10 says, “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Where is your heart? Is it listening to the Lord? Is it in reading the Scriptures? Ezra knew how important knowing the Word of God was to his own soul and to the souls of the people of Israel. How well do you know the Scriptures? Do you know the basic principles of the oracles of God? Have you studied for yourself or have you otherwise become dull of hearing? Are you skilled enough in Scripture, not culture, to distinguish good from evil?

We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard from Scripture, lest we drift away from it. The teaching of Jesus and the apostles recorded in Scripture has proven to be reliable. God bore witness to it with signs and wonders and miracles and He confirmed its truth in the first century. And that’s why we must go to the teaching of the New Testament for what we believe and practice.

I can read of the necessity of faith, love, repentance, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of sins in the New Testament. And shouldn’t I pay close attention to what I can read in Scripture rather than assume I can drift away into human traditions for salvation? Shouldn’t I listen to what God says rather than depend upon religious leaders who teach other things? I can put my trust in the written word, but I cannot trust human traditions that came centuries later, because they drifted away from the truth. Stand firm in the faith once for all time delivered to the saints.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

Please do not return to SEARCH.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633 searchtv@searchtv.org www.searchtv.org

Conditional

The doctrine of "once saved, always saved" suggests that the Christian, once truly saved, can never do anything to forfeit his salvation and be finally lost in hell. Well, this belief means that Christians have an unconditional security in Christ. Well now the people who believe this say that any person who appears to be a Christian and falls away was never truly converted in the first place. They recognize Christians do sin; but when they sin, what they say is they're punished in this life and will still go heaven.

"What will happen to the born again Christian who willingly forsakes God by turning to a life of neglect and sin or to a false religion?" Well, unconditional security suggests that he is still saved; but conditional security says he's lost. If salvation is conditional, the Scriptures will clearly teach it. Do we find conditional statements in the Scriptures regarding salvation? Now a conditional statement has a qualification to it. It may use the word "if" or it may use a relative clause describing the Christian who's fallen away. And we can't ignore the conditional, qualifying statements in Scripture about whom the grace of God saves. And we want people to know the truth and to remain true to God's word.

Our reading today is from Hebrews chapter 3 verses 12 to 14. And it is a caution to brethren about their lives and how they should live for the Lord.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

That's from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us always to hold fast to our faith and our assurance. Help us to never fall away and help us never to allow ourselves to become unbelievers as Christians. Father give us strength and help us to stay close to You always. To love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Does the New Testament contain conditions for our salvation? Well let's turn to the Scriptures to find out. We can trust them never to lie to us.

The Lord Jesus said in John 8:51, "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death." In John 15:2 the Lord said to His disciples who are branches that, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." Now He explains in verse 6 that, "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned." In verse 10 He states that, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Now if one wishes to abide in the love of God and not be cast away, he must abide in Christ, produce fruit, and keep His commandments. Now "If" means "if."

Now writing to the beloved saints of God in Rome, Paul said in Romans 8:12 to 13, "So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Now those brothers who set their minds on the flesh become hostile to God and must die. But if they put to death the deeds of the body, they will live. Salvation has conditions.

Paul spoke to the Corinthians who had become Christians in 1 Corinthians 14:1 to 2, "Now I make known to you, brethren, (this is chapter 15:1 to 2 he says,) the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain." They must not only become Christians, they must hold

fast to the word that Paul preached, so that their faith would not be in vain. Now if their faith doesn't hold fast, neither does their salvation.

Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia about some brethren turning to another gospel in Galatians 1:6 to 9. He wrote, "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!"

When people turn away from the gospel teaching found in Scripture to another gospel, they are accursed and you know what, they lead others to be accursed with them. Galatians 5 and verse 4 says clearly to them, "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." Christ will be no longer associate with any person who changes the gospel; they will no longer enjoy the grace of God. They have turned away from the gospel that brings salvation.

Now Paul was clear to the brethren in Colossians 1:21 to 23 he said, "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister." Paul feared that false teachings would move the Colossians away from the hope and the truth. Their salvation would only take place if they continued firmly established in the faith and not moved away from the hope of the gospel. When a person ceases to believe the truth, they are in danger of losing their souls.

The author of the book of Hebrews warns brethren who were drifting away from the truth and were falling for the deceitfulness of sin. As we said, Hebrews 3:12 to 14 says, "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you (you brethren) will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end." "If we hold fast" is indeed a condition. Sadly, some are deceived and hardened by sin. A believer can fall away from the living God into unbelief.

The phrase "fall away" refers to a rebellious attitude of deserting or abandoning one's faith in Christ for the deceitful and hardening pleasures of sin. Sin destroys our faith and our love for God. John warned Christians in 1 John 2:15 to 17, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." You cannot abandon God and then expect God's grace and blessing.

Hebrews 10:26 to 29 speaks to the person who willfully continues in sin: "For if we go on sinning deliberately (willingly) after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?"

When Christians deliberately, willfully, intentionally continue to sin after they have been taught and obeyed the truth, they no longer have the blessing of the sacrifice of Christ for their sins. They have set aside God's teaching in order to practice their sin. This tramples underfoot the Son of God, profanes the blood of the covenant that sanctifies them, and outrages the Spirit of grace. Hebrews 10:31 reminds us, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Believe it, my friend. God sees and knows when we choose sin over Him.

Now Peter knew some might slip back into sin after becoming a Christian. He said in 2 Peter 2:20 to 21, "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, (that is they became Christians and) they are again entangled in them (that is those sins) and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them." A fallen Christian is in worse shape than someone who never became a Christian. And those who have fallen away need to consider their souls.

Now John talks to Christians about how we choose to live in 1 John 1:6 to 9: he says, "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Now a Christian who walks in darkness chooses to live that way. Becoming a Christian means being rescued from darkness. Going back into the darkness and thinking that we have fellowship with God is deceiving ourselves. We must walk in the light to have fellowship with God and to have the blessing of the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from sin. Walking in the light doesn't mean that we're living perfectly sinless lives on our own. We can't do that, and we need the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from the sins we still commit. But we must be honest and confess our sins if we wish to be forgiven from all unrighteousness. Thankfully, the blood of Jesus covers all the sins of a Christian who is walking in the light.

Recognizing and confessing our sins is the first step in being forgiven when we have fallen away from Christ. Are you fallen away? Have you quit practicing your faith? Do you realize how you have grieved the Spirit and caused God heartbreak? If you had to face the Lord Jesus today in your spiritual condition, would you be pleasing to Him? You know it's better to be honest with ourselves in this life than to face the Lord unprepared on the Day of Judgment.

Thankfully, God has a way to pardon those who choose to fall away from Him. People who started living like they didn't know God, quit praying, quit reading Scripture, and quit worshiping with the church can come back home to fellowship with God. If they were choosing to walk in darkness, they need to turn their lives around in repentance and start walking once again in the light. They need to quit deceiving themselves that they can do whatever they wish and still please the Lord Jesus who died for their sins.

We should hold fast to our faith. Hebrews 10:39 says, "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls." We must remain faithful to the Lord and not be moved back into a sinful world. Being honest about our behavior matters. 1 John 2:3 to 6 says, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, (that is we have a relationship with Him, we love Him, that is) if we keep his commandments. Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of

God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” Yes, there are conditions to our salvation, and how we walk or live, the choices we make the direction we focus on, that matters.

David prayed to God in Psalm 139:23 to 24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” Perhaps we all need to take an inventory of our own hearts and lives, thinking about how God our Father sees us rather than justifying all the things we do. James 5:16 says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” Now as we confess our sins and repent of our sins, let's ask God to forgive us; and God will, God will forgive. And I'm so thankful for that promise.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, Father help us never to presume that we can live our lives without thinking about what You've done for us. Without thinking about You and loving You. Without wanting to do Your will. Oh Father, keep our hearts strong and faithful and help us never to turn away from You into unbelief and sin. Father help us to love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

God has also made conditions to becoming a Christian, and they don't make grace any less a gift. One doesn't earn salvation, but one must receive it God's way. Meeting God's conditions must take place before we're forgiven. John 1:11 to 13 reminds us that, “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” Now one must believe in Jesus Christ to become a child of God.

One must also repent of sin. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 13:3 that, “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” The first thing Jesus ever preached was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). In the first gospel sermon, Peter said in response to the people's question at Pentecost in Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Paul told the people on Mar's Hill, “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30) Now you can't live an ungodly life and then expect to receive the Lord's blessing.

One must also confess faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that He is also the Lord. Now if you aren't willing to take a stand for Him, you can't be saved. Then you must let God act upon you in baptism. Now baptism is when God works. God washes away your sins (Acts 22:16), He makes you His child (Galatians 3:26 and 7), and He unites you with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3 to 7). So repent and be baptized today.



Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

Please do not return to SEARCH.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633 searchtv@searchtv.org www.searchtv.org

Born in Sin

Years ago I heard a preacher teach that every person from birth has a nature that is totally corrupt, perverse, and sinful. And because of this inborn corruption, the natural man is totally unable to do anything spiritually good. The sinner is so spiritually bankrupt that he can do anything that pertaining to his own salvation. He cannot believe on his own, he can't repent of his sin. This natural man is enslaved to sin; and he is a child of Satan, rebellious toward God, blind to truth, corrupt, and unable to save himself or prepare himself for salvation.

He said when Adam chose evil in the garden, he plunged himself and the entire human race into such spiritual ruin that they cannot choose spiritual good over evil. Man no longer has free will, according to him, to choose right over wrong. He said men inherited this total depravity. And the only answer to these problems is a miraculous change from God; and once man is saved, he can never be lost. Well this doctrine also suggested that God arbitrarily chose from heaven who would be saved and who would be lost. And so man has no choice in the matter. Well, we're going to examine the Scriptures to see whether this doctrine is true. As always we want to know what God's Word says, because it is completely reliable.

Our reading today comes from Titus chapter 2 verses 11 to 14. And it talks about the grace of God that instructs and how that we have free will to answer.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Oh yes, we can change. God gave us that ability. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful for You love we're thankful Father that You gave us an opportunity through the gospel to come and be Your children and to be people who love You and serve You in every way. Father help us always to do Your will and to love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

What does the Bible say about the spiritual condition of the soul at birth. Well, first, let's go to Romans 7:7 to 11. "What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. I was once alive apart from the Law; (Paul says,) but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."

Romans 7 teaches people to learn right from wrong from the commandments. When evil desires to cause us to break the commandments, we sin against God and we spiritually die. James 1:13 to 15 describes more specifically when spiritual death takes place: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he's carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." Now sin is an act, not a trait that's inherited. You can't inherit the act of stealing, gossip, or fornication. People choose to act. Sin is accomplished after a choice, not inherited.

God's Word everywhere holds each person responsible for his or her own sins. I urge you to read the entire chapter of Ezekiel 18 for yourself. God clearly doesn't hold children guilty for the sins of their

parents or parents guilty for the sins of their children. Ezekiel 18:1 to 4 says: Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying that, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die."

Now some think children inherit the guilt of their parents. Some say we as children of Adam and Eve have inherited their wicked nature and are guilty of their sin. Some say an infant who dies is lost eternally; others say they go to limbo. Now you can't find the concept of limbo in Scripture; it's human in origin. But little children who die aren't lost; they haven't inherited Adam's guilt. Why? Well, Ezekiel 18:20 says, "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself." Now babies don't know right from wrong and they can't sin. One can only be lost for one's own sins.

Romans 14:12 says, "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God." You may be kin to the most godly person in the world, but you know what, that won't help you on judgment day. You can't inherit someone else's righteousness. Your father may be a preacher or an elder, and your mother may be a saint, but you cannot inherit salvation from your parents. You must choose to follow the Lord for yourself.

You may be kin to the worst of sinners, but God won't hold you responsible for what he or she has done. God will hold you responsible for your own actions. 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

Now people tend to look down on others for their wickedness and then ignore their own sins. I received a card from a viewer who said, "As much as I would be astonished at the sins of others, with an honest appraisal I am much more astonished and offended at my own." You know if I'm lost on judgment day, I have no one to blame for my sinful life but myself. I may have learned to sin from other people, but I chose to do it myself.

Spiritual death means a person is separated from God's grace. Isaiah 59:1 to 2 says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." You know when people commit sin and iniquity, they separate themselves from God. Sin means that God turns His back to us and will not hear our prayers.

Now sin causes animosity between God and man. Sin takes place when a man selfishly says to God, well I won't live by Your rules. I'll do what I want to do. Now sin offends God and alienates us from God. James 4 and verse 4 says that "whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." It's when you choose to embrace a sinful world and reject God that you make an enemy of God. Now you weren't born an enemy; you became one through sin.

Paul preached to some pagan philosophers in Athens, who didn't know God. And in spite of this, he said to them in Acts 17:29 that we are all "the offspring of God." Hebrews 12 verse 9 reveals that God is "the Father of spirits." Whether you know God or not, the spirit inside you came from God. You are His offspring, created in His image. God didn't make you evil. You chose to do evil. Psalm 58:3 says that, "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies." Now they're not born astray; they go astray.

The Scriptures don't describe us as totally depraved; rather they describe us as weak. Saying humans have a weakness to sin is not the same as saying they're totally unable to do any good. The Lord Jesus told the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41) You know we want to do good but often find ourselves doing wrong thing.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Now this is not the tree of the knowledge of evil and evil. Adam and Eve received knowledge of good as well as evil. They were not totally corrupt in knowledge. Though they had sinned, they had knowledge of good.

The Lord God said in Genesis 8:21, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth." Now all of us have these selfish, evil desires inside us. They tempt us to sin against God. And we have to fight them all our days, but that doesn't mean that we cannot also do good.

Now think with me. In the parable of the sower, there are different kinds of soils and hearts. The Bible says in Luke 8:15, "But the seed on the good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Now this good and honest heart belongs to a person who is not yet a Christian, not yet saved. Remember Cornelius, the first Gentile convert. Acts 10 verse 2 says that Cornelius, though not saved was nevertheless "devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly."

The apostle spoke of a spiritual battle that was going on him. You remember Paul said in Romans 7:21 to 23, "So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members." Now we all face this battle of wanting to do right and often finding ourselves doing the evil that we hate. But this doesn't mean that we're totally corrupt and incapable of believing.

Let me ask here some questions to those who believe we're totally depraved and incapable of good. Hebrews 11:6 says that "without faith it is impossible to please God." Why would God demand faith, when He knows that men are incapable of believing what is written in His Word? The Lord Jesus said in Luke 13:5, "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." Why would Jesus Christ condemn people for failure to repent if they're incapable of repenting or doing any good toward their salvation?

Luke 18 verses 15 to 17 says, "And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of (heaven) God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." Well, how can this be if infants are born wholly corrupt and unable to do good? Why would the Lord speak so glowingly of babies if they were so bound up in sin?

You know at this point, someone is probably asking, "Phil, don't you know about Psalm 51:5? Well, here the NIV reads "Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Doesn't this imply that we're born in sin? Well, the NIV translates poorly here. Literally, David's words would be translated: "Behold in iniquity I was born and in sin my mother conceived me." David is saying that he was born in an evil and sinful world. Let's remember sin is an act, a transgression of God's law. Sin is not an inherited trait; it's learned and acted out.

Now I speak English because I was born in an environment that speaks the English language. In Acts 2 the apostles spoke with the miraculous gift of tongues to people from many nations. And when they heard the apostles, they marveled and said, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And

how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?" (Acts 2:7 to 8). You see people are born in a language. That is one learns a language by being born into an environment that speaks it. And in the same way, one learns sin by being born into a world that practices it.

To make this passage say that David was born depraved and sinful as a baby would make it contradict what David says in Psalm 22:9 to 10, "Yet You (that is God) are He who brought me forth from the womb; You (that is God) made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb." From the time that he was little, David learned both good and bad, both trust in God and sin. And God didn't make us totally evil and incapable of believing or incapable of repenting. We're all weak, yes, but we can change. Thank God!

Let's pray together. Father we're thankful for Your love for all of us and for Your grace that opens the door for us to be able to change our lives. To come to believe You and repent and to love You. And Father we pray that we will always chose to do Your will, to love others and to love You. In Jesus name, Amen.

2 Corinthians 5:19 to 20 says that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (and) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; (and) we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." Why do Christians urge others to be reconciled to God? The word "reconcile" means "to bring back into harmony." If an infant is born in sin, he cannot be reconciled because he was never in harmony with the Lord in the first place.

But infants are born innocent. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 19:14 that, "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We aren't born totally depraved but spiritually pure. They're separated from God when they're old enough to choose sin. When people sin, they need to be reconciled to God by obeying the gospel. The gospel is God's answer to be freed from sin. The gospel declares the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and urges people to believe, repent, and to be baptized. Jesus died on the cross to atone for our sins. And He offers salvation to those who respond in faith, love, and obedience. Now even in our sins, we have the ability to respond to the gospel. Because of God's grace, we can change.

Believe Jesus is the Christ! Repent from sin and turn to the Lord. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. And be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2 and verse 38). "Be saved from this crooked generation." God made you capable of faith, repentance, and baptism. And so don't remain in sin. In Acts 2:41 those who gladly received the word, these were lost people, were baptized. And then they became saved. All through the book of Acts lost people responded to preaching, believed and obeyed. And you can too!

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

Please do not return to SEARCH.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633 searchtv@searchtv.org www.searchtv.org