



# Eternal Gospel

**Personal Evangelism & New Believer's Follow-up**

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Preface

## What is the Gospel? How does it happen on us?

### What is the Gospel?

We often say "I went to preach the gospel". But if we examine further, what I really have done is visiting, caring or inviting people to come for the gathering. These are good services but are not the same as preaching the gospel. To preach the gospel, we must first understand the content of the Gospel.

According to Apostle Paul, <sup>1</sup> *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.* <sup>2</sup> *By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.* <sup>3</sup> *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,* <sup>4</sup> *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,* <sup>5</sup> *and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.* <sup>6</sup> *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.* <sup>7</sup> *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,* <sup>8</sup> *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."* (Cor. 1 15:1-8)

From Apostle Paul's explanation, we see that the Gospel consists of two elements: (1) Jesus died for our sins, and (2) Jesus rose again the third day. "Buried" proves that "Jesus died". **Peter, the 12 apostles, more than five hundred brethren, James, apostles and Paul,** these people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus are the proofs of Jesus' "resurrection." If our preaching includes not these two elements then we are not preaching the gospel.

If a person wants to be saved, he must take the initiative and humbly recognize the first element of the Gospel. Then God will make Gospel's second element to happen in that person.

## How does the Gospel happen on us?

How does this simple gospel come to a non-believer and change him/her from against God to become God's children? This is the mystery of the gospel. Apostle Paul said: *"...because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes..." (Roman1:16)* Let's find out from the Bible how this mystery works.

### 1. The gospel must happen on us.

In the Bible verses that we commonly use in the baptism, Apostle Paul indicates that Jesus' death and resurrection must be experienced by the believers that are baptized into Jesus.

*"<sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."* (Romans 6: 3-5)

Baptism symbolizes the spiritual change that has happened on the believers. This means that the believers have united with (1) the death of Jesus, and (2) the resurrection of Jesus. To be united with Christ in his death and in his resurrection means the gospel has taken its powerful effect on the believer, transforming the knowledge of gospel from his head into a spiritual reality. To understand this transformation, we first need to understand what happened on Jesus' death and His resurrection?

### 2. What happened on Jesus' death and His resurrection?

It combines the work of Jesus and the work of the Father. Apostle Paul told us Jesus' humility (*Kenosis*, a theological term) in the Bible verses:

*"<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.*

*<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!*

<sup>9</sup> *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,*  
<sup>10</sup> *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*  
<sup>11</sup> *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

*(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Philippians 2:5-8 is about the death of Jesus and verses 9-11 is about the resurrection of Jesus. In verses 5-8 on “humility of Jesus”, we see that though Jesus is God but He did not grasp this privilege of being God. He forfeited this privilege and was willing to become a man and be subjected to the limitations of man. After becoming a man, Jesus was obedient and willing to die on the cross for the sins of human kind. In His death, we see Jesus was willing and took an active role.

In verses 9-11, we see Jesus took a passive role in His resurrection. Resurrection was the work of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father not only let Jesus be resurrected from the dead but also exalted Jesus to the name above every name so that every knee should bow in front of Jesus.

### **3. How the death of the old and the resurrection of the new happen on the believers.**

We often talk about the death of Jesus but not the resurrection of Jesus when we preach the gospel. However, the person who hears the death of Jesus and believes shows a clear change in his life. This is because the believer actively accepted the first element of the gospel -- Jesus died for his sins. He then received passively the second element of the gospel—God gave a born-again new life to the believer. This can be illustrated in the passage of John 3:1-15.

In the talk between Jesus and Nicodemus (see John 3:1-15), Jesus clearly told Nicodemus, the outward identity, whether political or religious, and inward religious knowledge cannot bring a person to have any relationships with the Kingdom of God. Only being born again can bring a person to have a relationship with the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). In guiding Nicodemus into a relationship with the kingdom of God, Jesus first had to explain what is being born-again (John 3:3-8), and then taught Nicodemus how he could be born-again (John 3:9-15).

**What is being born-again?** There is a difference in nature between the being born-again from the Holy Spirit and the birth of a person from his mother. The birth of a person from his mother has a clear beginning that can be seen with a naked eye, and the essence of this life belongs to the flesh. The life of being born-again from the Holy Spirit has no clear beginning as the naked eye can see, and the essence of this being born-again life belongs to the spirit.



Even though the life of being born-again from the Holy Spirit has no clear beginning, its existence can be clearly felt. It is like wind, its existence can be felt but cannot be seen (John 3:8). Being born again is the work of God, we cannot give birth to ourselves. Jesus explained to us that being born-again from the Holy Spirit and the birth of our flesh from our mother have one similarity – sovereignty is not in our hand. It is not within our grasp but in the hands of those give us the birth.

The wind blows wherever it pleases. We don't know where it comes or where it goes. We cannot control it. Birth from the Holy Spirit is just like that (John 3:8). Very interestingly, Jesus used the wind as a metaphor, which in Hebrew and also in Greek the spirit and wind is the same word. The life that is born again from the Holy Spirit belongs to the spirit (John 3:6). Only the spiritual life can see the spiritual realm, and only the spiritual life can enter the spiritual realm (John 3:3,5).

**How can we be born again?** – The discussion above, “what is being born-again”, is the working out of the second element of the gospel, “the resurrection of Jesus”, in the lives of the believer. The working out of this element is in the hands of God, not in our control. But to reach this stage, we who hear the gospel must first accept and identify with the first element, that is, (1) the death of Jesus for our sins. Using the example of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness in Numbers 21:4-9, Jesus explained how a person can come to agreement with the first element of the Gospel.

*<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived. (Numbers 21:4-9)*

Numbers 21:4-9 documented an event in the wilderness east of Edom. The Israelites once again complained to God, complaining that road was hard, no food, no water, ate manna every day that had no taste. God used the fiery snakes (“fiery” may indicate the color, or the burning pain from the bite) to bite them. Many were bitten and died from poisoning. People pleaded guilty before God and begged for mercy. God instructed Moses to make a copper replica of the fiery serpent and hang it on a pole. If people wanted to be healed they must come forward and look at the serpent, they would then be healed. This simple act of looking up at the bronze snake is

an act of faith which is not easy to do. Suppose you are the one bitten by the fiery serpent and hear this treatment method, you may have one the following reactions: (1) How can that be so easy to have the venom removed? I do not believe. (2) A mucho man will bear his own fault. I complained and got bitten by snake. I will take the blame myself. I don't need God's salvation. (3) My pain is unbearable and I don't want to die under this condition. God! Please save me. Those people with the reactions of (1) and (2) are not coming before the copper snake. Only those with reaction (3) will be healed. They must have faith on God's word and come before the copper serpent that prepared by God. And when they look up at the snake, they are healed from the poison.

Today, like being bitten by snakes and controlled by the venom, we are bitten by sin and living in sin's sphere of influence.

The Bible says, "*Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree*" (Deuteronomy 21:23, Gal 3:13). Jesus became our sin, and was hung on the tree (compare Romans 8:3). God speaks to us "If you look upon the Jesus on the cross, you will gain life".

When we hear such an invitation, we that are enslaved by sin have three reactions (1) How can that be so easy to have sin removed? I don't believe. (2) A mucho man will bear his own fault. I will take the consequences for my own sin and I don't need Jesus to save me. (3) My pain is unbearable and I don't want to die in the middle of sin. God! Please save me. Only those with reaction (3) will have faith in God's word and come before the cross prepared by God. Raise their heads to look upon Jesus who became their sin and was hung on the cross. In this way, their sins are forgiven, and they will receive eternal life (John 3:15).

### **Conclusions**

By faith, I take the initiative, actively and humbly accept the first part of the Gospel--Jesus died for my sins. Then God will do the second part of the gospel -- In Christ, I am born-again and the resurrected life of Jesus becomes my new life.

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What Is the Gospel?

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## PART ONE

# Why We Do Personal Evangelism

Personal evangelism is an important channel in eating the spiritual food. We all treasure the spiritual food. Even some churches were so named. We often think that coming to a good church and listening to a good sermon is tantamount to eating the spiritual food. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Let us examine what is the spiritual food through Gospel of John, 4:31-34, and find out how to eat the spiritual food.

### 1. Eating spiritual food is not taking it in but giving it out (John 4: 31-34)

*"Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. (John 31-34)"*

Disciples of Jesus often forgot to carry food, and became very sensitive at mentioning. After performing the miracle of the seven loaves and a few fish, Jesus in Matthew 16:6 cautioned the disciples "Guard against the leavens of the Pharisees and the Sadducees prudently." The disciples answered immediately "It is because we did not bring any bread?" John recorded a similar incident here, as soon as the Lord Jesus said: "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." (John 4:32), the disciples thought they had brought the food too late and others had provided for their teacher. Jesus answered these food-sensitive disciples, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Clearly, the food Jesus talking about is not the physical food. It is the spiritual food. Today when we talk about eating the spiritual food, we immediately think about inviting the pastor that has preached very good messages on certain subject. The larger the church is the more resourceful she is to assemble the globally known pastors to come preaching. During the time in searching for a pastor, the elders and deacons in a certain large church arranged a schedule for the speakers in a whole year. Because they didn't have to pay for the pastor's salary, they had a large budget to fly in many of the world famous preachers for many series of sermons. One of the elders said "Why should we even think about



hiring a pastor? Every Sunday with this kind of feast is better than every Sunday listening to the same pastor with not so great messages.”

I feel that it is very unfair to be compared with the senior pastor of a church whenever I am invited to preach a sermon there. I can select my life’s best messages and repeat them in different churches. Not only the sermons are familiar to me but also are attractive to the listening audience. Of course, every church likes it. But if you ask my wife and children why they don’t come with me and listen to my sermons, you will understand where the problem is. To let a child grow healthy, the father cannot take the child to different restaurants and eat their most famous dishes every day. He needs to take the child home and eat the vegetables and tofu cooked by mom. The mother knows not only what the child likes to eat, but also what kind of nutrition the child needs. Many times, she does not necessarily cook those dishes her child loves to eat, but those dishes her child needs to eat.

A church in Europe arranged 16 sermons in their 3-day spiritual revival meeting. My thinking is, using 16 continuous sermons by many famous speakers with a series of good messages is to let their spiritual climax reaches a new “high”. But the problem is this: Does listening to so many good messages tantamount to eating good spiritual food? Or as Paul said that we risk “knowledge puffs up”? (1 Corinthians 8:1)

Jesus gives us a very clear and good definition of eating the spiritual food. He said the spiritual food is *“to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”* We have to follow the will of God that sent us to work in this world, and finish the work He wants us to do. Spiritual food in Jesus’ definition is not how much sermons we listened but how much of God’s work we have done. Those come into our ears is not ours yet. Those come out of our work become our spiritual food.

Let us push the question further. Jesus said he just ate the spiritual food. The question is what has Jesus done? - Personal evangelism-- Jesus just conducted a personal evangelism with a Samaritan woman. If even our Lord needs to conduct personal evangelism in order to eat the spiritual food, then who are we that we can eat the spiritual food by only listening to sermons in the church!

Jordan River flows down from Mt. Hermon and runs through two seas. Israelites called the lake “sea”. Both lakes receive the water from the same river. Jordan River flows down from Mt. Hermon, into Sea of Galilee from the north end, out Sea of Galilee from the south end, and runs south through some distance and then finally into the Dead Sea.

Though having the same source of river water, two lakes are vastly different. Sea of Galilee is full of life because it has inlet and outlet. Villages around the lake such as Capernaum and Tiberias relied on the lake for fishing. Many of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen who made livings there. How about the Dead Sea? It has inlet but no outlet. Though its area and volume are much bigger than those of Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea has not even a living thing in it.

In fact, in Medieval time, people drew maps of River Jordan full of fish. But near the entrance of the Dead Sea they drew the fish turning their head around facing north. The fish dare not continue to swim south because they will die when they enter the lake.

In a church I ministered before, there were two baptisms a year. Everyone that was ready to receive baptism took about half a year to go through Eternal Gospel (7 gospel lessons and 8 follow-up lessons). They were required to memorize about 20 Bible verses before baptism. During the baptismal ceremony, I often said to them: "You believe in Jesus about the same time, and are baptized at the same time. You will listen to the sermons at the same church and will take similar Sunday school classes. Five years from now, some of you will mature, full of spiritual life and can help the spiritual needs of people around you. But some of you will like Dead Sea. Those come in contact with you will die. The difference is that the former has inlet and outlet, takes in the teaching and shares out with gospel preaching. The latter has inlet but no outlet, always sitting on church pews taking in constantly." When one has listened to the sermons of many good preachers for so long, what else has he not heard? Gradually, he becomes an expert in listening and begins to comment on the preaching -- which topics are good, which topics are bad and where the messages were wrong, etc. In such an environment, the preachers are nervous and afraid to death of being criticized when they come and preach in such churches.

If a person always shares the gospel with nonbelievers, the messages he learned in the church become an important source for him to answer the questions of the non-believers. His attitude of learning will be humble and serious, because he knows that he cannot make mistakes in answering the questions of the non-believers. However, if a person listens to the sermon in order to criticize the preacher, he will put himself in the position as a judge and becomes prideful. The focus of his listening will be whether or not he had heard of it before? With itchy ears, they will be like the Athenians who heard Paul's teachings about Jesus and His resurrection; <sup>19</sup> *Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"* <sup>20</sup> *You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."* (Acts 17:19-20) The author of the Bible then commented on the Athenians: *"All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas."* (Act 17:21). If our attitudes in listening to the sermons are like the Athenians, our head will grow bigger and bigger while our spirits will not get better and better.

We all know Bill Gothard, the founder of Institute in Basic Life Principles. He talked about his younger years of being a youth pastor that he would take the youth to share the gospel with the inner city gangs. What is special in preaching the gospel to the gangs? The gangsters hate the hypocrites the most. When a person acts differently from his talk, they would probably stab him with a knife.

We are very polite in the church because we will meet again next Sunday. We generally are very careful in our conversation not to offend anyone. However, it will be different in preaching the gospel to the non-believers. The non-believers might be bad in many areas of their lives,

but one thing they are very good at is that they see very clearly, especially when you preach the gospel to them. They look carefully on whether your act is the same as your talk. We pastors are always most thrilled to see Christians being put through this kind of scrutiny.

Therefore, we know the sayings of our Lord Jesus regarding what we must do to eat the spiritual food. It is to “preach the gospel/do personal evangelism”. To eat the spiritual food is not through listening from the ears, but through personal evangelism in our daily lives. Let’s see the examples of our Lord Jesus on how he preaches the gospel.

## **2. Eating spiritual food is often in a non-traditional place, in an inconvenient time, to people that we are not comfortable with or even dislike. (John 4:1-12)**

This time, the place that the Lord Jesus ate the spiritual food is not in the temple, not at Jerusalem but in Samaria. In the Lord Jesus’ time, the Jews and the Samaritans did not have good relationship. In the eyes of the Jews, the Samaritans were a nation of mixed blood, a people they did not want to get along with. To a point even when the Jews traveled from Galilee at the north to Jerusalem at the south, they would detour through the east bank of the Jordan River, bypassed Samaria, and then circled back to the west bank in Judea. But the Bible says Jesus “had to” go through Samaria. Not only passing through Samaria, but also Jesus chose to arrive at the well of Jacob in Sychar at noon time, because only at this time Jesus could meet this woman. This woman was married and divorced at least five times and was currently living with a man. Such a woman, most people did not want to mingle with. We believe that this woman had deliberately tried to avoid the crowd. Therefore, during the hot noon she came to the well to fetch water when people were in rest.

If you compare Nicodemus in the previous chapter to this Samaritan woman, they are vastly different: the former sought the truth (like a seeker in today’s church), the latter was indifferent (the pursuer of love in the world); the former was a respected leader, the latter was rejected by the community; the former had high morality, the latter was immoral; the former was orthodox, the latter was heresy; the former was very familiar with the religious doctrines, the latter was ignorant. But for the former - Nicodemus, and the latter - the Samaritan woman, Jesus did personal evangelism on both.

Jesus action reminds us once again the principle of sharing the gospel: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10). It is our love and obedience to the Lord that moves us to preach the gospel to the people of different culture and tradition, who we normally hesitate to comingle with. It is also our love and obedience to the Lord that we would reach out to people in need at a time that is most inconvenient to us, at a time that we rather take a rest. And when we do take the action to share the gospel, the pressure of opposition will flood us from all directions. At a time like this, nevertheless, God will make it perfect for our spiritual growth. It is our chow time for spiritual food.

### **3. When we share the gospel, we work together with God and rejoice with other saints (John 4:36b-38)**

When we do the work of sharing the Gospel, we work together with God. Through the natural revelation of the created world and through the testimony of other saints, God often prepares nonbelievers ready for harvest. We, as harvesters, rejoice together with those who sowed the seeds. In addition, I observed a very real phenomenon that a person who brings people to Christ is able to teach God's Word in simple ways and in clear terms to non-believers. This is God's blessing and a clear sign of working together with God. In fact, every fellow sister can describe this phenomenon to you -- A mother who gives birth to a child will have milk to nurse her child. In the same token, Christians who give birth to spiritual children will have the ability to nurse their spiritual children.

### **4. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life (John 4:36a)**

God compares the work of sharing the gospel to sowing the seeds and harvesting in the fields (John 4:35-38). When we eat the spiritual food through sharing the gospel, Jesus said, "the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life. In the Book of Daniel, the last words God said to Daniel worth our contemplation, "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance." (Daniel 12:13.) Most of us Christians do the previous two (1) go our way till the end - to be buried in the graveyard, and (2) rest - that is to be with the Lord in the paradise. But most of us fail to comprehend the ultimate destiny, that is, "you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance." This inheritance is allotted to us by Jesus from His Judgment Seat. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Jesus often compares the preaching of gospel to the works of sowing and harvesting. We all remember the parable of five talents, two talents and one talent. The one received one talent said to Lord Jesus: "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." (Matthew 25:24-25). Here, "hard" means very strict, very harsh. Lord Jesus did not deny this man's comment about him, and he replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. (Matthew 25:26-27).



In his whole life time, Jesus preached the gospel, healed people mostly in the area of Palestine. He never stepped on Taiwan, China, Kyrgyzstan or the United State. However, Jesus will settle with you in the future to see whether you have sowed the seeds, and have harvested in areas like these. If you want to receive the inheritance before Jesus' judgment seat, you must learn to share the gospel personally with attitude like the ones with five talents and with two talents. If not, give your one talent to support missionaries in preaching the gospel at faraway places. Or, invite your friends to the church and let your pastor share the gospel with them. If you let others run your business, you get at least some interest to answer to Jesus Christ in the future, before His judgment seat.

For us who are God's servants, He gives us His sheep to care for. We will answer to God in the future how we care for His sheep. A faithful servant not only concerns about his own reward, but also the rewards his sheep will receive before the judgment seat of Jesus. We need to feed the sheep with spiritual food. To do personal evangelism is everyone's responsibility. Pastor must do it and he must train his lay people to do it, too.



## **PART ONE**

# **Recommendations on Personal Evangelism**

A few recommendations for doing personal evangelism:

### **1. Do not emphasize the authority of the Bible**

I am not saying the Bible has no authority. What I am saying is that the authority of the Bible has no special meaning to the non-believers. We want our guests to treat the Bible just like any other good books they have read. It is our responsibility to demonstrate that the Bible has authority over all creation. Through our series of Bible study with him, we will use the Bible to explain the creation of the world and many spiritual phenomena. It is most appropriate to use the words of our Creator to explain the created world.

When he understands why the world behaves like this and accepts the Biblical interpretation of things around us through the series of Bible study, then we have established the authority of the Bible in his heart. If a person does not agree with what you say from the heart, then doctrine will have no effect on him. Force the doctrine on the listeners will only bring about resentment.

### **2. Do not use the sermon-like preaching methods to share the gospel**

A distinctive feature of the sermon is that you can finish the prepared lecture without paying attention to your guest's response or lack of response. This one way communication method cannot gauge how much your guest understands. You don't know whether he has questions. And if the sermon lasts too long, the guest loses interest easily.

I strongly suggest using dialogue in personal evangelism. Invite the guest to participate in the entire process. Let your guest read the Bible when we study together. After reading the Bible, lead him to discover the truth you want him to know. When he "discovers" the truth, and get your approval, he will most likely gain this truth. When you see from his answer that he agrees

with this truth, you can then build the next truth upon the first one and gradually lead him to reach the destination. No one will be interested in the things he does not understand.

### **3. Keep the Bible study short**

Body fatigue caused by too much Bible study becomes a pressure and the guest loses interest. It is a sin to bore your guest with the Bible. Generally, I will ask my guest to have at least seven sessions of Bible study with me. Each session is limited to one and a half hour. Stop when time is up and the guest is still in great interest. Let "Find out next time" become a tool to attract him back to next study. God's Word has power and is attractive. Do not use God's words to bore people.

### **4. Use of materials**

Eternal Gospel is a teacher's manual for the host. It is not a book to be read by the guest. Bible alone is the learning material to be used by the guest. The host should constantly help the guest with locating the Bible verse and allow the guest to read the Bible verses smoothly.



## **PART ONE**

# **LESSON ONE** **“God the Creator”**

### **[Theme]**

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce our God and His nature to the listener.

### **[Bible]**

Genesis Chapter 1

### **[Content]:**

Host: Have you thought about why there are seven days in a week?

Most often used numeral system is either decimal (10-base) or duodecimal (12-base). We use decimal system because it is easy for us to count using our ten fingers. We use duodecimal system because it enables us to divide the whole into parts of 2, 3, 4 or 6. We count our workdays using 7-base system, i.e. seven days in a week. Why not use 5 days or 10 days in a week since 5 and 10 are easy to count using our fingers? If there are 10 days in a week, we will be tired after 8 or 9 days of working. On the other hand, if there are only 5 days in a week, our employers will cry unfair because it gives the employee too much weekend rests. Therefore, the best working schedule is seven days a week. But where does this seven days schedule come from?

If you search the Encyclopedia Britannica, you will find that the Assyrian Empire had 5 days in a week, the Egyptians had 10 days in a week and the Roman Empire had 8 days in a week. The system we are using today is not coming from these Empires but rather coming from the Hebrews that historically occupied a small land and had low populations, weak economy and little political power. The gift of Jews, the people of the Hebrew tribe, is the history of God.



It was written in the Bible that God created this world in six days and rested in the seventh day. God created human and want the human to use the same working cycle as His. Bible is the word of God and delivered to us through the small Hebrew tribe. Let us read what was written in the Bible about God's creation.

Let us find out what God created in the first day in this seven day creation process. Could you read the Book of Genesis chapters 1, verses 1 through 5?

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:1- 5)

*Genesis 1:1-5 [1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.]*

Host: What God created in the first day?

Guest: (Light?)

Host: Yes, God created light in the first day and separated light from darkness. Here we see that darkness is before light and this is the order set by God. Verse 5 says *God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.* Following the Old Testament tradition, the Jewish day begins at the sunset, i.e., starting at the dusk; first the evening and then the daytime. The Jewish day ended when the daytime is ended. Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at dusk on Saturday.

Host: May I ask "What God created in the next day?"

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:6-8)

*Genesis 1:6-8 [6 And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.]*

Guest: God created the sky?

Host: Yes, "God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. God called the vault "sky."

Host: What is the water above?

Guest: Clouds.

Host: Yes, the water above is clouds.<sup>1</sup> Then, what is the water below?

Guest: The oceans.

Host: Very good. Let's find out what God created in the third day?

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:9-13)

*Genesis 1:9-13 [9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.]*

Host: Yes, God separated the waters below, and let the crust have the sunken part and the elevated part. The water recessed to the sunken part and formed the oceans, and the elevated part formed the continents (land). On land, it grows grass and vegetables and all sorts of trees. At this point, God has not created any creatures that move. I want you to pay attention to those created in the first three days and those created in the last

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<sup>1</sup> John Whitcomb pointed out that if all the water in the air suddenly pours down to the earth it will cover the entire earth surface less than two inch thick. (John Whitcomb & Henry Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1961, p. 121). Obviously, in the beginning of God's creation, the water in the sky was much more than today. This water canopy protected the earth in the early days, making the early eco-environment more suitable for the humans, animals and plants to live and grow. (See Joseph Dillow, *The Waters Above*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1981). In Noah's time, there was a flood. The water in the sky poured to the earth continuously for 40 days and 40 nights. The world's high mountains were all submerged in the water (Genesis 7:11, 12, 19). It is likely that God made the earth crust to change after the flood and widen the distances between the mountain tops and the valleys so that the rain water covering the earth retreated to the oceans. The remaining water in the sky today no longer is able to provide the same eco-environment as in the beginning. After the flood, the human life span reduced by half (Genesis 11: 10-17, compare to Genesis 5).

three days and find the connections between them. Next, let us look what God created in the fourth day?

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:14-19)

*Genesis 1:14-19 [14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.]*

Guest: Sun, moon and stars.

Host: Yes, God made two great lights (the Sun and the Moon) and the stars. The sun rules the day, the moon and the stars govern the night. Remember God created day and night in the first day? Now, God placed the sun in the day to rule the day and moon in the night to rule the night.<sup>2</sup>

What God created in the fifth day? And what these relate to those created in the second day?

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:20-23)

*Genesis 1:20-23[20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.]*

Guest: Fish in the water and birds in the sky.

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<sup>2</sup> If your guest asking "Why there was day and night even before the sun was created?" You can answer your guest that sunlight is only one of the sources of lights. Not all the lights have to come from the sun; for example, the lights from petroleum and hydraulic electricity as well as God's glory (see Revelation 21:23). And time existed before we have the clock to count the time. In the same token, God created day and night before he created sun and moon as the sources of the light.

Host: Yes, God created the “sky” to separate the water above it and below it (the oceans). Now, God created the birds, to fill the sky and the fish to fill the oceans. What God created in the sixth day? And what these relate to those created in the third day?

Guest: (Read Genesis 1:24-25; 26-31)

*Genesis 1:24-25<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.]*

*Genesis 1:26-31<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.]*

Guest: God made the beasts on earth and filled the land with insects and animals.

Host: Yes, God made the earth and the earth is full of living creatures. When God created man, the man is very precious in his whole creation, like the most valuable gemstones on the beautiful crown. When he finished creating all these, he felt very good and rested on the seventh day. Let us use the table below to see what God created in six days:

Day	To Divide	Day	To Fill
1	Day and night	4	Light body to control circadian
2	Sky and the sea	5	Marine fish and birds to fill the sky
3	Fertile land	6	Animals, insects, and two people



Host: Let us pause here to think. What kind of God is the God I am introducing to you?

Guest: A God has the plan and is orderly. A God created this world and us. God is good (because what he made was very good.). God is an almighty God. (God says “yes” and there it is.)



## PART ONE

### LESSON TWO

## “The Man God Created”

### [Theme]

The purposes of this lesson are: (1) to find out what kinds of God is our God through examining some human characteristics, and (2) to think about the reasons that changed the relationship between man and God from the creation to the present day.

### [Review]

Host: Can you tell me what kind of God I introduced to you in lesson one?

Guest: .....

### [Contents]

#### I. More Attributes of God

Host: Now let's talk about "man" – the pinnacle of God’s creation. Please read Genesis 1: 26-27.

Guest: *Genesis 1: 26-27<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.]*

Host: How did God create us?

Guest: In his image, he created us. (The guest may have the following questions, and the host can use the answers accordingly)

(The guest might ask the following questions, your answers are provided. You might not have to deal with the questions in between two red lines)

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Guest: God said "we", therefore God is more than one, isn't it?

Host: Here we find Trinity's first record. We believe that there is only one true God but in three persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Guest: Bible said God created us in God's image, is God man or woman?

Host: Maybe you can even ask whether God is white, yellow or black. In fact God is spirit, therefore He is not bound by body like we are. Furthermore, God made male and female in his image and likeness. This means that man and woman were both created by God in his image and likeness. Here, the image and likeness are not gender or skin color that is visible. Here, God's image and likeness are those invisible human characteristic and attributes that similar to God.

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Host: Suppose you open a shop in Taipei that has good business and earned a lot of money. And then you want to open another shop in Kaohsiung and so you hire a manager to run it. How do you want him to run the shop?

Guest: (Of course, use my method.)

Host: Similarly, when God created us in his own image and let us manage the world he created, he is asking us to represent him and to rule the world according to his methods. Let's think about the following three questions:

### **A. Justice**

Host: Let's suppose you drive through a cross section today and hit by another car running the red light from the other direction. When the police come and determine that it is your fault, just because the other driver is a white person. What is your reaction if you were treated like this way? (You can give another example using the guest's living environment and cultural background for him to think about the attribute of "justice")

Guest: I will be very angry.

Host: Why are you angry?

Guest: Because it is not fair!

Host: Why did you say it is not fair? Who said this world must have justice?

Guest: "....."

Host: Who places the concept of "justice" in your heart?

Guest: I think it is God?

Host: Yes! Because God created us in his image! Now, what kind of God have I just introduced to you?

Guest: He is a righteous God.

Host: Let's think about the next question.

### **B. Compassion**

Host: Suppose you walk around the lake and see a toddler, who is still learning to walk, falls into the water while you stand and watch him drown without lending a hand to save him. May I ask "Are you guilty under the law?"

Guest: Yes or No.

Host: In most countries, you are not guilty because you did not push him into the water. But when his parents come, they will curse you because you are a man without compassion. In fact, you might even feel guilty in your own heart. Mencius said: "Everyone has a compassionate heart." Even when you see your enemy's child falls into water, you will have compassion on him to save him. May I ask why you have compassion?

Guest: Because God is a merciful God. He created us, and put the compassion in our hearts.

Host: Wonderful! Let us think about another question.

### **C. Eternity**

Host: If you come to the forest. Have you ever seen a group of monkeys sitting in a circle to worship? Or see a group of cats, or a group of animals howling in worshipping?

Guest: No.

Host: But human are different. Wherever there is man there will be worshipping. Some worship the invisible God. Some worship God made in wood or stone. Some worship trees. Some worship the faithful dog and some worship the big rock. Even a place where religious practices are not allowed, the Government will give people some kind of "ism" to fill their hearts, or, say, picture of Mao to let people "consult in the morning and report in the evening". Why is there such a phenomenon?

Guest: "... ..."

Host: Could you read Ecclesiastes 3:11.

Guest: *Ecclesiastes 3:11: [11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.] (In original writing, Eternity is Eternal life)*

Host: A seventeenth-century French scientist Blaise Pascal measured the atmospheric pressure to be 760mmHg. In order to measure the atmospheric pressure, he must create vacuum. Pascal is also a God-fearing theologian. He described this "eternity" which God placed in people's hearts --"a God shaped vacuum (See 'Rensees'). Because people have such a God-shaped vacuum in their hearts, they hopelessly try everything possible to fill it. Some use money (people asked the old Rockefeller "Sir, How much money will satisfy you?" He replied: "a little more."). Some use academic degrees and some use their political status, and some use their many friends, but none is able to fill the eternal vacuum until the eternal God comes into our hearts. Then, the vacuum in our hearts can be satisfied. The fifth-century theologian Augustine, who in his *Confessions*, said: "You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in you. – Augustine/Confession1:1"

Only human has the concept of history because of this quality of "eternity". Horses do not need to know their bloodlines, dogs do not need to know their family trees, human writes for them. But human are different, they must know where they come from and where they are going, only then, they can find the meaning of life in this world at this time. Through the book "Root", the blacks in America found out their ancestors came from Africa. Inspired by Martin Luther King's powerful words "I have a dream", the blacks hope that one day blacks and whites will have the same opportunities. Only with this dream, they can position themselves in the society.

Because of this concept of "eternity", people will remember the past and think about the future. Consequently, people will ask "Where did I come from?" and "Where am I going?" Only human will think about "Was I created by God or was I evolved from the monkeys?" Monkeys do not bother with this kind of questions.

Host: Let's review what are the qualities of God based upon the images of God that we found in us?

Guest: God is a righteous God. He is a merciful God. He is an eternal God. He is a God with wisdom, with plans and with orders. God is the creator of this world. God created us. God is good (because of his creation was very good), God is Almighty! . . .

## II Why Did the World Become Like This Today?

## A. The Relationship between the Creatures and Man

Host: God had created man, what is the purpose? Could you please read Genesis 1:26-28 again?

Guest: *Genesis 1: 26-28: [26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."]*

God made us so that God can entrust us to rule over the animals, insects, fish, birds and every living creature that moves on the ground.

Host: Very good! Are human able to rule over the creatures in the world and the whole land today?

Guest: No.

Host: Suppose you invite your friends to dinner and there is a fly on the table. You said to the fly "Get out now! I will let you in after dinner." Do you think that the fly will obey your order?

Guest: No.

Host: You are right! Most likely, you have to fight to get the fly out.

Host: Suppose you are very tired after walking in the wildness and you see a wild horse that has never been ridden by man. You want to ride the wild horse. Are you able to get the wild horse to come before you and let you ride it for a while?

Guest: Impossible!

Host: You are right! Like taming the wild horse in the western movies, the horse will jump up and down and throw you to the ground many times before you can ride him. Do you know what kind of animal our Lord Jesus rode when he entered into Jerusalem?

Guest: It is a donkey (colt) that no one rode before. (See Luke 19:30-35).

Host: Did the Bible ever mention that the disciples kept picking up Jesus from the ground because the donkey kept throw him to the ground?

Guest: No.

Host: We often think this is a miracle but more likely because Jesus is a perfect man. He is without sin. If we are sinless like Jesus, the animals will also obey our orders. Remember the story of Lord Jesus called his disciples to cast the net and catch a full net of fish? (See Luke 5:6, John 21:6) If we are without sin, it is likely that the fish will listen to us, too.

## **B. The Relationship Between the Creatures**

Host: When God first created this world, are creatures killing one another like they are today? Please read Genesis 1:29-30.

Guest: *Genesis 1:29-30 [29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. ]*

Host: Yes, in the beginning, all things and creatures on earth are not killing each other like they are today. Isaiah 11:6-9 described when the Lord Jesus comes the second time he will rule the earth in justice and faithfulness. All creatures on earth will be restored to the conditions as in the beginning. Could you read this passage in the Bible?

Guest: *Isaiah 11: 6-9: [6 The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
7 The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
9 They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.]*

Host: We are accustomed to this world's current conditions. It is wrong to think that the world was like this in the beginning. It is like we get used to the traffic in Taiwan and think this is the way of driving until we travel to Japan and U.S. and realize that driving does not need to be overly dangerous.

## **C. Creatures are under the control of corruption**

Host: Do you remember the most beautiful place you visited? In particular the place that has green trees and beautiful flowers. What do you find when you look closely at these green trees and beautiful flowers?

Guest: "... .."

Host: We often find many diseases in the flowers and trees. When you look closely at the trees, you will find many pimples or spots on the leaves. Why the world is full of corruption and disease? Please read Romans 8:19-23.

Guest: *Romans 8:19-23: [<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.]*

Host: Because man rebelled against God, the creatures under the rules of man also have been cursed. God let the creature subject under corruption until His salvation is complete.

### **[Discussion]**

Host: Today, man and the creatures, creature and creature are not in harmony. All the creatures are under the rule of corruption. What causes our fall from the original goodness to the current situation?

Guest: Sin.



10/8/2011

Lesson 2 The Man God Created

Dr. Yueming Joseph Chang, 28  
Translated by Dr. Wenching Hsieh



## **PART ONE**

# **LESSON THREE**

## **The Angels God Created**

### **[Theme]**

The purposes of this lesson are (1) to help the listeners to obtain a clear distinction between God and the angels, and (2) to pave the road for the next lesson, "The origin of Satan".

### **[Review]**

Host: What kind of God did we mention earlier?

Guest: "....."

Host: What is the purpose that God created humans?

Guest: So God can entrust the humans to manage the living creatures He created and the entire world.

Host: Why the humans failed in this mission?

Guest: Sin.

### **[Contents]**

Host: Mentioned earlier are many of God's creations that we can see with our own eyes. Another of God's creations are the living creatures that we cannot see. Do you want to guess what these creatures are?

Guest: Angels? (Bacteria? No! Bacteria can be seen under the microscope.)

Host: Yes, you are right on. Regarding angels, I believe that you have seen many descriptions of the angel from newspapers, magazines and television. Could you describe your concept of the angel?

Guest: A woman dressed in white clothes with wings. (Or, a little boy with wings and holds a bow and shoots an arrow of love into people's hearts.)

Host: Some described the angel as a little boy and this is the description in Greek mythology. In fact, from the angel visited Abraham under Mamre tree (see Genesis 18) to the angel seen by John who was in exile on Patmos island (see Revelation 5:2), there has been many angels appearing to different people in two thousand years. Except mentioned in Zechariah 5:9, the angels appeared in the Bible were all males. What characteristics do the angels possess? Could you please read Zechariah 5:7-9?

Guest: *"<sup>7</sup> Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! <sup>8</sup> He said, "This is wickedness"', and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its lead cover down on it."<sup>9</sup> Then I looked up—and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth. Zechariah 5:7-9*

Host: It could be that because a woman symbolized the wickedness, the angels lifted up the basket were females. In fact, angels are genderless. In Old Testament times, angels were males, probably because at that time the world was a male society, a strange woman shows up in front of a man or a group of men will be misunderstood as a bad woman. Therefore, the angels in the Old Testament times were males. So now if an angel appears, very likely the angel will wear contemporary style dress, and appear as a male or a female. If he/she does not reveal him/herself, we will not know that he/she is an angel. Let us look further at the characteristics of the angels.

## The Characteristics of Angels

### A. Creation of Angels

Host: Please read Job 38:4-7, the question that God asked Job.

Guest: *"<sup>4</sup> Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?  
Tell me, if you understand.  
<sup>5</sup> Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!  
Who stretched a measuring line across it?  
<sup>6</sup> On what were its footings set,  
or who laid its cornerstone—  
<sup>7</sup> while the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7)*

Host: The earth is so large, but no matter where you are, when you pull up the lead weight, it always point downward. Such a large place and such an orderly law of gravity, the foundation that supports this earth must be gigantic. After his sufferings, Job asked God many questions. God did not answer his questions directly. But through questioning him, God pointed out many things that Job may not understand. God asked Job where the foundation that supports the earth? Job could not imagine, in fact, earth is suspended in the air. When God placed the foundations in place, the morning star (i.e., the sons of God) were all singing in praise. Morningstar or the sons of God in the Bible are used to describe the angels. When God created the heavens and the earth, the angels were already there singing in praise. Therefore, the creation of the angels must be in Genesis 1:1. Very likely, when God created the heavens (plural), He created the angels in heaven, too.

### **B. The Purpose of Angel's Creation**

Host: Could you think about what is the purpose of angels' creation? Please read Hebrew 1:14.

Guest: *Hebrew 1:14 "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"*

Host: When I was in Texas, I led brother Wang to Jesus. Brother Wang was serving in Vietnamese navy at the closing dates of Vietnam War. While serving in the Navy, he fell into the sea and survived. Twice he escaped Viet Cong military attacks. After South Vietnam fell, he boarded a boat that was waiting to be repaired and drifted on South China Sea. American Navy saved him and arranged him to US. He went to school while working part time. Once he was so tired and drove his car into the center island and hit the road lamp. His car split in half on the front end but he was not hurt at all. He always curious as why there were so many "lucks" happened to him? When he was saved (believed in Jesus), then he realized that God had sent angels to protect him so that one day he will hear the gospel and believe in Jesus. There were people lost their hopes and felt no warm loves from the world but accidentally picked up gospel pamphlet blew by the wind. On the pamphlet, it wrote "God loves people". After then, they believed in Jesus and joined the church. (Host can present his/her own examples) The angels serve God. One important service is to help unbelievers to become Christians.

### **C. Angel's Body**

Host: Do the angels have bodies? Please read Luke 24:39.

Guest: *Luke 24:39: "Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost (i.e. a spirit) does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*

Host: Please read Ephesians 6:12.

Guest: *Eph 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

Host: Angels have no bone and have neither flesh nor blood. Often, angels appear in human forms so that we can see them. This is why in male societies of Old Testament the angels were almost all males. The great angels have the ability to appear in body shapes, while the little angels (fallen angels) must reside in human body.

#### **D. The number of angels**

Host: Can you guess the number of angels? Please read Revelation 5:11-12.

Guest: *Revelation 5:11-12: <sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

Host: The number of angels is countless. Revelation 11 said the number of angels are *thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand*. Where in heaven, they sing praise to God loudly. If we follow the literalness of the words to calculate the number of angels, then thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand equals to  $10^3 \times 10^3 \times 10^4 \times 10^4 = 10^{14}$ . The current world's population is around 10 billion, 10 billion equals to  $10^{10}$ . The number of angels is 10,000 times the world population, a very large number. I often hear people say, "God wants me to believe in Him, so I can praise Him. God has so much pride." Here we see that God has so many angels sing praises to Him. God is not lacking the creatures to praise Him. You believe in the Lord is for your own benefits, not that you give God any favor. St. Augustine believed that the number of angels is as many as the stars in the sky.

Host: Does the number of angels increase or decrease? Please read Luke 20:27-36.

Guest: *Luke 20:27-36: <sup>27</sup> Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. <sup>28</sup> "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>29</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. <sup>30</sup> The second <sup>31</sup> and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. <sup>32</sup> Finally, the woman died too. <sup>33</sup> Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup> But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the*

*dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage,<sup>36</sup> and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection."*

Guest: The number of angels is fixed.

Host: Yes, the number of angels is fixed since God created them. It will not increase or decrease. Angels have no gender. They do not marry to each other and therefore there will be no small angels born. Angels do not die, so the number of angels will not decrease.

### **E. They exist in time and never die (Immortal)**

Host: *Luke 20:36: "and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels."* The angels will not die but they are not equal to God because God is outside of "time", even "time" is created by God. Angels exist in "time" and they have a beginning. But God is eternal, no beginning and no end.

### **F. Constraint by space but superior to human**

Host: If you want to invite your friends to your house for the birthday party, how many people your home can accommodate?

Guest: (a number)

Host: If you invite angels, how many angels your home can accommodate? Please read Luke 8:26-36.

Guest: *Luke 8:26-36: <sup>26</sup> They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" <sup>29</sup> For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. <sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. <sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup> When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup> and the*

*people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured."*

Host: Here recorded the demons lived in a person and were named "Legion". This is a Roman army unit. A "Legion" has 6,000 people which equals to the number of people in a modern army division. So many angels can live in the body of one person. Earlier theologians had debated how many angels can dance on the pin of a needle? This all point out that the angels are less constraint by space than the humans.

Host: Let us think about another question regarding space. I've just come to here from my home which took some time because it requires transportation to take me from my home to here. But the angels travel in space much faster than the humans. Daniel 10:12 recorded angels travel between God (heaven) and human (earth) with extremely fast speed. Can the angels appear in two different places at the same time?

Guest: No!

Host: You are right. This is the difference between God and the angels. Our God is omnipresent. He is everywhere at any time. We are gathered here in the name of God and He is among us. Now if people in other nations of the world are gathered in the name of God, then God is among them, too. Angels exist in space and subject to the constraints of space. But our God is not constraint by space because the space is created by God. Often, our knowledge of God stays at the level of the knowledge of the angels. We underestimated God. He is far greater than that we imagined and understood in the past.

### **G. The angels have "intellect", "emotion" and "will" like us**

Host: The angels have "intellect", "emotion" and "will" like us. Let's look at the following Bible verses. First, please read Matthew 28:5.

Guest: *"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified." Matthew 28:5.*

Host: Why do angels know that women are looking for the body of Jesus? Can angels know what is in a person's mind?

Guest: "....."

Host: Because women are searching around Jesus' tomb, anyone with intellect can guess that they are looking for the body of Jesus. God knows every thought in our minds. Angels cannot know the thoughts in people's mind, but they have intellect. If they see us

walking around a sex shop, they can guess that inside our minds must be many temptations and battles, struggling whether to get in or not. The angels' intellect is far superior to humans and they know many things. But they are not like God who knows everything. Please read Luke 15:10 and see what powers that angels have?

Guest: *"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* (Luke 15:10) Angels have feelings?

Host: Yes, the angels will have moments of happiness and joy. They are creatures with emotions, too. Please read Jude verse 6. Then please tell me what other powers do they have besides intellect and emotions?

Guest: *"<sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."* (Jude 6)

Guest: Is it will?

Host: Yes, the positions of authority were the places that God arranged for them. If you drive in US and will not drive on the right-hand side but drive on the left-hand side, you are out of your position. God did not give angels bodies. If they insist to find places to live inside the human bodies, then they abandon their positions. Angels cannot be worshiped. But if an angel wants people to worship him then he does not keep his position of authority. This decision to stay in or out of one's position is a decision of will. Angels have wills. The will can let a captive soldier endure harsh torture without leaking out the secrets of his army. And the will can also let an officer, who lives comfortably in his home, sell government secrets for a small amount of money. Angels and humans all have free wills. Because of free will, the decisions we make will eventually be subject to God's judgment.

## **H. The power of the angels**

Host: The powers of the angels are stronger than the humans. In the following three examples, we can see the power of the angels:

1. Genesis chapter 19 recorded two angels let those rebels, young and old with perverted desires in the city of Sodom, be blinded and cannot harm Lot and his guests. They rescued Lot and his family, destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah along with the nearby plains. (You can ask your guest to read Genesis 19:1, 10-11, 24-25)
2. In the Book of Revelation, the angels are servants of God, smote the rebellious people. The plagues of the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls are performed through the angels. Revelation 9:14-15 prophesied that after being



released, the four fallen angels will kill one-third of the humans. (You can ask your guest to read Revelation 9:14-15)

3. The Bible further tells us that angels can perform many signs, miracles and wonders. Some angels fell but these fallen angels did not lose their ability in performing signs, miracles and wonders after their fall. Paul tells us: *"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie," (II Thessalonians 2:9)*. Not only signs and wonders even fatal injury can be cured. (Revelation 13:3). (You can ask your guest to read 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:3)

## I. The rank of angels

Host: Another name for the angels is "heavenly hosts." (Nehemiah 9:6, 1 King 22:19). They are the heavenly army and were created with different ranks. Same as in the army, there is "Army commander", "Division commander", "Battalion commander", "Company commander", "Platoon leader", "squad leader", "Lance Corporal" and "Private", angels have different ranks, too. Satan is the chief angel before the "fall" and is the head of all the angels. Paul in Ephesians tells us the ranks in Satan's system. Could you please read Ephesians 1:20-21 and 6:12?

Guest: *Ephesians 1: 20-21: "20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."*

*Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

Host: Here mentioned the rulers, the authorities, the powers, and the dominion does not mean the officials in this world to rule our people. Bible pointed out clearly these are not flesh and blood but different ranks of the angels. Knowing many things about angels, next time we will look further, why some angels fell. Because these fallen angels are related to our lives and to many things happening around us. Before we conclude, let's review some of the characteristics of the angels. Would you please name what are the characteristics of the angels?

Guest: "....."



## **PART ONE**

# **LESSON FOUR**

## **The Origin of Satan**

### **[Theme]**

The purpose of this lesson is to help the listeners to differentiate "worshiping God" and "worshiping angels".

### **[Review]**

Host: Earlier, we mentioned the angels God created. What are the characteristics of the angels?

Guest: "... ..."

Host: Today we are going to talk about the Devil (the Devil, a singular form, refers to Satan) and the origin of the Devil. There were fallen angels among the many angels God created. We call these fallen angels "demons" or "evil spirits". Let's find out how these angels fall.

### **[Contents]**

#### **The Fall of some Angels**

Host: When the angels were created, they were all good. They have intellect, emotion, and free will. However, some of the angels out of their pride chose with their free will to rebel against God. Consequently, they received God's judgment. Let's find out why they rebelled against God. First, let's look at the leader of the fallen angels, Satan, and how he fell.

#### **A. The Fall of Satan**

Host: It was recorded in Ezekiel 28:12-14 that archangel (Satan) is very beautiful before his fall. Could you please read Ezekiel 28:12-14?

Guest: *Ezekiel 28:12-14: "12 Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Sovereign LORD says:*

*'You were the seal of perfection,  
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

*13 You were in Eden,  
the garden of God;*

*every precious stone adorned you:  
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,  
topaz, onyx and jasper,  
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl*

*Your settings and mounting were made of gold;  
on the day you were created they were prepared.*

*14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub,  
for so I ordained you.*

*You were on the holy mount of God;  
you walked among the fiery stones.'"*

Host: On the surface, this passage pointed to the king of Tyre. However, from the context, we know the scriptures referred to the archangel who controlled the king of Tyre. He was perfect when he was created. Bible uses many precious stones to describe his beauty and wisdom. He moved freely in God's holy mountain. God gave him beauty and wisdom but he was proud of himself and committed sinful acts. He was expelled from the heaven by God. Please read Ezekiel 28:15-17.

Guest: *Ezekiel 28:15-17: "15 You were blameless in your ways  
from the day you were created  
till wickedness was found in you.*

*16 Through your widespread trade  
you were filled with violence,  
and you sinned.*

*So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,  
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,  
from among the fiery stones.*

*17 Your heart became proud  
on account of your beauty,  
and you corrupted your wisdom  
because of your splendor.*

*So I threw you to the earth;  
I made a spectacle of you before kings."*

Host: The prophet Isaiah described the motivation of the fallen archangel Satan even more clearly. Please read Book of Isaiah 14:12-15.

Guest: Isaiah 14:12-15: <sup>12</sup> *How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*  
<sup>13</sup> *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.  
<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."  
<sup>15</sup> *But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit."**

Host: Here, the morning star (New American Standard Version translated as "Star of the Morning"; King James Version and New King James Version translated as "Lucifer", the name of Satan), son of the dawn refer to the leader of the fallen angels, Satan. What is the main reason that caused Satan to fall? What is the word that appears as many as five times?

Guest: Is it pride? "I".

Host: Yes, the five consecutive "I"s described Satan's mind clearly. He wants to be above all the angels and even wants to be equal to God. God created him perfectly but he nevertheless wanted to rebel against God, and left God to go his own way.

## **B. The Falls of the other Angels**

Host: After the fall of Satan, many angels in the spiritual world were influenced by him and fell with him. Could you read Revelation 12:3-4?

Guest: Revelation 12:3-4: <sup>3</sup> *Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. <sup>4</sup> Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born."*

Host: Could you tell me who is this red dragon from the context, especially verses 7-9 in chapter 12?

Guest: *Revelation 12:7-9: "7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."*

Guest: It is Satan.

Host: Yes. According to the interpretation of fifth century theologian St. Augustine, when Satan fell, he took along with him one third of the angels to rebel against God. It was as using a knife to cut the organization chart of angels from top to bottom. The angels followed the Satan had all kinds of rank. These different ranks manifested clearly in the activities of the corrupted angels (we called them "demons").

## The Fate of the fallen Angels

### A. They have no salvation

Host: In your opinion, do the fallen angels have any chance to be saved?

Guest: No.

Host: You are right! Please read Hebrews 2:16.

Guest: *Hebrew 2:16:"For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants."*

Host: Yes! After the humans sinned, God gave them opportunities for salvation so that the humans can be redeemed from sins and can restore their relationship with God. But after the angels sinned, God's full sovereignty (His sovereign will), decided not to give these corrupted angels any opportunity at all. Let's see how God disposed of these fallen angels? Please read Revelation 20:1-3, & 7-10.

Guest: *Revelation 20:1-3: "1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."*

*Revelation 20:7-10: "7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the*

*seashore. <sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. "*

## **B. Final Judgments**

Host: In the end, how God will dispose of these fallen angels?

Guest: God will throw them into the lake of burning sulfur and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Host: Yes! The lake of burning sulfur mentioned in verse 10 is what we commonly called "Hell". Jesus will come to earth in the future to govern the earth personally for one thousand years. We customarily call this one thousand years "millennium." In millennium, Satan will be temporarily detained in a bottomless pit, no longer has the power to influence the people on earth. In that time, when people commit sins, they have no excuse in saying, "Satan influenced me to do bad things." At the end of the "millennium", Satan will be released to see whether the humans will rebel again, after they are governed by the Lord Jesus himself for one thousand years and have experienced the peaceful world recorded in Isaiah 11:1-10 and 65:17-25. Unfortunately, those people who have not accepted Jesus as Savior in heart and their lives are not "born again" will follow Satan to rebel. At this point, Lord Jesus will throw Satan inside the lake of burning sulfur for eternal punishment.

Guest: Why not God throw Satan to "Hell" immediately when he committed crimes but let him influence people on earth to commit so many bad things?

Host: Some people asked me this same question, but from a different angle. They said, "Why is God so cruel to not let the fallen angels have opportunities to repent and decides to throw them to the lake of the burning sulfur? I can only say that this is God's sovereignty. He chose not to give the fallen angels a second chance, but delay the time they enter into hell.

Host: God's judgment on Satan's is final, but the time for the execution is not yet come. This is a fact that Satan and the demons all are aware of (see Matthew 8:29). From the Bible, we see the ambition of Satan's desire to be "god of this world". God temporarily allowed Satan on earth to act according to the ability when he was created. At present, Satan is known as the prince of the world (See John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11), the ruler of the kingdom of the air (cf. Eph 2:2), the god of this age (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4). How about those demons under him? As described in the Bible "*...it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.*" (Matthew 12:43, Luke 11:24), their activities in the

world are quite frequent, and can be seen in many places. Where can you find these fallen angels?

Guest: "....."

Host: In order to know the activities of these fallen angels, we first need to know their characteristics. After then, we can easily see their activities in this world. They have the following characteristics:

## The Characteristics of the Fallen Angels

### A. They do not stay at their positions

Host: God created the angels and gave them the proper authority of positions. Please read Revelation 22:8-9 and see whether angels can receive worships from humans?

Guest: *Revelation 22:8-9: "8I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"*

Host: Yes! Created human beings are only allowed to worship the God that created them (see Matthew 4:10). Good angels know the truth. They dare not steal the glory of God in accepting the slightest human worship. But Satan and the demons are different. They do not stay at their positions and desire to be worshiped by human beings. Similarly, angels possess no "bodies" but the fallen angels do not stay at their positions and enter into human "bodies" even animal "bodies" (as read previously in Luke 8:26-33).

### B. He is the murderer, the one not holding to the truth, the father of the liars

Host: Please read John 8:44.

Guest: *John 8:44: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies"*

Host: By lying, Satan tempted Eve to sin against God and let "death" came to the life of human beings. The deaths of Abel and Jesus all related to Satan. He is the father of lies. Therefore many phenomena of the spiritual world are deeply related to Satan's lying nature. Next time I will share with you many ghost stories in this regard.



## **PART ONE**

### **LESSON FIVE**

## **The Activities of the Fallen Angels in the World**

### **[Theme]**

The purpose of this lesson is to help the listener to understand the activities of the evil spirits in our current world.

### **[Review]**

Host: What caused the Devil to fall?

Guest: Pride.

Host: What is God's judgment on the fallen angels? Has the judgment been executed yet?

Guest: The judgment is to throw them into the lake of burning sulfur for eternal punishment. The judgment was final but has not yet been executed.

### **[Contents]**

Host: Since God has not executed His judgment on the fallen angels, where are these fallen angels now? Where can we see the activities of these fallen angels?

Guest: "....."

Host: In 1980s, a shocking event has happened in Copus Christi, a city in Texas near the Mexico border. Some students of the University of Texas were cruelly murdered. This murder was committed by the drug traffickers that transported the drugs across the border. They believed that by soliciting Satan's power, they could evade the detection by the law enforcement agencies. Therefore, they used the living sacrifice to worship Satan. They believed the more brutal the murder, the greater the power they could get from Satan.



In fact, there are many Church of Satan in the United States. These organizations are very evil. They will kidnap small children or use the children without birth certificates (born by women in Satan Church and were not registered) for the living sacrifices to Satan. Most of the missing children in United States were victims of custody battles arising from the divorces of their parents. If they are kidnapped by other parent, they are at least safe. But some of the missing children in the States were kidnapped by the people from the Church of Satan for sacrifice. If the evil spirit says to you: "I am the one that is worshipped by the Church of Satan, come join my organization now!" Do you accept the invitation? How many of your friends will join the Church of Satan?

Guest: Not that I know of.

Host: Yes! If there are, they won't be many. Most likely there will be none. But if the evil spirit tells you today: "I am a national hero, I was Yue Fei, Wen Tianxiang, Confucius ....." would you worship him? Frankly speaking, even I want to worship him because I respect these national heroes! You must know that Satan's most powerful trick is to lie. Spiritual lies are not hundred percent false. These may contain eighty or ninety percent of truth. But the ten percent lies will misguide the listeners.

Host: Let's find out what are the activities of these evil spirits in the world? First of all, could you read 2 Corinthians 6:14-16?

## I. The Worship of Idols

Guest: *2-Corinthians 6:14-16: <sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God! As God has said:*

*"I will live with them  
and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they will be my people."*

Host: In this passage, Paul mentioned five pairs of same category, same nature but on two extremes and fully opposite contrasts to show the incompatibility between the believers and the unbelievers. Let's see what are these five contrasts?

righteousness	wickedness	:Not in common
light	darkness	:Not in fellowship
Christ	Belial (Satan)	:Not in harmony
believer	unbeliever	:Not in common

Temple of God            idols            :Not in agreement

From the first four contrasts, we can come to the conclusion that the fifth contrast is between the temple of God and the idols. Temple of God is where God lives (i.e., we Christians, see v16), then who lives in the idol?

Guest: Evil spirits.

Host: Yes. Isaiah 44:9-20 showed us that the idols are made of wood, metal or stone. They are insignificant. The fearful thing on idol worship is not the wood itself (or metal, or stone). It is the evil spirits behind the idol. Often people will compare among three stores in purchasing an idol and find the one he wanted with symmetrical eyes, straight nose and perfect mouth. Having purchased the idol, it is not ready for the worship yet. It requires "opening the eyes" of the idol on a selected day. so the spirits can dwell in. After then it is ready for the worship. So Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:14 told us: "*Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.*" In verses 19-21 said, "<sup>19</sup>*Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?* <sup>20</sup>*No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.*" So Paul stressed the insignificance of the idols and the food offered to the idols. The fearful ones are the demons behind the idols.

## II. The Rank of Idols

Hosts: Is it permissible to present the food already offered to Jade Emperor (high god of heaven) for a second time to Earth god? Is it permissible to present the food already offered to Earth god for a second time to Jade Emperor?

Guest: You can present that already offered to Jade Emperor for a second time to Earth god but you cannot do the reverse.

Host: Yes, you are right, because idols have ranks. Earth god is at the lowest rank. The food offered to Jade Emperor can be offered to Earth god again, but not in the reverse. In the festival of worshipping Matsu at Bay-Gong, Taiwan, the neighboring idols will be carried there to pay homage to Matsu. Matsu is ranked pretty high in all the idols. How does this lead you to think about one of the characteristics of the angels?

Guest: Angels have ranks.

Host: Yes! Dong Fangyuan in his book "Taiwanese folk religion" enumerated the following two tables. From these two tables, we can find that the worshipping of idols reflects that the fallen angels still maintain their ranks when being created:

**Table 1: "Idol Military-Police Organization Chart"****Jade Emperor (High God of Heaven): (Supreme commander)****Wang Yeh (lord king): (Celestial army commander)****Heavenly Force: Thirty-six Stars of Heavenly Spirits****Earthly Force: Seventy-two Stars of Earthly Friends****Five Battalions of Celestial Army**

Central Battalion	<a href="#">Santazi (Zhong Tan Yuan Shuai)</a> ,
East Battalion	Luo Kun (some say Fazhu Gong)
West Battalion	Lo Can (some say Liu Gong)
South Battalion	Wen-Liang (some say Xiao Gong)
North Battalion	Zhao-Xian (some say Lien Gong)

**City God (God the police chief)**

Division Officer

Division of rewards, Division of punishments

Division of picket, Division of intelligence

Division of promotions, Division of life extension

Magistrate

Civil Magistrate

Military Magistrate

Police

Lord Kim (gold general), Lord Hill (hill general)

Cattle god, Horse god

Shackle lord , lock lord

Seventh lord (Xie Bian), Eighth lord (Fan Wujiu)

**Table 2: "Idol Executive Organization Chart"****Jade Emperor (High God of Heaven)****Five Regional Emperors (east, west, north, south and central) -- -- Three Lords (sky, earth and water)****Central Administration Gods**

Academic:	Wenchangdi, Fuyou Zhou Jun
Farm:	Emperor Shen Nong
Public Works:	Qiao San and teacher (Luban)
Business:	Guandi
Medical:	Baosheng Dadi
Flight:	Shuixian zunwang, Tianshang shengmu (Matsu)
Entertainment:	Marshal Tian Du
Anti-evil:	Pagoda-Bearing Heavenly King Li
Disease Control:	Wengwan
Crafts:	Qi Xing Niang Niang
Birth:	Songzi Niangniang

**Local Administration Gods**

## Gods of Justice

Cheng Huang  
Earth God  
Qingshan Wang  
Jingzhugong  
Dongyuedadi

## Patron Gods

Koxinga (Taiwan Province)  
On Zhang Jun Wang (Zhang emigrants)  
Canton Honorific King (Chuan emigrants)  
Three Mountain Kings (Cantonese emigrants)

**Underworld administration Gods (Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva)**

First Court:	Qin Guang Wang
Second Court:	Chu Jiang Wang
Third Court:	Song Di Wang
Fourth Court:	Wu Guan Wang
Fifth Court:	Yian Luo Wang
Sixth Court:	Xia Cheng Wang
Seventh Court:	Qin Shan Wang
Eighth Court:	City King
Ninth Court:	Equal Wang
Tenth Court:	Zhuanlun Wang

Host: What are the other phenomena depict the activities of fallen angels?

### III. Possessed by Evil Spirits

Host: Another characteristic of the Fallen Angels is leaving their proper position (see Jude 6). Angels were created without body form. However, the Fallen Angels like to enter the human body. The person resided in the Gerasenes cemetery (See Mark 5:9) had a "Legion" of spirits living in his body. When Jesus casted them out from the man's body, these spirits even desired the flesh of the pigs and begged Jesus to let them enter the bodies of the pigs. Here is my question: "Have you seen any examples of body being possessed by the evil spirits?"

Guest: The mediums (乩童: [tông-ki](#), literally means a "divining youth").

Host: Yes! The act of the mediums is a phenomenon of being possessed by the evil spirit. There are real and false mediums. The false mediums are simply deceptive. The real ones call upon the evil spirits, let the evil spirits possess their bodies and try to use the spiritual forces to solve worldly problems. Some people worship these devils. Other people try to use the evil spirits for their service. The end results are absolutely more to lose than to gain.

In 1982 I visited the [Matsu](#) (Mazu) birthday celebration at [Beigang](#). I entered the temple from the door at the right hand side. There was a woman sitting on a long bench looking extremely pale. My immediate reaction was to call an ambulance because she looked almost dead. When checked carefully, I found that she still had some breath. So, I let her continue to sit and get rest. I've never seen anyone getting so tired in this condition. Continue to tour the temple and after some time I saw people carried out the idol of Matsu to parade in front of the temple square. In the procession, many mediums were walking around and cutting themselves with knives and spears. Amazingly, this woman was one of the mediums. Apparently, when I saw her earlier, she had just completed a march with the idol and lost all her energy. Exhausted, she sat inside the temple to restore her strength. When the evil spirit enters into a person, it cares less for that person's body. Just like the person possessed by the ghosts at Gerasenes graveyard, who disregarded the wounds caused by breaking the iron chains and the shackles that restrained him, and even cut himself with the stones. (See Mark 5:4-5). After destroying the body of the one entered, the evil spirits will look for another.

God loves us. When a person accepts Jesus as his/her Savior, the Holy Spirit will live in him/her and care for his/her body. Let our bodies glorify God (cf. 1 Cor 6:19-20). God bless those people love Him. This is vastly different from the way of the evil spirits in willingly destroy the bodies they entered. Another big difference is that the Holy Spirit respects our will. When we refuse to listen to His words, it will grieve the Holy Spirit

(Ephesians 4:30). However, the evil spirits always use violent forces on a person's body while neglecting that person's will and so does harm to that person.

Host: What other activities of evil spirits in the world that you can think about?

#### IV. Other Demonic Activities

Host: There is nothing new under the sun. As early as three thousand five hundred years ago, Moses mentioned to us that there are many activities of the evil spirits in this world. Please read Deuteronomy 18:9-14.

Guest: *Deuteronomy 18:9-14: "9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. "*

Host: The above passage mentioned many demonic activities. To sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire is to burn the metal idol Molech (meaning king) to red-hot and then place the child on the idol's hands. Sacrificing to the evil spirit was a cruel way of worship by the people in Canaan. It is the same way as the Church of Satan today.

Host: What is practice divination, sorcery, and interpret omens?

Guest: Just like [drawing a fortune stick](#), [divination blocks](#), geomancy (Fon Shui), palmistry, bone reading, fortune telling, Zi Wei Dou Shu, astrology (horoscope), etc. (The Shang Oracle in Shang Dynasty of China is to interpret omens).

Host: Right! Some of these are deceptive but a lot of time they are efficacious. If it is efficacious, there must be spiritual power working behind to communicate; evil spirit gave you a bit of sweetness to lure you into his control. One thing to remember is that evil spirits cannot give you blessings, only bring you disasters. They do best by using fear to controll people. Another point is that evil spirits cannot really foretell your future (see Isaiah 41:21-26, 43:9, 45:20-21, 48:14). The future of this world is controlled by the One and only true God.

Host: What is engaging in witchcraft, and casting spells?

Guest: Is it something like [worm poisoning](#), and cursing with the mantra, etc.?

Host: Yes, and even some fun things like Dish spirit (Diexian, similar to the Ouija board in the western world), and Chopsticks spirit all belong to this category. For fun, many people invite Dish spirit to come and spin the dish around to foretell the future. The experience of many people shows that it is easy to get the spirit to come but difficult to send the spirit away. After the fun, many people experienced spiritual oppressions. A sister from Hong Kong shared this story, said: She came home midnight to rest after working at the hospital. When ready to sleep, she felt a green thing came from the aisle, laid flat on her chest and made her unable to move around. Until she cried for Jesus to save her, the thing then escaped through the window and ran to the mountain in the back. In listening to this story, we all thought it was her fantasy because she was too tired. But then she shared with us that not long ago before this event, she and a group of friends burned incense and invited Diexian to come for guidance. Therefore, ghost laid flat on her chest was possibly what happened.

Host: What are the medium and the spiritist?

Guest: Like *tông-ki*.

Host: Yes, we have previously talked about “*tông-ki*”, who allows his body be possessed by the evil spirits and becomes a medium of communication between people and evil spirits. “*Tông-ki*”, they are a group of people deserve our sympathy. Because the evil spirits come only to steal and kill and destroy (see John 10:10). These people's circumstances are often very regrettable.

Host: What is “consults the dead”? “One who calls up the dead” (NASV); or “the One who inquires of the dead” (TANAKH); or “who consults the dead” (NIV)?

Guest: Talk to the dead.

Host: Yes, one day when I was young, my grandmother took my mother with her to talk to my grandfather. My grandfather died very early and my grandmother raised two sons by herself alone. Because I have never seen my grandfather, so I asked to go along with them. But my mother did not want me to touch the mysterious thing in such a young age and did not permit me to go along. When coming back, they described the process. Listened to my grandmother's description, not only psychic talked in my grandfather's voice, he even could tell my grandfather's living habits and the places where he put things on. Do you think that we can really talk to our dead relatives? Otherwise, who are those who talk to us?

Guest: “.....”

Host: Let us take a look at how the Bible says? Please read Luke 16:19-31.

Guest: *Luke 16:19-31: "19 There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' 25 But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

Host: This is a story of "**two**". There were **two** people after their death went to **two** different places, the rich man in hades waiting for the final trial, and Lazarus sat over there with Abraham. In this situation, the rich man made **two** requests. **Two** requests were both denied. What is the first request of the rich man?

Guest: Asked Lazarus to bring water to cool his tongue and reduce his pain.

Host: This request was denied because there is an abyss to prevent the crossing over between the hades and the paradise. What is the second request of the rich man?

Guest: Let Lazarus resurrect from the dead and give warnings to his five brothers in the world. Give witness to them, lest they should descend into the hades with him.

Host: The request was also denied. I would like to ask you a question, if the rich man loves his brother so much, why not tell them himself but must rely on the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead?

Guest: Because he cannot communicate with the living.

Host: Yes, in this passage, Jesus tells us four truths of the spiritual world:

a. After death, the soul exists with senses (such as the senses of the rich man).



**b.** Torment in hades is real.

**c.** After death, we no longer have a second chance.

**d.** No longer is there any communication between the dead and the living. (If the rich man can appear to his brothers he would have done so already. He would not repeatedly beg Abraham to send Lazarus back. Even if Lazarus genuinely wants to go and communicate with the rich man's brothers, he must be resurrected to do that.

After their death, we cannot communicate with the dead in any way. The best gift we have for them is to give them the gospel when they are still alive. Some people miss their dead relatives and go to "[Angyi](#)" (female medium who [contacts the dead](#)) and hope to talk with their loved ones. Through this type of medium, they actually hear the voices of their loved ones. Even to the point that these "dead spirits" can tell the favored things, the little stories and the living conditions of the dead relatives. It makes you hard not to believe that you are indeed talk to your dead relatives. In fact, an alias for Satan is "the father of the liars." The ones you talk to are the fallen angels/demons, not your relatives. Fallen angels/demons will not die. Particularly in the homes of those who worship idols, the evil spirits may have lived there for many generations. The voices and the looks, the words and the deeds of each generation are perfectly clear to the evil spirits. It is so easy for the evil spirits to mimic one or two. As long as the medium can find the evil spirits in Satan's kingdom that had lived in the person's home, there will be many efficacious phenomena. In general, contacting the dead will bring a great damage to the body, mind and soul of the persons who pursue this action.

Host: Once at Dallas, a misguided Christian mother took her misguided Christian daughter back to Taiwan for trying to talk to her dead Christian husband. The medium spent great effort and could not find her husband. So, the medium told them that he could not find her husband because her husband has not crossed the "bridge of the lost soul". Actually, because this is a Christian family, no evil spirits were accepted in their home. So there were no records of this family in Satan's kingdom.

Guest: Can we worship our ancestors?

Host: The memory of ancestors or deceased loved ones is a natural thing. We can offer flowers in the cemetery, or in anniversary to look at the photos of their past and share the nostalgia of things that worth to remember. But, we don't need to worship them. Because there will not be any communications between the living and the dead, what we actually worship are the evil spirits behind and not our ancestors.

## **V. Evil spirits know their time and know who Jesus is.**

Host: In the Bible verses that we read before, the evil spirits know two things very clearly. The first is in the story of the person possessed by the evil spirits at the cemetery of Gerasenes. Matthew 8:20 recorded the words of this "Legion" said to Jesus. Could you read?

### 1. Evil spirits know their own time

Guest: *Matthew 8:29: "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"*

Host: Yes, the evil spirits know that in the day of the final judgment, they will be cast into the lake of burning sulfur, but also know that before this judgment day, God allows them to walk this world within certain restrictions.

### 2. Evil spirits know who the Lord Jesus Christ is

Host: In the Gospels, all the evil spirits know that Jesus is the Son of the eternal God. (Many people do not know! So you can see that the humans are inferior to the angels in the spiritual realm). The evil spirits even know the servants of the Lord Jesus (See Acts 19:15). So the way for the Christians to resist the devil is through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross, our sins are forgiven. For us, the believers, the sins have been forgiven and we are no longer under the control of the devil. Before we conclude, I want you to read a verse to help you getting rid of the fear of intimidation from the evil spirits and to pray for you. Could you read Revelation 12:10-11?

Guest: *Revelation 12:10-11: "<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:*

*'Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.*

*For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.*

*<sup>11</sup> They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.'"*

Host: The blood of Lord Jesus Christ and His word are the treasures for us to overcome the evil spirits. (At this time, the host can pray for the guest. Pray for God's providence to protect him from the evil spirits' attacks. Also, it is good to pray that God will grant the guest wisdom of making right decision when the gospel is presented to him/her in the next two lessons.)

**[Thought Question]**

Satan uses many spiritual tricks to confuse people. What is his purpose?



## PART ONE

# LESSON SIX THE SIN OF MAN

### [Theme]

The purpose of this lesson is to help the listener to understand the meaning of "sin" and admits he is a sinner; and further to prepare his heart for accepting the gospel.

### [Review]

Host: What are the activities of the fallen angels that we discussed in the last lesson?

Guest: "....."

### [Contents]

Host: Today we're going to look at why humans commit sin? What is sin? What are the consequences of sin?

## I. God gives people the right to freedom of choice

Host: Please read Genesis 2:8-9.

Guest: *Gen 8-9: "8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. "*

Host: In the Garden of Eden, there are all sorts of fruit trees God provided. What are the two fruit trees God specifically mentioned? What are the consequences of eating these two fruits, if we were to follow the literal meaning of the names of the fruits?

Guest: The tree of life and the tree of good and evil. Eat the former will have life and eat the latter will have the ability to differentiate the good from the evil.

Host: Very good, then please read Genesis 2:15-17.

Guest: *Genesis 2:15-17: "15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."*

Host: What did God allow people to eat? And what did God not allow people to eat?

Guest: God allowed people to eat all kinds of fruits, including the fruit from the tree of life. But God did not allow people to eat the fruit from the tree of good and evil.

Host: Very good! If people eat the fruit from the tree of life, we can obtain vitality so that our life can continue. The question here is why did God not allow us to eat the fruit from the tree of good and evil (the Chinese translation is "differentiating the good from the evil", in fact it should be "knowing good and evil"). Is it a good thing to have the ability to differentiate the good from the evil?

Guest: "....."

Host: Let's put down this question in our mind for now. Continue to read, and you will find the answer in a few minutes. Could you please read Genesis 3:1-5?

## II. Why Satan lured people to sin?

Guest: *Genesis 1-5: "1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Host: In here, who spoke through the snake?

Guest: Satan.

Host: Right! We know from Revelation 12:9 that it was Satan. But why did Satan lure human beings to sin?

Guest: “.....”

**A. Satan wants human beings to loss the good relationships with God so that he can enslave the human beings.**

Host: Suppose someone wants to sale your children to slavery, what is the biggest obstacle he will face?

Guest: It is me. I will do everything in my power to protect my children.

Host: Yes! But if your child is very rebellious, to a point that your child escapes from home (or you kicked him out of your house), then the bad guys will have the opportunities to enslave your child. In New York City many young men and women fell into the control of criminal organizations. There, they sale drugs and sale their bodies. They were from good families originally but end up in this condition because they escaped from their homes. May I ask if the human beings did not sin, can Satan have any way to control them?

Guest: No way, because God will protect them.

Host: Yes! Before sin blocks the way between the human beings and God, human beings and God have perfect good relationship. Human beings can come to face God and have good communication with God. In such condition, human beings were under the protection of the almighty God and Satan cannot act rashly to hurt human beings. Only after the people sinned and destroyed their relationship with God then Satan can take advantages of the human beings.

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[Option] If there is enough time, you can talk about this case. Otherwise, you can skip this example.

Host: Numbers Chapters 22 to 25 recorded the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab, and camped along east of the Jordan across from Jericho. Balak, king of Moab spent a lot of money, summoned the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites, but God does not allow Balaam to curse the Israelites. When the Israelites obeyed God, Satan was in no way to touch her. Then, before Balaam left, he taught Balak a vicious trick. That was to let the women of Moab lure the Israelites to fornicate, to bowed down to gods of Moab and ate sacrifices offered to idols (Numbers 25:1-3, 31:16, Revelation 2:14). Because Israelites' sin, God sent plague to Israelites and twenty-four thousand people died on

the ground (Numbers 25:9)<sup>3</sup> Through Israelites' sin, Balak achieved the goal that he could not get earlier as Balaam was forbidden by God to curse the Israelites.

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**B. Satan can take over the powers from human beings to rule the world.**

Host: After the curse, the earth stopped produce for man. Because of sin, the world is not under man's perfect rule (see Genesis 1:28 and 3:17). Satan came through, took over many powers belonging to human beings originally and reached the dream of becoming the god of this world (See John 12:31, 14:30).

**C. Deceive and confuse people, so that human beings come to worship him the Satan.**

Host: When people leave God, Satan will have the opportunities to lure people to worship him and fulfill the desire to steal the glory of God (see Isaiah 14:14) as it was exposed in his fall.

**III. The Sin of Mankind**

Host: We now return to Genesis 3:1-5 to look at what is sin. Could you read Genesis 3:5?

Guest: Genesis 3:5: *"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Host: Before eating the fruit from the tree of knowing good and evil, if human beings face a difficult situation, and cannot decide which way is good and which way is bad. What do you think that he will do?

Guest: Ask God.

Host: Yes, but after he ate the fruit from the tree of knowing good and evil, he would not need to ask God. He was like God knowing good and evil. He determined what's good and evil by himself. Therefore,

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<sup>3</sup> The first day, 23,000 died (I Corinthians 10:8), and then people died of plague one after another, twenty four thousand in total.

God said	Man Said
Monogamy	Polygamy
Homosexuality is shameful indulgence of lust (Romans 26-27).	This is just a different way of life.
Abstinence from sex until marriage	It is stuffy old-fashioned practice.
Thou shalt not kill (Exodus 20:13)	The mother can choose not to have the baby born.
Equality between the sexes, but positions are different	At work place, the battlefield, in marriage and family and all matters, women demand equal rights with men
Discipline children	Spoil children for they are angels
Self-Control	If you feel good, do it!
..... ..	..... ..

Host: Let me ask, what is sin?

Guest: Not listen to the Word of God.

Host: Right! Not listening to God's word is sin. But the most basic definition of sin is "not rely on God" and "rely on self". I no longer need God because I can be like God. Now I want to ask you a serious question. In fact, you do not answer me, but answer God. Do you have sin? Are you a sinner?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Let's look at what are the consequences of sin.

#### **IV. The Consequences of Sin**

Host: Genesis 2:17, said, "*but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.*" What is the only demand on sin from the righteous God?

Guest: Death.

Host: Yes! The only punishment for human beings who sinned before God the Creator is death. This death has at least three meanings:

##### **A. Physical death**



Host: Adam did not die immediately after he sinned. Just like a flower cut from the rose bushes though still in full bloom, but in reality was already dead because it has left the source of its life support. Similarly, when man sinned, he was disconnected from the source of his life support and he could no longer eat the fruit from the tree of life (see Genesis 3:22). So in Genesis chapter five, we read one person after another "lived x-years and died."

## **B. Spiritual death**

Host: Not only our body will leave this world and return to dust; even the spirit is separated from God now. Therefore, Ephesians 2:1 says, "*You were dead in your transgressions and sins.*"

## **C. Eternal death**

Host: In the future, men and women shall stand in trial before the great white throne of Jesus Christ on account of their own deeds. Please read Revelation 20:11-15.

Guest: *Revelation 20:11-15: "11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. "*

Host: The one seated on the great white throne is our Lord Jesus Christ. All the dead souls shall stand in trial before the Lord. At this time many books will be opened. What will be recorded on these books?

Guest: The deeds of the person on trial.

Host: Yes, everyone will be judged on the deeds of his whole life. Just like in that day, God places a big screen between the heaven and the earth. Your whole life's story was recorded in the recorder and would be shown in front of everyone. Camera recorded your good behaviors in the church worship on Sunday. Next, it turned to your working on Monday, to where you were alone and nobody saw. Not only in front of the people but also behind the people, your deeds were revealed vividly. I think that to a point where we all would say: "Lord! Please stop, I admit I am a sinner." If a person is a sinner, what is his fate?

Guest: He will be cast into the lake of the burning sulfur (Hell).

Host: Yes! To be tormented in hell forever. In fact, you and I are supposed to be tormented in hell forever, but because of the grace of Jesus Christ, we do not have to be cast into the lake of the burning sulfur. Next time I'll share with you how you can make your name into the book of life. This is the gospel. You will have the opportunity to decide whether you are willing to accept the gospel or not.

10/8/2011

Lesson 6 The Sin of Man

Dr. Yueming Joseph Chang, 62  
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## **PART ONE**

# **LESSON SEVEN**

## **God's Salvation**

### **[Theme]**

The purpose of this lesson is to explain God's salvation clearly so that the listener understands and decides to accept Lord Jesus as his savior.

### **[Review]**

Host: Last time, we mentioned the sin of man. What is the only penalty from God if we commit sin?

Guest: Death, cast into the lake of burning sulfur (see Revelation 20:11-15)

Host: Right! Have you committed sin?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Today we're going to see what is God's grace for the human beings that suppose to die?

### **[Contents]**

Host: Suppose your child plays nearby your home and accidentally broke your neighbor's large crystal glass window. The value of the crystal glass window is about ten thousand dollars. Your neighbor catches your child and does not let your child go home unless your child pays the loss. Your child does not have the money. When you arrive home, hearing this, you bring ten thousand dollars to pay your neighbor. Do you think your neighbor will let your child go home?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Why he lets your child go home?

Guest: Because I paid ten thousand dollars.

Host: Who made the mistake?

Guest: My child.

Host: Who paid the compensation?

Guest: I.

Host: Does it count?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Tomorrow, when your neighbor sees your child passing by, can he grab him and say to him: "You broke my window and you did not pay for my loss. I will not let you go home!"

Guest: No, because I have paid the compensation for him. It counts.

Host: Exactly right. Human beings had such a concept since the beginning of the history. They know after a person commits sin, someone must pay the price for this person so that the sin can be forgiven. There are many living examples. I want to mention two, one is Taiwanese and another one is Jewish. Let us start from the example of the Taiwanese. Do you ever see the people butcher a big male pig for the sacrifice worship in Taiwanese villages? In the sacrifice worship, they display the pig and put an orange in the pig's mouth. Do you know why?

Guest: " ... ... "

Host: This is called "ham gam" (Taiwanese expression of biting an orange, sounds like the pig is "doing it willingly")." This demonstrates that this pig dies willingly for my sins. Actually if the pig hears this, it will protest strongly because it does not want to die.

Host: Please read Genesis 3:14-21 and find out what God taught human beings after they committed sins?

Guest: Genesis 3:14-21: <sup>14</sup> *So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,*

*"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

*<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,*

*"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

*<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'*

*"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*

*<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

*<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. "*

Host: Before sending Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, God made for them garments of skin and clothed them. Where did this skin come from?

Guest: It comes from killing the animals.

Host: Yes! Before this, have they seen death?

Guest: No.

Host: You are right! God taught them because of their sins, animals must die in order to cover their sins. In the Old Testament, God taught the Jews that all humans are sinners. Sinners cannot come to God. If the sinners come to God, they will certainly die. The design of the Tabernacle and the Temple later on is to prevent the people from coming to God before they are ready. Therefore, Leviticus teaches that a person comes to God must bring animals (cattle or sheep) without defect to the temple. If the person brings a sheep without defect to the Temple, he must put his hand on the head of the sheep to show that he identifies with this sheep and this sheep represents him. He will then take a knife and slid the sheep's throat, so that the blood flows out. The Bible teaches the Jews not to drink blood because the life is in the blood, and the blood is for redeeming sins (Leviticus 17:10-12). When the warm blood flows out from this animal, the life is gradually gone. God wants the person who offers the sacrifice to know that the animal's death, the disappearance of its life is because of his sins. Only after the sheep dies for my sins, then I can be forgiven, I can become without sin, and come close to God without fear.

Such a concept existed in ancient China. Chinese character 「義」 means not guilty. Can you guess the meaning of the upper part in the Chinese writing 「義」? And what is the meaning of the lower part?

Guest: The upper part means "sheep" and the lower part means "me."

Host: Yes! When the sheep is on top of me, God sees the sheep that died for my sins. I can be called "not guilty" before God, because the sheep offered as the sacrifice pays for the price of my sins.

Host: Jesus came to this world for our sins. Let's look at how John the Baptist, the prophet before Jesus, introduced Jesus? Please read John 1:29.

Guest: *John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Host: Then please read John 1: 35-36.

Guest: *John 1:35-36: "35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"*

Host: In his introduction, what did John the Baptist say about Jesus?

Guest: The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Host: Yes, Jesus is the lamb without defect. He is prepared by God to redeem our sins. Jesus died on the cross for your sins and for my sins. Our sins are forgiven when we accept Jesus as our Savior, and we become sinless before God.

Host: This is the Gospel. God sent His only begotten Son for our salvation. This is a very important thing. When we face such a message, we must also think about a very serious question. Before the Almighty God, are you willing to accept Jesus as your Savior?

Guest: Yes, I will.

Host: Believe in Jesus is a matter between you and God. If you are willing to accept Jesus as your personal Savior, you must say it to God, not to me. To say it to God is to pray to God. If your prayer is sincere, God will definitely listen. In your prayer, you can say: "The creator of this world, my God in heaven, I humbly come before You and admit that I am a sinner. I know I am supposed to be punished in hell eternally. But I thank you for letting Jesus Christ come to this world and died for my sins on the cross. I am willing to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior. Thank You for forgiving my sins and thank you for giving me eternal life. Please lead my life of tomorrow. I truthfully pray from my

heart in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen." "Amen" means "truly". If your prayer is indeed coming out from your heart, you can say "Amen"

Host: Are you willing to make such a prayer?

Guest: Sure.

Host: Are you willing to follow me sentence by sentence to pray before God?

Guest: I will.

(At this time, the Host can lead the Guest to make the decision prayer sentence by sentence. After the prayer, the Host can congratulate the Guest for becoming God's child and celebrates that he is now a Christian!)

### **[A simple test]**

Host: I would like to ask you a question. Just before accepting Jesus as your savior, if I say to God that you are a person that I loved. You are a sinner and I want to die for you. Do you think that God will agree?

Guest: No.

Host: Why? Why this is not possible for a good person like me to die for you?

Guest: No, because you are a sinner, too.

Host: Yes. God will say, you can die. You suppose to die for your own sins. But Jesus is different because he is a perfect man, without sin. He is the lamb without blemish that God prepared for us. In fact, this promise of salvation is clearly shown in God's curse on the serpent. Could you read Genesis 3:15?

Guest: *Genesis 3:15: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Host: Here, it mentioned that the descendent of the woman will crush the serpent's head, the serpent will strike his heel. In the Bible, the descendants are written as the descendants of the man (Like the children use their father's surname). Only here, the descendent is from the woman. May I ask that in the Bible, who is from the mother only and has no blood relationship with the earthly father?



Guest: Jesus!

Host: Yes, the Bible says Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:23). He is not like us that were born from the blood, the will of the flesh, or the will of man (John 1:13). Being born through the blood, the will of the flesh, and the will of man, we also inherit the sins from our parents coming to our bodies. But Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He is without sin, so He can atone for us.

**[Follow up]**

Host: Now, you are a Christian. As a Christian, there are many promises for you from the Bible and also there are many basic things you need to learn. Are you willing to let me work with you on studying eight lessons to help you become a mature Christian?

Guest: Sure.

(Now, the Host can go to the next stage in using the second part of this book "Follow up courses for new believers" for an eight-week, one-to-one classes. We must carry on the follow up work for a new believer immediately so that this new baby can stand up to fight the spiritual battles. The attacks from the enemy will come soon, if you don't prepare him immediately, you will most likely lose the fruit of your hard labor rather quickly.



## **PART 2**

# **FOLLOW-UP LESSON 1**

## **Knowing Jesus**

### **[Theme]**

At this point, the new believer has little knowledge of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the purpose of this lesson is to increase his knowledge of the life and works of Jesus Christ by studying the Gospel of Luke.

### **[Content of This Week]**

Provide the new believer a "Jesus" VHS tape / DVD. The film "Jesus" is produced by Campus Crusade for Christ and is based entirely on the Gospel of Luke. The filming took five years, six million U.S. dollars, and the help of more than 200 historians and archaeologists to film in Israel. The viewing time is two hours and the film has editions of Chinese, Taiwanese, and English to choose from.

The Host is to accompany the new believer to view the whole film of "Jesus" video / DVD. At the end of the Chinese and the Taiwanese editions, there are invitations again for the new believer to pray and accept Jesus as one's Savior. If the new believer follows the lead, it is another confirmation that he/she accepted Jesus as his/her Savior.

10/8/2011

Dr. Yueming Joseph Chang, 70  
Translated by Dr. Wenching Hsieh



## PART 2

# FOLLOW-UP LESSON 2

## The Assurance of Salvation

### [Review Last Week]

Answer the questions from viewing "Jesus"

### [Content of This Week]

Bible Readings: John 3:16 ; 1:12, and 1 John 1:9

Host: (Beginning prayer)

### I Believers Have Eternal Life

Host: I'm glad to see that you accept Jesus as your personal Savior. Since you have accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, may I ask you, "Will you perish"?

New Believer: No, I have eternal life.

Host: How do you know? If Satan tempts you and says to you "How can people like you to have eternal life?" How do you answer?

New Believers: (... ...)

Host: God's words are the best weapon against the challenges from Satan. John 3:16 "*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (Host explains Gospel of John 3:16 and encourages the new believer to memorize this verse. In the next meeting, the new believer must memorize this verse. If it is necessary, spend a few minutes to recite together with the new believer.)

## II Believers Are Children of God

Host: So now that you have eternal life and while you are in the world, what is your relationship with the Creator of this universe, the only true God?

New Believer: A father/son or father/daughter relationship. (Or other answers)

Host: How do you know? If Satan says to you, "Can people like you be God's children?" How do you answer?

New Believer: (... ...)

Host: (Guide the new believer to read John 1:12) *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

This verse mentioned three times of "him", "his", and "he". Who is this "he"?

New Believer: The Lord Jesus.

Host: Yes. Have you received Him? Receive Him means to believe in His name.

New Believer: Yes.

Host: Since you have received Jesus, Jesus will give you the right to become the child of God. Now, you are a child of God.

(Encourage new believer to recite this verse. Next week, give a test for the recitation.)

## III. Assurance of salvation

Host: I know you have eternal life, and you are the child of God. If one day, you commit sin again, then my question to you is will you lose your eternal life? Will you lose the identity to be the child of God?

New Believer: (... ...)

Host: No! Just like that you have children. If your children are good then they are good children. If your children are bad then they are bad children. Whether they are good children or bad children, they are always your children. When we commit sin, we do not lose salvation, but our relationship with God is damaged. God has given us a promise, so that we can quickly restore the relationship we have with God. This promise is in 1 John 1:9. Let us read this verse: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (This

verse has to be memorized. If this sounds too much, it can be postponed to next week.) If we repent, God will forgive us.

I knew a person, she had accepted Jesus as her Savior in Hong Kong. Soon after she came to Taiwan, she became addicted to play mahjong. She knew that God does not like such things, so she dared not to go to church. It is not until forty years later, when she came to the United States, with the help of a pastor that she dealt with this sin and restored her relationship with God. Whenever we offend God, we must immediately deal with it and restore our relationship with God. God does not want us to waste forty years staying outside of his house.

#### **IV. God's Discipline**

Host: So, I can go out in the morning and commit sins and repent in the evening since God is faithful, righteous and He will forgive my sins, so I feel at ease to sleep, go out tomorrow morning to commit sins again. Holding 1 John 1:9, I have a license to sin. Is it right?

New Believer: ... ..

Host: Let's read a passage in 1 Corinthians 11:20-32. In this scripture we see the Corinthians sinned in practicing the Lord's supper (They held the love feast first then followed with the Lord's supper at that time). The rich people ate together until they got full and drunk, the poor stayed hungry. God's discipline for their wrong doing was to make many of them "weak and sick", and a number of them dead (v.30). But God's discipline is different from condemnation of the world(v.32), He will not take away our salvation. If we have very bad life in this world, He might take us home much earlier.

Host: If your neighbor's kids play with your kids, and they are causing troubles together. Which one will you discipline first?

New Believer: My own kids.

Host: That's right. When we are nonbelievers, God's discipline does not seem to be that clear. We are God's children now, you may test it—If we sin on purpose, His discipline will be swift and clear.

Host: Please read another scripture in Hebrew 12:5-13.

New Believer: (Read Hebrews 12:5-13)

Host: Our heavenly Father disciplined us so that we may share in His holiness, so that we may have good deeds in our lives.

Host: (closing in prayer)

(This follow-up lesson ends here. The host will remind the new believer to memorize three scriptures during this coming week (John 3:16; John 1:12; 1 John 1:9). Next week when they meet again, the new believer is required to recite the scriptures without error.



## PART 2

# FOLLOW-UP LESSON 3

## Praying

### [Review Last Week]

Host: We mentioned last time, how do you know you have eternal life?

New Believer: (Recite John 3:16) John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Host: What is the relationship between you and the Creator of the universe in the heaven, the one and only God?

New Believer: Father and son or Father and daughter relationship. (Recite John 1:12). John 1:12 *“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”.*

Host: If you commit sins, will you lose your salvation? What must you do?

Guest: I don't lose salvation, but I need to repent. (Recite 1 John 1:9, if this verse is not memorized this week, it can be postponed to next week)

Host: We have 1 John 1:9. Is it a license for us to commit sin?

New Believer: No, if we commit sin intentionally, God will discipline us and so we will be weak, sick, or even dead.

### [Content of This Week]

Read Philippians 4:6-7: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*



Host: (Beginning prayer)

Today, we will discuss a new topic – Prayer. What is prayer?

New Believer: Talk to God about what is in our heart?

Host: Yes! Our relations with God are like father-son/father-daughter. When we talk to the parents on earth, we can always come before them and talk to them. Our heavenly Father is invisible, but He is everywhere. How do we come to Him and talk? It is through prayer.

Host: Should we pray in particular places?

New Believer: In a quiet place where I am not disturbed (or ... ..).

Host: Can you pray while driving (Don't close your eyes while driving!)?

New Believer: "... .."

Host: Yes, you can pray while driving. Generally, we close our eyes during prayer to concentrate and not to be disturbed. However, in many critical moments, a short prayer such as "God, save me!", or a silent prayer will be heard by God.

Host: The prayer generally begins with "God, the Creator of the universe", "My Father in heaven," "Father" or "Abba, Father" and so on. The end of the prayer is "In the name of Jesus Christ, amen". We come to God only in the name of Jesus. Amen is a Greek word. English translation is "Verily" or "Truly". (example: John 3:5 "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.(ESV)".). This means that we sincerely pray. Is this clear?

New Believer: Yes, it is clear.

Host: Next, let us talk about what will be in the prayer. The content of a prayer can be represented by four letters -- ACTS (Book of Acts. Prayer is actually action..). Prayer is not static but has power and will produce strong actions.

**Adoration** (worship): Sometimes our children will come before us and said: "Daddy, You're so great!" Or "Mom, you're so pretty!" Similarly, we can come before our Heavenly Father to worship him. Praise His mighty acts and the wonderful salvation done to us.

**Confession** (admit that we are a sinner): In 1 John 1:9, we learn confession. We take showers before going out every day. But after a day's working, we get dirty and need to wash again. Similarly, in this world, we often get contaminated by the

worldly sin. Sin becomes a barrier between us and God. Therefore, we must come before God often to repent of our sins and maintain a clean heart before His face.

**Thanksgiving** (Give thanks): New believers often pray for themselves. God will answer accordingly. As new believers grow more mature, they learn to come before God give Him thanks for the blessings they receive.

**Supplication** (Plea): Before Him we can pray for any of our needs. We can also pray for the needs of others. Children want everything and always place their own needs in the center. As the children grow older, they understand more the minds of their parents. They know what parents like and what parents dislike. The more the Christians grow, the more they know how to pray in God's will.

Host: If we ask God to let us win the lottery of one million dollars, or win all plays in mahjong game, will God listen to you?

New Believer: (No?)

Host: If you ask God to let you know how to love your family and parent your children, will God listen to you?

New Believer: (He will).

Host: Yes, God answers our prayers, sometimes like the traffic signals. Green light signals "Yes"; Yellow light signals "Wait"; and Red light signals "No". Small children will ask their parents for everything regardless of good or bad. But when they grow up and gradually understand the minds of their parents, they won't ask certain things (like eat candy before dinner) anymore. Therefore, go ahead and take all that you are thinking in your mind to God and ask Him; but as you gradually grow up in your Christian life and with your experience on the answered prayers from God, you will gradually understand God's mind.

(You can assign Philippians 4:6-7 as the verses to memorize for this week plus 1 John 1:9)

(Encourage the new believer to pray openly and then you conclude the prayer. From now on, you must let the new believer to pray in every follow-up class) (Encourage the new believer to pray in the morning, before go to bed and before the meals)

10/8/2011

Lesson 3 Praying

Dr. Yueming Joseph Chang, 78  
Translated by Dr. Wenching Hsieh



## **PART 2**

# **FOLLOW-UP LESSON 4**

## **Reading Bible**

### **[Review Last Week]**

Host: What are the memory verses we mentioned last week?

New Believer: Philippians 4:6-7 (If 1 John 1:9 has not been recited, it can be recited together)

Host: What is prayer?

New Believer: Communicating with God.

Host: Does prayer need a specific time and place?

New Believer: No.

Host: What are the contents of the prayers we mentioned last time?

New Believer: Adoration (worship), Confession (guilty plea), Thanksgiving (give thanks),  
Supplication (prayer)

Host: Do you have any testimony to share on your prayer life this week? Is there any  
problem that you want to discuss with me?

New Believer: (... ...)

### **[Content of This Week]**

(Prayer before the class)

Host: Today I want to tell you a story (Host free to use other more appropriate examples. The purpose is to allow new believer to understand the Bible's importance in the Christian life)

About twenty years ago, my wife and I got married in Taiwan, the last leg of the honeymoon was arranged to Tienhsiang, the eastern end of the East-West Cross Highway. That night we stayed at Wenshan, not too far away from Tienhsiang. At night, we took a bus tour to Tienhsiang for dinner. Since from Tienhsiang to Wenshan is only an hour's walking distance. We decided to walk back to the hotel at Wenshan after the dinner. I do not know if you have the experience of walking in the mountains at night? The eastern section of the East-West Cross Highway was carved out from the valley rocks next to Liwu creek. Both banks on the sides of the creek are adjacent to vertical cliff of the mountains. The highway was cut out from the middle of the mountain. There were no street lights along the highway. There was no moon light shining into the section of the road between the two mountain cliffs. It was pitch dark after dusk. The road was not very clear and we only hear the continuous gurgling sound of water came from one side of the road. We did not carry the flashlight and therefore, it was so scary to walk. And in particular, fear of accidentally fall into the valley of Liwu creek. Particularly, this section has many tunnels. You could not see your fingers when you walked into the tunnels. I took the hands of my wife, touching the wall of the tunnel to go forward. Sometimes a car passed by, the head lights illuminated the road. We quickly memorize the directions and this was a great help. This trip was very difficult for us to forget. When we returned to Wenshan Hotel, we understood deeply what means "relief."

Psalm 119:105 said: *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* If we have the Word of God as our guide in life, we would not be like walking on the mountain roads at night, worrying about fall into the valley at any moment. So the Word of God is very important for our Christians.

Host: So what is the Word of God?

New Believer: The Bible.

Host: Well, since the Bible is the Word of God, we will develop a habit of reading the Word of God. Please read 1 Peter 2:1-2.

New Believer: *"<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."*

Host: This passage is for the new believer. Peter said that the new Christian is like the new born baby. What is the characteristic of drinking milk by a new born baby?

New Believer: (Drink very little, but drink very often.)

Host: Very good. What is the meaning of pure milk mentioned in 1 Peter 2:2?

New Believer: (Word of God.)

Host: Very good. We can understand a truth from this verse. That is, a new Christian cannot eat too much spiritual food at one time, but must eat often with small amount (many meals but little in each meal). If you wait too long between meals, you certainly will get malnutrition. New Christians cannot rely only on the pastor's sermon once a week to feed his spiritual life. They must come to God every morning (or evening) through reading the Word of God to draw near to God.

Host: Let's read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

New Believer: (read 2 Tim 3:16-17) *"<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Host: The Bible is the Word of God, to teach us to walk in straight road, able to do good and let people see our good behavior and are willing to believe in our God. Next time, we will memorize two scriptures: Psalms 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Host: I encourage you to get up half an hour early each morning, pray quietly before God, and then read a passage of God's Word. You can start with the New Testament, book by book. It doesn't need a lot of reading, ten or fifteen minutes is enough. After reading the Scripture, you can think the meaning of the Scripture on the way to work and pray to God to help you understand. The important thing is not to read a lot but to do it without interruption. Like a newborn baby, it doesn't matter how much you eat but it must not be interrupted. For as long as you continue, you can grow. But as soon as it discontinues, the spiritual malnutrition will quickly reflect in the behavior of your life.

Write a note, if you don't understand certain passages during your Bible reading. You can ask me next time we meet.

(Memory Verses for this week, Psalm 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

(Remember to invite new believer to pray out loud with you at the end.)

(Encourage new believer to develop habits of morning devotion.)`

(This is the end of this follow-up work.)

10/8/2011

Lesson 4 Reading Bible

Dr. Yueming Joseph Chang, 82  
Translated by Dr. Wenching Hsieh



## **PART 2**

# **FOLLOW-UP LESSON 5**

## **Witness**

### **[Review Last Week]**

Host: What are the two verses to memorize that we mentioned in last week?

New Believer: Psalm 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Host: How is your Bible reading this week? Do you have any questions to ask?

### **[Content of This Week]**

(Begin with prayer)

Host: Please open your Bible and find the attached map of Israel at the back page. At the northern end and the southern end of the Jordan River, each end has a sea. What are these seas?

New Believer: The Sea of Galilee at the north and the Dead Sea at the south.

Host: Yes, very good. Another question, what is the difference between these two seas?

New Believer: The Sea of Galilee is small and the Dead Sea is large.

Host: Very good. Are there other differences? What is the distinct character of the Dead Sea?

New Believer: High salt content, you will not sink in the Dead Sea.

Host: Very good, then is there life in it?



New Believer: Because of high salt content, no fish can survive.

Host: Well, then let's look at the other sea, is there life in the Sea of Galilee?

New Believer: Yes. (Many of Jesus' disciples were the fishermen at the Sea of Galilee.)

Host: Very good, though the Sea of Galilee is small, but has beautiful scenery and is rich in fishery production. The Dead Sea is large but is a doldrums. There is no life existed in it. Do you know the main reason for this difference?

New Believer: (... ...)

Host: In the Sea of Galilee, water flows into it at the north end and flows out of it at the south end. There is inlet and outlet, the water is moving, so there are all sorts of creatures in it. The Dead Sea level is lower than the Mediterranean Sea. The Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea at the northern end of the Dead Sea and never flows out from it. It has inlet but no outlet, so the salt content reaches to a high level that no life can survive in it.

Host: The spiritual life is like the two seas. If we only hear, receive, and absorb the Word of God, but refuse to share it with others and refuse to testify to others how God changed our lives. If we are such persons that take in only and not give out, after so long, we will be like the Dead Sea without any spiritual life. If we have devotion, prayer, meeting to get the supply of the Word and also know to witness to the people and share the Word of God at any opportunity then we will have a rich spiritual life like the Sea of Galilee.

Host: Let us look at a commandment by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20.

New Believer: (Read Matthew 28:18-20) *<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." 【Matt 28:18-20】*

Host: Jesus commanded this message to His followers (including us) before ascending to heaven. We call this important message the "Great Commission". He told us very clearly that all authorities on earth and in heaven had been given to Him. Therefore, He commanded us to engage in the work of the "Great Commission". When we do as we were told, Jesus will be with us and we will experience the highest authority that is given him.

“Great Commission” is a command. The most important word in a command is the verb. What are the verbs in the “Great Commission”? In the Greek text, there is only one verb in verses 19-20. This one verb is "μαθητεύω/Make Disciples". How to make people the disciples of Jesus? There are three participles in this scripture to describe the required steps:

1. **By going**, πορευθέντες. The first participle is the attendant participle. In translation, it is of the same strength as the verb behind it, so the English Bible has translated as "Go" to emphasize that the Lord Jesus wants us to leave our comfort zone, to reach out to our friends, our families, our communities, peoples of our country and all other nationalities. In Old Testament time, there was the court of Gentiles on the outskirts of the Temple. It is for the Gentiles to come to the Temple of Jerusalem to see the glory of God so they will be affected and believe the Lord Jehovah. In New Testament time, the Temple Hall no longer exists. The body of every Christian (cf. I Corinthians 6:19) as well as every Christian assembly (see 2 Corinthians 6:16) is the temple of God. In the New Testament period, God wants us to go into the non-believers. It is not for the non-believers to come to the temple but for us to bring the temple to them and to witness to them. As I have been coming to your place to share with you the gospel, and also with follow-ups, it will be your responsibility to do so for other non-believers in the future.
2. **By baptizing**, βαπτίζοντες . Only after bringing people to Christ then can we baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Bringing people to Christ is not the sole privilege of the pastors and the preachers, but it is the responsibility of every Christian. Our Lord conducts the personal evangelism everywhere He goes. His ministry to Nicodemus (John 3) and the Samaria women (John 4) are the good examples that every Christian should emulate.
3. **By teaching**, διδάσκοντες. It is important to teach the new believers after they believe in Jesus. It is irresponsible for the parents to give birth and not to nurse their children. Right after the conversion, the spiritual parent is the best one to provide the new believer with spiritual nourishment. The 8 follow-up lessons are specifically designed for this purpose, and the spiritual parent is the best person to do the follow-up. What I am doing with you now is what you ought to be doing with your future new convert. After the new believer passes this nursing period, he can then start to go to Sunday school and to receive the teachings from the other teachers. Teaching is very important, especially in the initial stage.

Host: So next week, we have to do two things:

1. Recite Matthew 28:18-20.

2. Hear your testimony. The testimony needs not to be a long one (for short one, 5 minutes is enough; for long one, it can be 50 minutes) which consists of three parts:
  - A. My conditions before I believe in Jesus.
  - B. Under what circumstances, and why did I believe in Jesus?
  - C. My conditions after I believe in Jesus. What are the changes of my life after I believe in Jesus?

Host: Because testimony is your own subjective experience, you are the most qualified person to talk; no one else can refute you. In the future, I hope that you will do the same to others as I am doing with you now in personal evangelism. In general, the process is like this: First, decide after praying that which family you shall visit to share the Gospel. When you first go to visit the family, do not talk too much about yourself but spend more time listening to him, understand his background and life situations. You can ask him some questions to learn more about him, and then use a little time to share your testimony. After that, get his permission to visit him weekly and lead him to study the "Eternal Gospel."

If you are not very familiar with the "Eternal Gospel", we can go together and I will lead and you will observe and learn on the side. After the person believes in Christ, then we can lead another one. This time you lead and I will participate in prayers on the side. If the second person also believes in Jesus, you can lead the third person alone. I don't need to accompany you. At that time, you can take along the first or second believer of yours to share the gospel.

(This is the end of this follow-up lesson.)

(Memorize Matthew 28:18-20 in this week.)



## PART 2

# FOLLOW-UP LESSON 6

## Tithing

### [Review Last Week]

Host: What is the “Great Commission” that the Lord Jesus commanded us?

New Believer: (Read Matthew 28:18-20) <sup>18</sup> *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Host: If I am a non-believer, how do you share with me your testimony of becoming a Christian?

New Believer: (share testimony)

1. Life before believing in Jesus.
2. How to and why believe in Jesus?
3. Life after believing in Jesus.

### [Content of This Week]

Host: Today we will talk about a very important subject but often difficult for the pastors to say, that is “tithing”. This is an obligation that God requires of the Christians. This is also a privilege given to the Christians in the church. God does not command the non-believers to tithe when they come to the church. Do you know why God wants Christians to tithe?

New Believer: (... ...)

Host: On the surface, it looks like the tithe is to provide the salary for the pastor, the rent for the church, the payments for the utilities and the funds for the church programs. These are all correct, but there is a greater meaning, i.e., to acknowledge the sovereignty of God in us. Let's look at Romans 12:1.

New Believer: (Read Romans 12:1) <sup>1</sup>*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship*".

Host: We know that Jesus died for our sins, so today we have hope of the eternal life; we become children of God, guided by his Word and live a fuller life to do good. All this new status is God given. So we should dedicate our bodies, minds and spirits before God and live according to God's will. This is a life pleasing to God. This is the way to serve God – by offering our bodies as the living sacrifices. Simply put, it is to live according to God's will, to offer our bodies and minds in perfect obedience to God's sovereignty.

Host: In actual living, we are to:  
Allocate our time according to God's will. Use the money that God has given us according to God's will. Develop the personal relationships according to God's will.

Host: As for the money, we recognize that the money is a gift of God. Psalm 50:10-12 says that the beasts in the forest, the cattle on a thousand hills and the fullness of the world all belong to God. So we offer to God, not because God lacks anything and needs our help. We offer the first tenth of our earnings, the best that we have, to God to acknowledge that all we have are from him, and the remaining nine-tenths are to be used according to his principles.

New Believer: Why is it one-tenth?

Host: Please read Genesis 14:20; 28:20-22

New Believer: (Read Gen 14:20) <sup>20</sup>*And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

(Read Gen 28:20-22) <sup>20</sup>*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup>so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup>and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

Host: One-tenth is the teaching of the Old Testament. In the church, we use this number to make a measurable criteria and this is a starting point of our learning. What says in Matthew 6:12?

New Believer: (Read Matthew 6:21) *"<sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Host: A lot of time, God knows that we are weak, easy to place our hearts on the money we can see and not on the eternal God whom we cannot see. Therefore, through the offering of the very first one-tenth, we re-dedicate ourselves before God every time we make the offering. And, when we place our offering in the Church, our heart will naturally stay on the will of God and his ministry in the church. In general, those who tithe regularly in the church, their spiritual condition and growth outpace those who do not.

Host: So, what are the principles of offerings that we should emphasize? Let us first look at 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

New Believer: (Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8) *"<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

Host: **The first principle is "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."** In general, to those who give generously, God will bless them with richness, because they know how to give faithfully; to those who focus only on themselves and don't give, God will bless less. You only need to observe the Christian countries who know how to give, and you will understand this principle. These countries are generally richer than the others.

Host: **The second principle is to tithe the first one-tenth of your proceeds, and then to plan the use of the remaining nine-tenths.** It is not to plan the use of all the money and tithe the remaining small amount to God. This would not be pleasing to God. There is a work of faith in the act of tithe. What does it say in Hebrews 11:6?

New Believer: (Read Hebrews 11:6) *"<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

Host: When you tithe one-tenth of your proceeds to God, this is tantamount to recognize that all your income is from God and you give the best one-tenth to Him. And you have faith in God that he will bless you so that the remaining nine-tenths will be enough to meet all your needs. (At this time, Host can add testimony of his own and then ask the non-believer to read Proverbs 3:9-10.)

New Believer: (Read Proverbs 3:9-10) *"<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."*

Host: Once again, here we reiterate the above two principles: "first fruits of all your crops" represents the first one-tenth of the revenue before it is used. When we offer to God the first one-tenth of all we have, God will bless us to the extent that it brims over our cup of his blessings.

Host: **The third principle is to give cheerfully and willingly.** When we tithe, we dedicate this money to God, not to impress other people. We tithe not because of our friendship with pastor or other coworkers but because of our relationship with God. When we tithe cheerfully, God loves it. Don't give reluctantly and regret it later, and vent this regret in blaming the church being bad here and wrong there. If it is that reluctant, then it is better not to give. (Remind the new believer to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.)

(The Bible verses to memorize is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

(This is the end of this follow-up class)

(Encourage new believer to pray out loud in the closing of this lesson)



## PART 2

# FOLLOW-UP LESSON 7

## Resist Temptation

### [Review Last Week]

Host: Before the class, let's review what is "tithing" mentioned in the previous class. Tithing has three principles and what are these three principles?

New Believer: The first principle is "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." In general, to those who know how to give faithfully, God will bless them even more and enable them to do many good things. The second principle is to tithe the first one-tenth of our proceeds, not to offer the left over to God. The third principle is to give willingly. This willing heart is pleasing to God.

Host: Could you recite 2 Corinthians 9:6-8?

New Believer: *2 Corinthians 9:6-8* <sup>6</sup>*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* <sup>7</sup>*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* <sup>8</sup>*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

### [Content of This Week]

Host: Please read the scripture in Romans 5:12.



New Believer: Romans 5:12 <sup>12</sup> *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—.*

Host: It is said in this verse: *“just as sin entered the world through one man”*. Here, who is this “one man”?

New Believer: It is Adam.

Host: Very good. Adam is the first man created by God. Because Adam sinned, sin entered this world. Through Adam, sin passed on to his descendents. Therefore, every one of us that was born through Adam will have this sin nature in our old life. Out from the sin nature comes the act of sin. Thus, we will commit sin because of our sin nature. For those who don't believe in Jesus, their whole life basically is living under the influence of this sin nature. One can work hard to do good but can hardly reach one's own goal of doing good because this sin nature has so strong an influence in one's life. You are now a person believe in Jesus, and you have a born-again life, a different set of power. Could you read John 3:3?

New Believer: John 3:3 <sup>3</sup> *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”*

Host: Here, Jesus emphasizes that when you receive Him as your Savior, God gives you a born-again life. Therefore, a new believer, in addition to his old life, has a born-again life which starts to grow since the moment of his believing in Jesus Christ. The old life resembles a big tree that is fallen by the wind. This big tree is dead in reality because it has been uprooted from the soil. But because of the nutrients that still remain in the trunk, the tree will continue to grow leaves, even bloom flowers and bear fruits for a while before finally rotten away entirely. Today, there are two laws in the life of Christians, i.e. the sin nature and the new life. They battle inside us, and struggle with each other. Please read Romans 7:18-25.

New Believer: Romans 7:18-25 <sup>18</sup> *For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.<sup>[a]</sup> For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature<sup>[b]</sup> a slave to the law of sin.”*

Host: Paul taught us that during the growth of a Christian life, there are two laws battle inside our hearts. One is the sinful nature which belongs to the old Adam , and the other is the new life from Jesus. These two laws constantly battle in our hearts. For the Christians, the old sin nature is like the uprooted tree. Though it is dead, the old accumulated habits in our old life continue to control us. If we don't allow it the opportunity, its influence will be less and less. Just like this big fallen tree, if we continue watering its root, this tree will grow a little longer. But if we cut off the nutrients to it, the tree will rotten quickly.

As for this new life from Jesus, if we constantly get in touch with God through Bible reading, praying and worshiping, this new life will grow stronger. If we don't allow this new life to have time with God, this new life will become weaker and weaker. Rev. Bill Graham told a story. Once there was an Eskimo, he owned many sleigh dogs. Among them, a white dog and a black dog both were very strong. Sometimes, he said "Let us bet which dog will win in their fight!" Besides letting other people bet, he himself bet also. When he bet on the black dog, the black dog would win; when he bet on the white dog, the white would win. People asked him "How come you always know which dog will win?" He said, "It's simple. If I want the black dog to win, then I will not feed the white dog for many days; if I want the white dog to win, then I will not feed the black dog for many days."

This story gives us a good illustration. After believing in Jesus, if you still do those bad things according to your old sinful nature, you are essentially continue feeding the nutrient to the fallen tree, then it will continue to have influence on our life. Therefore, there is an important principle for resisting the temptation, i.e. we don't let our old habits continue to influence us. In the mean time, let us treasure the new freedom of choice that God gives us. Let us choose to stay close to God, do things according to God's teachings and then our Christian life will become stronger and stronger.

Say, for example, in the past you like to take little advantages. One day you shop at a Super Market, the cashier returns to you more change than you ought to receive and as before, you happily take the money. But now you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit will speak in your heart that you have taken more money than you should. Here, you have two choices: one is to ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit and keep on going. The other choice, the one that I would recommend you, is to obey the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks to you, you will say "Oh, I need to be obedient to God's guidance." You then turn around and say to the cashier "Excuse me, I found that you just gave me extra money." And return the money to him. When you start to do things like this, your old habits will have less and less control on you.

Another example, say you have a deep hatred toward a person. But when you read the Bible and found out that God tells us that we must forgive those who offended us, even to seventy times seven times. You make a decision before God and say, "God, I want to forgive." When you are willing, you will find that God will give you the strength and let you overcome the hatred again and again.

In this world, there are many temptations of lust. If we are easily to be tempted in lust, we need to be careful not to touch those things that provide opportunities to stir up our old habits. This is to say that you need to select the movies, the books and the internet web sites that will not stir up your old habits. On the contrary, you must get close to those things that will make your life more holy, more peaceful and more free. Then the power of the temptation will become less and less before you.

Could you read Philippians 4:8-9?

New Believer: Philippians 4:8-9 <sup>8</sup> *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.* <sup>9</sup> *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Host: These Bible verses provide the Christians a positive teaching on how to resist the temptation. God has already given us an asset to resist the temptation. This asset is our new life. After believing in Jesus, what you need to do is to cultivate and to grow this new life. Let this new life become stronger and stronger and let the old sinful life become weaker and weaker. Bible teaches us to touch whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, and whatever is excellent and praiseworthy. We must let our thoughts stay in these positive things.

Philippians 4:8 talks about our thoughts and verse 9 talks about our behaviors. Paul said *"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice."* He said that we must practice what we have learned from Him. Bible records Paul and other saints all have very good behavior. We must learn from them and act accordingly. There are also life stories of many believers and missionaries in the Church history. All these life stories are the good examples for us. Not only that, I believe that around us, we will see many Christians that their behaviors deserve our learning that we can act likewise. Hence, your life will be better and better and you will be the example for the others to follow.

[If the new believer wants to go further, the host can work with him to study the following topics]

Host: Next, let us examine what is temptation. Temptation is to lead us to do bad things. This temptation is not from God but from Satan. Could you read James 1:12-15?

New Believer: James 1:12-15 <sup>12</sup> *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.* <sup>13</sup> *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*<sup>14</sup> *but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.* <sup>15</sup> *Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."*

Host: Here, you see the words "test", and "temptation". In fact, there is another word – "trial". We are often confused by these words. We often hear people that God tests us, but God tempts us not, only Satan tempts us. Let's start with verses 12 and 13. First, the words "test" and "temptation" are the same Greek word "peirasmos". They are translated differently into "test" or "temptation" to help us in understanding the meaning. Second, in every "test" there is "temptation".

We can see the relationships between "test" and "temptation" in three examples from the Bible. (1) When God placed the tree of good and evil in Garden of Eden to test the obedience of human, Satan used this opportunity to tempt human. (2) It was mentioned in Job chapter 1 that Job was under "trial", he lost his property and his children in one day and was afflicted with sores in his whole body. But Satan keeps his wife alive to tempt him – It is written in Job 2:9, Satan used his wife to tempt Job to curse God and die. (3) In Matthew 4:1-11, Satan tempted Jesus, but verse 1 let us know that it is the Holy Spirit that led Jesus to the wilderness to receive the temptation from Satan.

Therefore, when we see the word "test", it seems to indicate that it is an examination often comes from God to see how we measure up. However, in this moment, it is also an opportunity for Satan to tempt us. How can these two things, these two forces coexist? I can use an example to help us to understand the relationship between "test" and "temptation". Say, the teacher hands down the test papers to test how much the student learned. This is a "test" from the teacher. For some students in this one hour test, it is actually a "temptation". If the students did not study enough, yet desire to achieve a high score, they will cheat. In this cheating, it is not that the teacher tries to tempt me (the student). It is my own desire, the desire to get the high score that I do not deserve, lures me to the temptation. If this desire is not erased quickly from my mind, I will look around and make sure that there is no one paying attention, and then I will take the book out and cheat. This is what described in James 1:15 *"after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin"*. If I was caught in this sinful act, I will be "dead". You know that it takes time to "conceive". Therefore, when temptation comes in, I must accept this temptation and then start to think how to act. After much thinking, it will bear fruit and I will commit the sinful act, and then gives birth to death.

Hence, when “test” comes to us, God often use this opportunity to see whether we are willing to obey Him. Through “test”, God let us to be more like Him and to have a better relationship with Him. However, in the same “test”, Satan often tempts us to commit sinful acts, to disobey God. Use this class exam as an example: we the students go through exam after exam, the objective is to improve through every learning process and to have a better understanding of the knowledge taught in this class. This is the “test”. In the meantime, in every “testing” process, there is “temptation”. This “temptation” is to let us stumble, to lure us to take short cut and not to learn diligently.

This world is full of all kinds of temptations. God wants us to live in this world by His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Through passing every “test”, these good behaviors will increase little by little in our lives. However, in receiving these “tests”, there will also be temptations from Satan who tries to lead us to wrong direction and return to the old habits. Therefore, after we know the relationship between “test” and “temptation”, we must always choose the direction to God not away from God. Just like taking exam, we study hard before test so that we can obtain good scores in the exam.

Our spiritual path is the same. We learn in small places in our normal life time. When God’s words teach us clearly or when the Holy Spirit moves us, we must act accordingly regardless of how small the tasks are. When we do bit by bit, gradually we will pass these small “tests” one by one. Our spiritual life will be stronger and stronger. We will have the capability to resist the temptation to do bad things. Here, we conclude the class of “Resist Temptation”. Next time when we meet, could you recite Philippians 4:8-9?

New Believer: Yes, I will.

Host: Let us review in advance.

Host and New Believer: Philippians 4:8-9: <sup>8</sup> *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*  
<sup>9</sup> *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*”

Host: Good! Could you pray for the conclusion of this class?

(Memorize Bible verse: Philippians 4:8-9)

(This concludes the Follow up class 7)



## PART 2

# FOLLOW-UP LESSON 8

## Communion and Baptism

### [Review Last Week]

Host: What is Paul's teaching on guiding our thoughts and actions to overcome the temptations?

New Believer: (Read Philippians 4:8-9) *"<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."*

### [Content of This Week]

Host: Church has two sacraments that the Lord Jesus commanded his disciples to follow i.e., Communion and Baptism. Today, we will discuss the meanings of these two sacraments.

## I. The Meaning of Communion

### A. Commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus

Host: There are five meanings in the Communion. The first is to commemorate the Lord's death. Please read the 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

New Believer: (Read 1 Cor. 11:23-26) *"<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance*

*of me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”<sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”*

Host: The first and the most important meaning of the Communion is the remembrance that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for us. When we eat the bread, it symbolizes the Lord's body on the cross for us, we are reminded that our sins are forgiven. When we drink the grape juice, it symbolizes the Lord's blood flows for us, we are reminded that God has made a new covenant with us through Lord's blood. Previously we are the enemy of God, but now because of the sacrifice of Jesus, we become children of God.

### **B. Confirm that we want to live a holy life**

Host: The second meaning of the Communion is to confirm that we want to live a holy life. Please read 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.

New Believer: (Read 1 Corinthians 5:7-8) *“<sup>7</sup> Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

Host: The Passover lamb in the Old Testament foretells the Lord Jesus. In the Old Testament, the Israelites ate lambs in the Passover. And then in the next seven days, they were forbidden to eat the bread with yeast. The molds inside the home must be removed (see Exodus 12:1-20.) Therefore, Paul taught us in the passage of 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 that since Christ, the Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us, our next step is to eat unleavened bread (to live a sincere and true life) and to remove all leavens (remove from our lives any malicious act of evil.) All in all, we not only eat the Passover lamb that the Lord Jesus represents, but also we will aspire to live a holy life.

### **C. Show that we belong to the same body in Christ**

Host: The third meaning of the Communion is that we belong to the same body in Christ. Please read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

New Believer: (Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17) *“<sup>6</sup> Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?<sup>17</sup> Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”*

Host: Though we are scattered in different local churches, we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ's body - the one Universal Church.

**D. Show that we have an intimate union with our Lord Jesus**

Host: The fourth meaning of the Communion is that we have intimate union with our Lord Jesus. Please read John 6: 55-56.

New Believer: (Read John 6:55-56) <sup>55</sup> *For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.*  
<sup>56</sup> *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.*

Host: When we eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord, it shows that we remain in our Lord Jesus and our Lord Jesus remains in us. Through the intimate union with Jesus, we can bear more spiritual fruits (cf. John 15:1-8).

**E. Show that we are expecting the days with the Lord in the Kingdom of God**

Host: The fifth meaning of the Communion is that we look forward to the days in the kingdom of God with the Lord. Please read Matthew 26:26-29.

New Believer (Read Matthew 26:26-29) <sup>26</sup> *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."* <sup>27</sup> *Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."* <sup>28</sup> *This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.* <sup>29</sup> *I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Host: Jewish custom in the feast of Passover, they take a total of four cups of grape juice. Jesus gave a new definition of the third cup of grape juice and made it the new covenant in His blood. When the feast proceeded to the fourth cup, He said he would not drink it, and would wait until the arrival of the kingdom of God. He will then sit with us to drink the new grape juice. So when we take the Communion, in addition to the first four meanings, it also contains the last meaning of hope, that we anticipate the coming days in the kingdom of God to be with our Lord Jesus.

Host: So the meanings of communion are five: (1) Commemorate what Jesus has done for us in the past, (2) Remind us that we have an intimate union with our Lord, (3) We Christians belong to the same body of Christ, (4) We desire to live a holy life, (5) We look forward to the future days in the kingdom with our Lord Jesus. Item 1 is the past, items 2, 3, 4 are the present, and item 5 is the future. Could you please memorize 1 Corinthians 11:26 in this week?

**II. The meaning of baptism**

Host: We now turn to another church sacrament, "baptism". Please read Romans 6:3-11.



New Believer: (Read Romans 6:3-11) *“<sup>3</sup> Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,<sup>[a]</sup> that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

Host: What kind of people can be baptized?

New Believer: People who believe in Jesus.

Host: Yes, those who believe in Jesus can receive the baptism. Baptism has a very important meaning. When we were immersed into the water by our pastor, it symbolizes our old self died and were buried with our Lord Jesus.

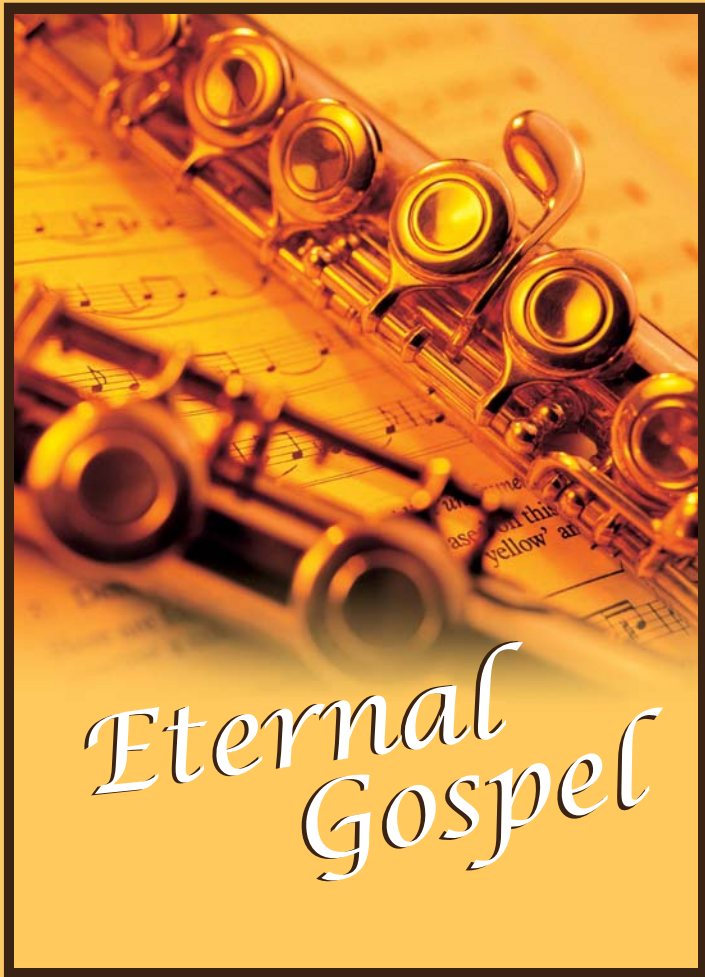
When we came out from the water, it symbolizes the one living now is not my old life, but a new life, the Lord Jesus Christ lives in me (cf. Galatians 2:20). Life before baptism is the slave of sin, used to do things displeasing to God. Life after baptism is the servant of the righteousness and starts to learn to do all things pleasing to God.

(At this time, the Host can explain to the new believer the things needed to prepare for his baptism and to arrange through the church a date of baptism for the new believer. In preparing for the baptism, if possible, arrange beforehand for the new believer to give testimony to the small group, fellowship, or church gatherings.)

Host: Next, I want you to memorize Romans 6:4.

(The verses to be memorized for this class are 1 Corinthians 11:26 and Romans 6:4)

(Invite the new believer to pray for the conclusion of the follow-ups.) (This is the end of the Follow-up classes. Host can invite new believer to receive the baptism in the Church)



*Eternal Gospel is written for our friends who have been brought up in the Chinese folk religion. Jesus loves them and yet the gods of their ancestors have always kept them from coming to him. In 7 lessons, following the blue print of Genesis 1-3, Eternal Gospel helps our friends to know the Creator God, explain why the gods of their ancestors have some power, and pave the way for the message of the cross. This book is designed for a one-to-one personal dialogue. After the plan of salvation is explained, if the new friend accepts the gospel, the second part of the book provides 8 lessons of follow-up for the new convert to form a firm foundation in his/her new found faith. While the 1st part of the book explains the gospel in a fun and understandable way, the 2nd part of the book brings in discipleship by requiring the new convert to memorize the essential scriptures for a new Christian. One lesson a week without disruption, this design allows a new friend to know the Lord Jesus Christ and ready for the baptism in about 2 months. If occasion arises that the meeting has to be postponed, the meeting place has to be changed, the beauty of a one-to-one dialogue allows for flexible adaptation of time and place.*