"Are You Saved?"

The study sheet "Are You Saved?" is called the "Salvation" sheet. It can follow any of the three study sheets that have already been presented in this *Teacher's Guide;* however, it most logically follows the study sheet "Is Jesus the New Way for Man?"

Purpose

The purpose of the "Salvation" sheet is to teach what Jesus requires before He will cleanse us with His blood and accept us as a part of His body, His saved people, the church.

Lesson in Brief

The lesson in brief is as follows: Those who want to be saved, i.e., to have their sins forgiven, must be taught the word of God. If they will come to believe in Jesus, resolve to live for Jesus, confess their faith in Him, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, they will enter into Jesus where they will have access to all spiritual blessings. Those who have been baptized into Christ are in the one body, the church of Christ.

Introduction

[An introduction to this lesson might include briefly summarizing the first three lessons. In so doing the teacher might mention that sin and death came into the world through Adam and Eve. Before God created, He knew that sin would enter His creation and already had planned to save mankind through the death of Jesus on the cross. He gave the law to prove that salvation could not be earned by mankind but had to be provided by the blood of Jesus. Forgiveness in Jesus' name, after having begun to be preached in Jerusalem, was preached to the rest of the world. All who received this preaching were saved by responding in the same way.]

Heb. 1:1-4 teaches the following concerning

Jesus: (1) God has spoken to us by Him in this age. (2) He is appointed heir of all things. (3) The universe was made through Him. (4) He is by nature and glory the same as the Father. (5) He upholds all things by His word. (6) He has made purification for our sins. (7) After completing His work, He sat down at the right hand of the Father.

In order to be able to forgive the sins of the world, He had to be of greater value than the whole world. If someone would burn one thousand \$1 bills belonging to another person, he could not pay for what he had done with a \$1 bill, but he could pay for it with one \$1,000 bill. If Jesus were but a man, He would not have been able to die for the sins of the whole world, but inasmuch as He is God (John 1:1), and for this reason of greater value than the whole world, He was able to pay for the sins of every person who has ever lived (1 John 2:2).

The question, for this reason, is not "Is Jesus able to forgive our sins through His blood?" but rather "What must we do to be cleansed by His blood?"

I. Are You Saved?

Our most important question is whether or not we have done what God requires of us before He will save us. Do you consider yourself saved? If so, what did you do to be saved? Let us write down what you did. Is this all? Were you baptized? Why were you baptized? When were you baptized in relationship to being saved? Were you baptized in order to be saved or to show you had been saved? Were you baptized to join a church or in order to be saved? If we should write down the word "saved," would you write the word "baptized" before or after it?

Are you willing to let the Bible decide whether or not you are saved? Are you willing to test your salvation with the teaching of the Bible?

1. The Bible teaches that we are to do certain things. Have you done them? What does John 6:45

teach we must do? [Read John 6:45.] *What* have those done who can come to Jesus? [Fill in the blank with "heard and learned."] This passage states that the person who comes to Jesus must be taught of God. Who is teaching us when we read the Bible? If we are reading the Bible, are we being taught by *man* or *God*? Will man's teaching or God's teaching bring us to Jesus?

2. What does God's word teach us we must do? [Read John 8:24.] *What* must we do to keep from dying in our sins? [Fill in the blank with "believe in Jesus."] What will happen if we do not believe in Jesus (John 8:21)?

3. What else does the word teach us we need to do? [Read Acts 17:30.] *What* does God command all men to do? [Fill in the blank with "repent."] What are we to repent of? What does "repent" mean? (Most people believe "repent" means to be sorry for one's sins. Sorrow should cause one to repent, according to 2 Cor. 7:10, but sorrow alone is not repentance. Repentance is a resolve of heart to turn from *doing* the things that displease God to *doing* the things that please Him.)

4. Not only is the one who believes in Jesus to repent of his sins, but what else is he to do? [Read Rom. 10:10.] *What* does one do with his mouth to be saved? [Fill in the blank with "confess."] What does one confess (Rom. 10:9)? He does *not* confess his sins, but instead confesses Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Matt. 16:16).

5. What else is the one who believes in Jesus to do? [Read Matt. 28:18, 19; Acts 8:35-39.] *What* do those who have been taught and believe in Jesus need to do? [Fill in the blank with "be baptized."]

At the point of baptism what was promised? The people who first heard the preaching of the new way were told to be baptized in Jesus' name for what reason? [Read Acts 2:38.] For *what reason* were they to be baptized? [Fill in the blank with "remission of sins."]

Saul had begun to believe in Jesus and had repented of his sins. What was he told to do to be forgiven? [Read Acts 22:16.] *Why* was he told to be baptized? [Fill in the blank with "wash away sins."]

What did Jesus say about believing and being baptized? [Read Mark 16:15, 16.] Jesus said that those who believed and were baptized would be *what*? [Fill in the blank with "saved."] Did what Peter wrote agree with what Jesus taught? [Read 1 Pet. 3:21.] *What* does Peter say baptism now does for us? Does this agree with what Jesus said?

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that those who come to believe in Jesus through the teaching of God's word, who will resolve to live for Jesus and confess their faith in Him, when they are baptized, will be saved from their sins. ["Saved" means to be saved from one's sins (Matt. 1:21).]

Those who are saved are not isolated. To whom are they added? [Read Acts 2:47.] *To whom* are the saved added? [Fill in the blank with "added to the church" or "added to them."] Explain that, when one is baptized, he is saved, and that God then adds him to the community of believers, i.e., the church.

II. In Christ

In considering a matter as important as salvation, everyone, without question, should be sure that he understands the teaching of the Bible. In figuring out one's income tax, one will usually go over the figures two or three times and will also figure two or three different ways to make certain he has not made a mistake. We should take even greater care when trying to determine what the Bible teaches concerning salvation.

In this section we are going to check to be certain we have made no mistake as to when we receive the benefits of the blood of Jesus. We will do this by considering the blessings IN CHRIST and determine how one enters Christ in order to receive those blessings.

What spiritual blessing does the person "in Christ" have? [Read 2 Cor. 5:17.] The person in Christ is *what*? [After 2 Cor. 5:17 and in the drawing which contains the words "In Christ," fill in the blank with "new creature."]

What other spiritual blessing does the person in Christ have? [Read Col. 1:14 from the KJV, but if not from the KJV, read Eph. 1:7.] *What* blessing is in Christ? [Fill in the blank with "forgiveness of sins."] What is in Christ that makes forgiveness possible? Is it the *blood* in Christ that forgives the sins? Those who are in Christ have forgiveness through the *blood* of Jesus.

What is another spiritual blessing that is in Christ? [Read 2 Tim. 2:10.] *What* blessing is in Christ? [Fill in the blank with "salvation."] Salvation is in Christ because of another blessing that is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:1). What is it? Because of the *grace* of God, the blood of Jesus was shed for the salvation of mankind. This grace is in Christ and provides the salvation that is in Christ.

What other spiritual blessing is in Christ? [Read 1 John 5:11.] *What* blessing is in Christ? [Fill in the blank with "eternal life."] Believing in Jesus in order to obtain eternal life (John 3:16) must include doing what Jesus requires in order to enter into Christ.

What else is in Christ? [Read Eph. 1:3.] *How many* spiritual blessings are in Christ? [Fill in the blank with "all spiritual blessings."] Many people consider having many physical blessings like money, cars, property, possessions, blessings of the O.T., etc., as an indication they are in Christ; however, these are not the blessings promised for those in Christ. Those who are *not* Christians can have these blessings, but all spiritual blessings are available *only* for those who are in Christ, i.e., those who are Christians.

What is the condition of those who are OUT OF CHRIST? Do they have the spiritual blessings that are in Christ? [Read Eph. 2:12, 13.] *What* are those out of Christ without? [Fill in the blanks under "Out of Christ" with "without Christ," "no hope," and "without God."]

Notice that before they entered Christ they were far off, but *now* that they are *in Christ*, they are brought near by the blood of Jesus. The *blood of Jesus* is what brings those who are separated from God near to God. Those who are brought near by the blood of Jesus are those who are in Christ. Where must one be in order to receive the benefit of the blood of Jesus? He must be in Christ.

Can one have the spiritual blessings out of Jesus? God planned and promised that the spiritual blessings would be in Christ (Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:14-16).

Only two passages of Scriptures state when one enters Jesus. How does one enter Jesus? [Read Gal. 3:27 and Rom. 6:3, 4.] *When* does one enter Jesus? [Fill in the blank with "baptized into."]

What must a person do to receive the blessings that are in Christ? If a person can receive these blessings out of Christ, he can receive them without the blood of Jesus, for the blood of Jesus is for those who are in Him.

Notice how Sections I and II teach the same truth. At the point of baptism one has "remission of sins," "sins washed away," and "is saved." When one is baptized into Christ, by the blood of Jesus he is a "new creature" because the old things (evidently sins) are passed away, which would correspond to "sins washed away," and by Jesus' blood he has "forgiveness of sins" and "salvation," or in other words, is "saved." Notice also the *What?* and the *When?* of forgiveness. The blood of Jesus is *what* forgives sin, while baptism is *when* the blood of Jesus forgives our sins Baptism is not the *what*, for water does *not* have the power to forgive sins. Baptism rather is *when* sins are forgiven. A good Bible example of *what* and *when* is the blind man's healing (John 9:1-7). The power of Jesus is *what* made him see, but his washing in the water of the pool of Siloam is *when* he began to see. The power of Jesus, *not* the water, made him see. So also baptism is not *what* forgives us of our sins (Jesus' blood does that) but is rather *when* Jesus' blood forgives.

One Baptism

[In order to make sure the student understands the Bible teaching concerning baptism, write *on the back* of the study sheet (see page 6) "One Baptism (Eph. 4:5)." Then write the words: "1. Who?"; "2. Why?"; "3. What?"; "4. How?"]

The Bible does *not* teach just *any* baptism is all right. The Bible teaches that there is *one* baptism. A person may have many keys in his pocket, but if he does not have the right key, he will not be able to open the door. So also one could be baptized many times, but still not have the one baptism Jesus wants us to receive.

On the front side of the study sheet we learned *who* is to be baptized. *Who* is to be baptized? Those who have heard and learned, believed in Jesus, repented, and confessed Jesus. [*On the back* write "Hear, believe, repent, confess." Write this after "Who?" and explain that this was taught on the other side. See page 6.]

Why is a person to be baptized? On the day of Pentecost when forgiveness of sins was first presented in the name of Jesus, Peter preached baptism in the name of Jesus "for the forgiveness of sins." [*On the back* write "Forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)" after "Why?" See page 6.] Baptism for the wrong reason is not obedience to Jesus (Heb. 5:9). A parent may tell a child to go to town for some groceries. If the child goes to town but not for the groceries, even though he has gone to town, he has not obeyed the parent. If one is baptized, but not for the right reason, he still has not obeyed Jesus.

What is to be used in baptism? Jesus was baptized in water (Matt. 3:16). The Ethiopian was baptized in water (Acts 8:36-39). Peter instructed people to be baptized in water (Acts 10:47). [*On the back* write "Water (Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38, 39)" after "What?" See page 6.]

How was baptism performed? The Bible teaches that we are "buried" and "raised" in baptism. [*On the back* write "Buried, risen (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12)." Draw a picture to compare Jesus' burial and resurrection and our baptism. See page 6.]

Baptism is more than a ritual. In baptism there is to be a *death* to the "old life," followed by a resurrection to a "new life" (Rom. 6:4). When such a death occurs in baptism, one's "sins are washed away" and he is "forgiven." He no longer is to live the old life but is to live the new life, and he is no longer "lost" but is "saved." [*On the back* write these. See page 6.]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that those who are buried and risen with Jesus in baptism enter Jesus and receive the spiritual blessings provided by the blood of Jesus. Those outside of Jesus are without Jesus and are, for this reason without these blessings.

III. In One Body

In Section I we learned that those who are baptized are added to the community of believers, the church. In this section we will approach this concept again from another prospective.

1. The Bible teaches the number of bodies in Christ. How many are in Christ? [Read Rom. 12:5.] *How many* bodies are in Christ? [Fill in the blank with "one."]

2. The term "body" is used of a group of people, like "student body" or "body of people." *What* one body, group of people, is in Christ? [Read Col. 1:18, 24.] *What* is the one body? [Fill in the blank with "the church."]

3. How does one enter Christ to become a member of the one body in Christ? In Section II we learned how to enter Christ. This verse, 1 Cor. 12:13, teaches the same truth. [Read 1 Cor. 12:13.] *How* do we enter the one body? [Fill in the blank with "baptized into."]

4. Of what are those in Christ a member? [Read 1 Cor. 12:27.] *What* are we then? [Fill in the blank with "the body of Christ."] The *body* and the *church* are the same. So if one is a member of the body of Christ, he must, therefore, be a member of *whose* church? [Fill in the blank with "church" of Christ.]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that when one is baptized into Christ, he becomes a member of the body of Christ, i.e., the church of Christ.

Summary

In this study we have learned how one is saved from his sins.

I. *Have you done these things*? Have you heard and learned, believed in Jesus, repented, confessed faith in Jesus, and been baptized? If you have, then you have remission of your sins, your sins are washed away, you are saved, and are a member of Jesus' community of believers.

II. *Are you in Christ?* If you are, you are a new creature, forgiven of sins, have salvation, eternal life, and all spiritual blessings. If you are *not* in Christ, you are without Christ, have no hope, and are without God.

How does one enter Jesus? How many baptisms puts one into Christ? Have you received the one baptism? Have you been taught from God, believed in Jesus, repented of your sins, confessed faith in Jesus, and been baptized (buried in the water and raised from the water)? Were you baptized for the forgiveness of sins?

Can you tell me what you did to be saved? Did you come forward in a revival? Did they baptize you at that time, or did they wait until a later time? If they waited, they must have thought baptism was not important. Those described in the Bible were baptized as soon as they accepted the truth: the same day (Acts 2:41), the same hour (Acts 16:33), immediately (Acts 9:18).

Salvation is like a combination lock. One move will not open the lock. Every move is essential. There is, however, a point at which the lock will open after everything previously necessary has been done. This is also true with salvation. We are saved *only* when we have completed all that is essential for salvation, which is completed because of faith and culminated in baptism.

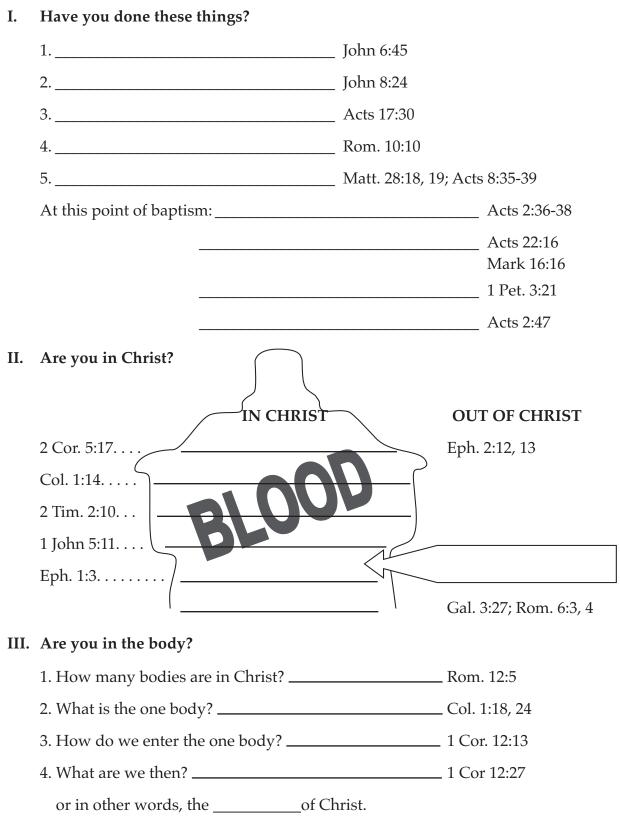
Do you want to be in Christ? You do, don't you? Are you ready to live a new life for Jesus? If you are, then why not die to your past by being buried with Him by baptism into death to your past and by being raised with Him to live a new life?

III. *Are you in the body*? Of how many bodies does Jesus want us to be members?

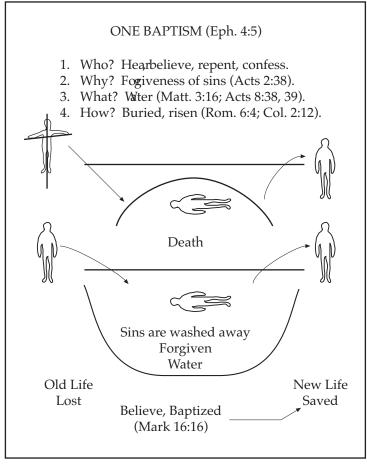
Do you want to be a member of the body of Christ, i.e., the church of Christ? Why not now become a follower of Jesus and enter His church? Why not be baptized right now?

ARE YOU SAVED?

Are you willing to let the Bible decide?



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The Drawing for the Back of the "Are You Saved?" Sheet. (See page 5.)