LESSON 2

The Sinfulness of Man

Read: Romans 7:14-25

1. Q. What is sin? (Romans 5:19a)

   A. Sin is disobedience to _ _ _ .

2. Q. What other definition does the Bible give of sin? (1 John 3:4b)

   A. Sin is transgression of the _ _ _ of God.

3. Q. What are the wages of sin? (Romans 6:23a)

   A. The wages of sin is _ _ _ _ _ .

4. Q. Can sinners be saved from their sin and guilt? (1 Tim 1:15)

   A. Yes, Christ Jesus came into the _ _ _ _ _ to _ _ _ _ sinners.

The Word of God mainly teaches two subjects. The first is the sinfulness of man. "For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). The second is the way of deliverance provided by God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The first step towards deliverance is to obtain a biblical knowledge of sin. Without a personal knowledge of the evil of our sins, we will never desire nor seek the divine deliverance that is in Christ.

God is the Creator of the human race and also the Ruler of mankind. As Creator and Ruler, God demands perfect obedience to His divine will. God is love and the entire Law of God is summed up in this one word: love. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all the heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). Sin is a lack of love and a failure of the purpose for our existence.

God is holy and His commands are always just. Our duty is to do what God requires of us. When we sin, we refuse to do God's will and rebelliously choose to do our own will instead. With our sins we grieve God, who is not only holy and just, but also good and kind. On account of our God-dishonouring sins, we are rebels in the sight of God. We must earnestly pray that God will show us that we are sinners and in need of His pardoning love and grace.

I. What Is Sin?

1. Q. What are sinners called in Ephesians 2:2c?

   A. The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Fill in the blanks from James 4:17:

   "To him _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to do _ _ _ _ , and doeth _ _   _ _ _ , to him _ _   _ _   _ _ _ ."

II. How Great Are Our Sins?

1. How great are our sins, according to:
   (a) Isaiah 44:22a? They are as a _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ .
   (b) Ephesians 2:1b? We are by nature _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ .
   (c) Galatians 3:10b? "C _ _ _ _ _ is _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _ that continueth _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ things which are _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in the _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ to do them."
2. A person who does not believe what God's Word says about sin considers himself:
   (a) to be a great sinner.
   (b) not to be a great sinner.

   Underline the correct answer.
3. Such a person will never (complete each answer):
   (a) know that he is g _ _ _ _ y,
   (b) feel the n _ _ d of a S _ _ _ _ _ r,
   (c) show any s _ _ _ _ w for his sin,
   (d) pray to God to be f _ _ _ _ _ _ n,
   (e) will keep right on _ _ _ _ _ _ _ until he d _ _ s.
4. A sinner, who takes God's Word to heart and comes to true repentance, will find comfort in the message from

   1 Timothy 1:15b that:

   "Christ Jesus came _ _ _ _   _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ; of whom I _ _   _ _ _ _ _ ."
5. What does God's Word teach us about sin?
   (a) God hates sin.
   (b) Sin is but a trifle.
   (c) God wants us to pray to Him for forgiveness and salvation.

   Underline two.

III. No One Is Free From Sin

1. In what words does the Bible declare that no one is free from sin?
   (a) Ecclesiastes 7:20, "For there _, that doeth _ _ _ _ , and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _."
   (b) Romans 3:23, "For _ _ _ have _ _ _ _ _ _ , and _ _ _ _ short _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of God."
   (c) 1 John 1:8, "If we say that we _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , we _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ourselves."
2. What does God demand of us in:
   (a) Leviticus 20:7? "Be ye _ _ _ _ , for I am the _ _ _ _ your _ _ _ ."
   (b) John 8:11c? "Go and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."
3. Q. Can anyone hide his sin to make it appear that he has not done wrong? (Jeremiah 16:17)
   A. "Neither is their _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ hid from mine _ _ _ _ ."

IV. The Sinner's Hope

1. Q. What did Peter do when he realized he had sinned against God? (Matthew 26:75c)
   A. "He went out, and _ _ _ _ bitterly."
2. Q. What did the publican ask of God? (Luke 18:13c)
   A. "God be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to _ _ a _ _ _ _ _ _ ."
3. What good news is there for a repentant sinner in:
   (a) Romans 5:8? "God commendeth _ _ _ _ _ _ _ toward _ _ , in that, while we were yet _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Christ _ _ _ _ for _ _ ."
   (b) 1 John 1:9? "If we _ _ _ _ _ _ _ our _ _ _ _ , he is faithful and just to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ us our _ _ _ _ ."

A Pastoral Message

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the best-known passages of the Bible. Its valuable and practical lessons will never be outdated and cannot be surpassed. The Beatitudes form the beginning of this precious sermon. In these pronouncements, Christ declares and explains the kind of changes that divine grace produces in the human heart. Therefore, God's children have a special interest in the Beatitudes. They provide a clear answer to the question, How can we tell that we have truly experienced the grace of God?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ tells us who are thus blessed. The list surprisingly begins with the poor in spirit, the mourners, and the hungering and thirsting souls. The important question is, What is meant by this expression "poor in spirit?" It refers to spiritual poverty. No one likes to be poor. Poverty brings along certain unpleasant hardships. We would rather be rich.

What is so little realized, spiritual poverty is far worse. We are all, by nature, spiritually poor. The extent and seriousness of this poverty is not easily measured. Sin has made us poor. We are sinners in the sight of God. Fallen man has lost all his riches. He has nothing left. Besides he has made many debts and has no way of paying what he owes. By nature we deny this truth concerning our spiritual poverty, at least the seriousness of it. Even religious people are inclined to neglect the issue of their own great poverty. Some even boast of their so-called riches and want to be admired for virtues they do not possess.

This all changes when divine grace comes into our hearts. Then we begin to realize that we have no reason to glory in anything of ourselves. We become aware of our spiritual poverty. The poor in spirit are conscious of the fact that they have nothing but sin and guilt. They acknowledge wholeheartedly that they are poor sinners, who cannot help and deliver themselves. They are beggars at the throne of God's grace with the plea, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Poverty of spirit brings them into the dust before God, acknowledging their utter unworthiness and helplessness. They desire to be remembered by the Lord.

Amazing truth, yet infallibly sure - the poor in spirit, and only they, are heirs of the Kingdom of heaven, a Kingdom of grace and glory!

Evaluator: _____