

## Lesson 8      **My Response: Forgiveness Offered, Resurrection Promised, Why the Moral Law is Good for Us, Lifestyle of Faith and Repentance**

- Review:**
1. God has spoken (condescended), Creator/Creature Distinction
  2. One God in Three Persons
  3. Sin – Fallen nature, hopelessly unable to rescue ourselves, dead in sins & trespasses
  4. Christ – Who He is – Fully God & Fully Man, Perfect & Sinless
  5. Christ – What He has Done – Life, Death, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension
  6. The Church – Christ's Bride, Received the Spirit, Worship, Word, Fellowship, Sacraments
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On the cross, Jesus offered himself as our atoning sacrifice. His is the only sacrifice that can cover our sins, and so in His sacrifice He offers forgiveness for all our sins (past, present and future).

What must my response be if Jesus sacrifice is to be effectual for me?

- Understanding the content of the gospel. What is the gospel?
- Acknowledgement that it's true (mental assent) – *You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe** – and shudder! (James 2:19)*
- Personal heart trust in the finished work of Christ on my behalf. *...because if you **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9)*

What does faith in Christ look like in a believer's life? What does faith in Christ look like in your life?

- Obedience.  
*Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (John 8:42)*  
*If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**. (John 14:15)*
- Faith and Repentance.  
*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and **repent**. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Rev. 3:19-20, Jesus speaking to the church at Laodicea)*  
*"**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:2)*  
*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **Bear fruit in keeping with repentance**. (Matt. 3:7-8)*  
*I have not come to call the righteous but sinners **to repentance**." (Luke 5:32)*  
*No, I tell you: but **unless you repent**, you will all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3,5)*  
*...and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance for the forgiveness of sins** should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)*

And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

**Repent** therefore, and **turn back**, that your sins may be blotted out,...(Acts 3:19)

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, **to give repentance** to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31)

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also **God has granted repentance** that leads to life.” (Acts 11:18)

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **he commands all people** everywhere **to repent**, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man who he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31)

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because **you were grieved into repenting**. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

For **godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation** without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. (2 Cor. 7:9-10)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number **who believed turned to the Lord**. (Acts 11:21)

And Paul said, “John baptized with the **baptism of repentance**, telling the people to **believe** in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” (Acts 19:4)

What privileges are ours as a result of being “in Christ”?
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- Intimate relationship with God. Our judge has become our Father. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God; and so we are**. (1 John 1:3)
- The Father’s ongoing care. “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet **your heavenly Father** feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ for the Gentiles seek after all these things, and **your heavenly Father** knows that you need them all. (Matt. 6:25-32)
- Absolute certainty regarding relationship with God – Assurance.

*And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.***

**Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.  
(1 John 5:11-12)

- A secure relationship.

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** (Rom. 8:38-39)

- A living hope, and certain inheritance.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to **an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you**, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* (1 Pet. 1:3-5)

- A certain bodily resurrection.

*Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.** For the perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*"O death, where is your victory?"*

*O death, where is your sting?"*

*(1 Cor. 15:51-55)*

What are the responsibilities of all who are "in Christ"?
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- The responsibility to grow in knowledge and holiness.

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that **by it you may grow up into salvation** –... (1 Pet. 2:2)*

- The responsibility to grow in our relationship with God.

*And **Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor** with God and man.* (Luke 2:52)

- The responsibility to grow in our relationship to the body of Christ.

*Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe **all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age."* (Matt. 28:19-20)

- The responsibility to be a **witness in word and deed** to the world.

*...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone** who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Pet. 15-16)*  
*A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**; just as I have loved you, you also are to **love one another**. **By this all people will know that you are my disciples**, if you have **love for one another**."* (John 13:34-35)

What is the purpose of God's law?
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1. A mirror to reflect God's perfection, and my sinful shortcomings.  
*For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Rom. 3:20)*  
*For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (Rom. 4:15)*
  2. To restrain evil.  
*"If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter of the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, 'Let is go and serve other gods,' which neither you nor your fathers have known, some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other, you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him. But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And **all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.** (Deut. 13:6-11)*  
*For **rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.** Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (Rom. 13:3-4)*
  3. To guide us.  
*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them.***  
*For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:18-20)*  
*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matt. 28:19-20)
- "The Christian is free from the law as a supposed system of salvation (Rom. 6:14; 7:4; I Cor. 9:20; Gal. 2:15-19; 3:25) but is 'under Christ's law' as a rule of life (I Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2)." (J. I. Packer)