

# “1A. THE GREAT DISEASE”

## ***Getting Started***

Think of the many horrible diseases from which people suffer like cancer, heart disease, aids, diabetes and leukemia. There are numerous diseases that result in serious illness and death. Perhaps you have seen someone you love suffer from one. In spite of the horrible effects of illnesses that attack the human body, there is another disease which attacks the souls of men and women that is greater than any physical ailment. This disease is called "sin." Sin is rebellion against the will of God. It is the greatest disease because it is the oldest. Sin began to wreak its havoc at the dawn of time by infecting the parents of all humanity, Adam and Eve. Sin has also infected more people than any other disease. Every human being without exception has or is suffering from sin-sickness. Furthermore, sin has greater consequences than any disease. Unless one is forgiven of their sin through Jesus Christ, they will be eternally separated from God in the place the Bible calls hell.

Discuss some of the ways we see evidence of sin in our world every day. Start with the news events of the past week.

## ***Getting Biblical***

### ***Adam and Eve***

1. In Genesis 2:15-17 what does God tell Adam he could not do? What would the consequences of disobedience be?

***What is “Death”?***

We commonly use the term “death” only to refer to *physical death*, the cessation of bodily functions. However, this is not the only way it is used in the Bible. It is often used in the Bible to indicate *spiritual death*, the separation of persons from God relationally. It is also utilized to designate *eternal death*, the separation of a person from God eternally in hell. In some passages in which “death” is used, the specific meaning - whether physical, spiritual, or eternal death - is unclear. Occasionally an author uses the term to refer to death in all three senses. In Genesis 2:17, the death spoken of is primarily spiritual death, but certainly physical death is implied (Genesis 3:19-22). Though it is debatable whether or not eternal death is being suggested in Genesis 2:17 also, it is clear from the rest of Scripture that due to Adam all who do not know God through Jesus Christ will face this destiny (Revelation 20:11-15).

2. Read Genesis 3:1-6. Who is influencing the actions of the serpent? (See Revelation 12:9)
3. What is the serpent trying to do through his question in verse 1?
4. What does Eve’s response to the serpent in verses 2-3 reveal? (Hint: Compare what she says here with what God says in Genesis 2:15-17; note what is emphasized by both?)
5. What is the serpent doing through his statement in verse 4?
6. What is the serpent doing through his statement in verse 5?
7. Having been influenced by the serpent, Eve “saw” the tree differently. What does verse 6 say about her view of the tree?
  - What did she do as a result?
8. What evidence is there of Adam and Eve’s spiritual death in verses 7-13?
9. How do God’s actions in verses 22-24 give evidence of Adam and Eve’s eventual physical death?

## ***All Are Sinners***

10. In what sense are all sinners according to Romans 5:12-19? How was this demonstrated before God gave the Law of Moses? (vv. 13-14)
  - How is this demonstrated through the statements in verses 15-19?
11. In what sense are all sinners according to Romans 7:14-20?
12. In what sense are all sinners according to Romans 3:23?

## ***God Loves Sinners***

13. Read Romans 5:6-8. How does God demonstrate his great love for sinners?

### ***Getting Applied***

1. Tom lives a good life. He holds to high moral standards and is an outstanding citizen. He has been married to his wife, Susan, for ten years and is a model for others with regard to his faithfulness to her. But Tom is an avowed non-Christian. He does not have any animosity toward the Christian faith, yet he rejects the message of Christ. Does Tom need forgiveness of sin as much as a blatantly immoral non-Christian? Why? Consider what you have learned in the lesson before answering.
2. Based on this lesson are humans basically good or evil? Explain.

3. If every person is a sinner and potentially faces eternal separation from God, what should be our primary goal in relating to others? (See 2 Corinthians 5:16-21) What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador?

### Getting More

#### ***Bible Memory***

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

#### ***Bible Reading***

Read each of the following passages. How is human sinfulness pictured in each passage?

Jeremiah 17:9 -

Galatians 3:22 -

Romans 6:17-18 -

Romans 8:7 -

# 1B. "THE ONLY CURE"

## Getting Started

Unlike many other diseases from which humans suffer - such as cancer, leukemia, or diabetes - there is a cure for sin-sickness. But there is only ONE cure! There is only ONE person who can give it to you! And there's only ONE way to receive it! The cure is called *salvation*. Salvation is the release of a sinner from God's punishment and the reception of an eternal relationship with him. The only person who can give you salvation is *Jesus Christ*. Through his death on the cross, Christ was punished by God for our sins so that our guilt before God could be taken away. He was resurrected in order that he might grant to all the forgiveness for which he paid is life. The only way to receive this salvation is by really *believing* that Christ's death is the only means of obtaining God's forgiveness and that Christ, as the resurrected Lord, can give it to you. Jesus himself said, "I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me" (John 14:6). Those who believe on the death and resurrection of Christ are cured of sin-sickness and do not have to worry about living this life or the next without a relationship with God.

Have you received salvation yet? When? Are you certain of your salvation?

## Getting Biblical

### ***Summary of the Gospel***

The term "gospel" just means "good news." In the Bible it refers to the basic message or truths about Jesus Christ.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. What is Paul's purpose in this section? (v. 1)

2. How can we know we are saved? (v. 2)
  - What does it mean to believe in vain? (v. 2)
  - What did some Corinthians doubt about Christ that caused Paul to question the genuineness of their faith? (See v. 12)
  
3. What four facts about the gospel does Paul list in verses 3-8?
  - Which two facts are really evidence of the other two?
  - Therefore, what are the two basic truths of the gospel message?

### ***The Death of Christ***

4. In Matthew 20:28 what does Jesus state as His purpose for coming to earth?
  - What is the purpose of a ransom payment?
  - How does this relate to Christ's death for us?

### ***The Resurrection***

Through His death, Christ *paid the price* for our forgiveness. After His resurrection, He *assumed the position* to grant God's forgiveness to all who believe on Him. After His resurrection, He ascended back into heaven and was enthroned as Lord of the universe. Having authority over all, He now saves all who come to Him. But none of this would be possible if He were still dead! A dead man cannot save anyone! Without His resurrection, Christ's death is worthless.

5. Read Acts 5:30-31. After the resurrection of Christ, what did God do?

- What do the terms "Prince" and "Savior" indicate?
- Why did God make Christ Prince and Savior? (v. 31)

### ***Faith in Christ***

6. What does John 3:16, Acts 16:30-31 and Romans 10:9-10 teach us about the requirement for receiving salvation?
7. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. With what is faith contrasted in this passage?
  - What are some ways people try to work for salvation?
  - How does the analogy of a gift relate to salvation?
  - Though we are saved by faith alone, Christians will produce good works. Is this a true statement? Why or why not? (v. 10)

### ***Benefits of Salvation***

8. **What does Christ want to give us now according to John 10:10?**
  - **What does this mean to you?**
9. What does Christ want to give us in the future according to John 14:1-3?

### ***Getting It Applied***

1. In what ways does this lesson differ from what you have been taught or thought about salvation?

- In what ways does it agree?
  - What is clearer now to you than it was before the lesson?
2. Based upon what you have learned which of the following steps for salvation given below is correct?
- Faith + Works = Salvation
  - Faith + Nothing = Salvation > Good Works. (Note: > means "leads to")
3. In what ways has Jesus' promise of a quality life in John 10:10 been fulfilled in your life?

## Getting More

### ***Bible Memory***

*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 (John 3:16).*

### ***Bible Reading***

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. What are the logical conclusions Paul draws regarding Christianity provided that Christ did not rise from the dead?
2. Read 1 John 2:3-6. Does this passage teach salvation results in good works for God?