

set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

There are two aspects of true dedication that a believer must consider:

A. First, the Believer's Body:

1. What is our reasonable and spiritual service? _____ (Romans 12:1)
2. What should we know about our body? (SEE I Corinthians 6:19)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. What should the aim be in the use of our body? _____ (I Corinthians 6:20)
4. How can you know the will of God? _____ (Romans 12:2)

B. Second, the Believer's Goals:

1. The setting of affections ought to be on what? _____ (Colossians 3:2)
2. Whatever we do ought to be in the name of _____ (Colossians 3:17)
3. What is essential to be fruitful in our Christian lives? (for this is one of our goals to attain) _____ (John 15:4,5)
4. We labor (obediently serve Christ) that whether present or absent we may be _____ of Him. (II Corinthians 5:9)

Growing in Grace

Lesson One

CHRISTIAN BIRTH AND RESULTS

JOHN 3:3 - "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

I. Demand for the New Birth (Why a sinner NEEDS to be saved).

A. Our Human Position Before the New Birth

1. I was like a sheep going _____ (Isaiah 53:6)
2. I was a _____ (Romans 5:8)
3. I was without _____, and I was _____ (Romans 5:6)
4. God says I was _____ in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)
5. There was nothing I could do to _____ God (Romans 8:8)
6. As an unbeliever, I was already _____ (John 3:18)
7. The _____ was my father (John 8:44)
8. My final home was _____ (Luke 16:19-31)

B. The History of Sin

1. How did sin enter the human race? "By _____ sin entered into the world" (Romans 5:12)
Who was this man? _____ (Romans 5:14)
2. Why are men sinners before God?
 - a. First, because every man is born with a sin nature.
 - 1) "In _____ did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5)
 - 2) "The _____ is deceitful and _____ who can know it." (Jeremiah 17:9)
 - b. Second, because every man has willfully chosen to commit sinful deeds.
 - 1) "There is _____ that doeth good, no not one." (Romans 3:12)
 - 2) "There is not a _____ man upon the earth, that doeth good, and _____ not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
(ALL men CHOOSE to sin personally)

II. Plan for the New Birth (How a Sinner is Saved)

A. Elements of the New Birth

1. "_____ or perish." (Luke 13:3,5)
God calls all men everywhere to _____ (Acts 17:30)
2. To become sons of God you must _____ Him. (John 1:12)
3. It is more than just believing with your mind (mere head knowledge), for the _____ also believe and tremble. (James 2:19)
4. Before he can be saved, a person must acknowledge that he is a _____ (Romans 3:23; Luke 18:13)

B. Actual Act of the New Birth

1. "I _____ upon the name of the Lord and He _____ me" (Romans 10:13)
2. God says I am "_____ freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24)
3. In Christ, I have two things:
 - a. First, _____ through His blood. (Ephesians 1:7)
 - 1) What was the price of redemption?
_____ (I Peter 1:18-19)
 - 2) Why was Jesus' blood precious?
 - a) Because He is God in the flesh (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-8)
 - b) Because He is without sin (I John 3:5; Hebrews 4:14-16)
 - b. Second, _____ of _____ by His grace (Ephesians 1:7)
4. When is the best time to consider the vital question of one's eternal destiny?
 - a. (I Corinthians 6:2) _____
 - b. (Isaiah 55:6) _____

C. Provision for the New Birth (Salvation)

1. Salvation is a _____ of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

Some important facts about a "gift":

- A gift is not earned; it is free. One cannot earn eternal life; it is free.
 - A gift is paid for by someone else. Jesus paid for the salvation of every sinner on Calvary's Cross--including YOU.
 - A gift is not deserved, but is given out of love. Sinners do not deserve the gift of eternal life, but God offers it in Christ because He loves us.
 - A gift does not belong to you until you accept it. God offers the gift of eternal life, but you must accept it.
2. Salvation is not acquired by _____ of righteousness (Titus 3:5)
 3. Salvation is an eternal gift given through _____ (Romans 6:23)

III. Results of the New Birth (What Happens When a Sinner is Saved)

A. Present Results

1. I am now a _____ (John 1:12)
2. I am now a _____ (II Corinthians 5:17)
3. I am now a _____ of Christ (I Corinthians 11:1)
4. I now have access to God through prayer (I John 5:14)
5. I now have the presence of Christ _____ me. (Matthew 28:20)

B. Past Results

1. I have the _____ of sins. (Colossians 1:14)
2. I have been given _____ (John 10:28)
3. I _____ that I have eternal life. (I John 5:13)

C. Future Results

1. Rewards await our service for Him (I Corinthians 3:11-15; I Corinthians 15:58; II Timothy 4:6-8)
2. The Blessed Hope of the return of Christ and a home in heaven. (John 14:1-3)
 - a. Jesus said, "And if I go and prepare a _____ for you I will _____, and _____ you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3)
 - b. READ: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I John 2:28 - 3:2)

D. Eternal Results

1. I have _____ life. (John 3:16)
2. I shall not come unto _____ (John 5:24)
3. We who have eternal life shall _____ (John 10:28)
4. God will _____ my salvation (Philippians 1:6)
5. I am kept by the _____ (I Peter 1:5)

ASSURANCE & SECURITY - Read carefully and explain in your own words: ASSURANCE & SECURITY are not the same. The SECURING of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation, depending entirely on His infinite grace. ASSURANCE is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. Just because a Christian lacks assurance does not alter the fact that he is secure in Christ.

Your SECURITY rests upon Christ's finished work.

Your ASSURANCE rests upon God's eternal Word.

Your SALVATION is dependent upon your having received Christ.

Your JOY is dependent upon your fellowship with Christ and Christians.

Your FELLOWSHIP is dependent upon your walk with Christ.

IV. The Dedicated Christian Life

"Let us lay aside every _____, and the _____ which doth so easily _____ us, and let us _____ the race that is