

“SALVATION vs. CONDEMNATION”

I) IN THE BEGINNING - CREATION!

- **Creation- Genesis Ch. 1 - 2:25-** The first chapter of Genesis alone refers to God as the **Creator** 17 times and there's approximately 50 other references found in the Bible. In Chapter one God gives a summary of His creation, and in chapter two He gives an in-depth look at the **creation of man**.

- **Creation in the New Testament- Heb 11:3-** *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.* **John 1:1-3-** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* **Col 1:16-18-** *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

II) THE NATURE OF MAN:

- **Made in His image- Gen 1:26-28-** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." G.B. Williamson writes that there are three facets of man as God created him: (1) A spiritual being, capable of immortality, (2) A moral being, bearing God's likeness, (3) An intellectual being with capacity for reason & rulership.*

- **Man is made up of spirit, soul & body- 1 Thess 5:23-24-** *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* **The body is dust- Gen 2:7-** *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* **The Spirit is life- Job 33:4-** *The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.* **Job 34:14-15-** *If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.* James 2:26- *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.* (The spirit is thought of as the life of man, whereas, the soul of man is more the personality of man or intellectual thought of man. They are very closely connected and continue forever.)

III) THE FALL OF MAN:

- **Read Genesis ch. 3:1-6- Five steps to darkness & death:** (1) Listening to slanders against God, (2) Doubting God's Word and love, (3) Looking at what God had forbidden, (4) Lusting at what God had forbidden, (5) Disobeying God's commandment. **Sin defined:** Unbelief, disobedience or wrong attitude in reference to the expressed will of God or His Word, manifested in word, thought or deed. **Isaiah affirms the universality of sin-** Isaiah 53:6- *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

- **What are the results of Man's disobedience?** - (1) Adam & Eve became subject of both spiritual and physical death (Gen. 2:17) (2) The serpent would now crawl on the ground and eat dust. (3) Eve would experience pain in childbirth and would be required to submit to her husband. (4) Adam was assigned to hard labor, bringing forth food from the soil, now cursed with thorns and thistles (Gen. 3:17-19).

- **Understanding CONDEMNATION-** To declare a person guilty and worthy of punishment. Condemn and condemnation are judicial terms, the opposite of JUSTIFY and JUSTIFICATION (Matt 12:37; Rom 5:16,18). God alone is the judge of men; in His demand for righteousness, sin leads invariably to condemnation and death. The mission of Jesus was not to condemn the world but to save it by bearing on the cross the sin that belonged to His people (John 3:17-18). There is no condemnation for sinners who repent and believe in Him. Jesus not only bore the consequences of sin, but also condemned (destroyed) sin itself so that believers are released from its power (Rom 8:1,3). Since they have experienced a gracious pardon, believers are directed to practice forgiveness and to avoid vindictiveness: "Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned" (Luke 6:37). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

Dr. Wayne Mack writes, "The Bible speaks so much of condemnation because of the sin which permeates mankind: ***"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear"*** (Isaiah 59:2). In the Bible, the word *condemnation* is synonymous with *damnation, judgment, punishment, destruction, and verdict*. In its strongest sense, condemnation means "the banishing to hell all those disobedient to the will of God" (Matthew 5:22; Matthew 23:33; Matthew 25:41) and those who deny Him (Matthew 10:33; Mark 16:16; John 3:18). The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) were part of the Old Covenant or Law, which was also called "the ministry of death" or "ministry of condemnation" (2 Corinthians 3:7-9). The Old Covenant brought condemnation upon mankind because it made known our sin and its tragic consequence: death. As such, the Law judged man already condemned. The Law carried a verdict of "guilty" because it pointed out sin (Romans 3:19-20; Romans 5:12-13). Before Christ, everyone had to offer animal sacrifices every year. These sacrifices were a reminder that God punishes sin but also offers forgiveness through repentance. This, in essence, was the purpose of the Law. The writer of Hebrews explains: "But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10:3-4). The Law reveals sin within us and therefore condemns us. It's as the apostle Paul said, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)."

- **The three imputations of Scripture-** (1) The sin of Adam is imputed to his *posterity* (Romans 5:12-14), (2) The sin of man is imputed to Christ (2 Cor. 5:21), (3) The righteousness of God is imputed to those who *believe* (Romans 3:22; 4:3; 8:21-25)

- **Beware of worldliness- 1 John 2:16-17-** *For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

IV) VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST!

- **Follow Jesus to victory over temptation- Matthew 4:1-11-** "It is WRITTEN!"

- **Read Romans 5:12-17 (Results of sin vs. Results of CHRIST)**

- **Thank You Jesus! - Rom 6:20-23-** *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*