

## PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 7

### **Lesson 7: Repentance, Confession, and Forgiveness**

Lesson 7 is going to focus on three main ingredients or parts in accepting the salvation of Jesus Christ: repentance, confession, and forgiveness. So why are these things important for us if we want to be free from sin? It is simple, God's word says it. And we must believe it in order to be free from sin before God in heaven.

#### **1. Why do you need repentance, confession, and forgiveness?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** Romans 3:23; 1 John 3:4; Romans 7:7; Romans 6:23; James 1:15

**Write Bible Answer:**

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Where do you find the law, "thou shalt not covet"? In God's Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:3-17. The law or commandment that Paul is referring to in Romans 7:7 is God's tenth commandment in Exodus 20:17. So the law that defines sin is clearly referring to the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:3-17 in which God spoke and wrote with his finger. So God's law reveals clearly reveals sin in our lives. God's law, His Ten Commandments is like a mirror. If you go to the mirror in your bathroom and found that you had mud on your face, what would you do? Wash it off. Well that is want God's ten commandment law is for us, it is a mirror that exposes or reveals the mud of sin on our faces or in our lives. The law of God can not wash your sin away. Just like a mirror can not wash mud off you face. You can not wash the mud of sin off our faces or out of our lives, only Jesus Christ can through His precious blood. So if sin is not wash from our lives according to Romans 6:23 eternal death is the consequence.

We ALL need help from the sin problem. Because of our sins we have all marked to die with no hope eternal life. We all need a Saviour. We all doomed for eternal death if we are dirty with sin before God and at the time of Judgment. And the time of judgment is already here friend according to Revelation 14:7. ALL need the Saviour Jesus Christ to wash us from our sins. How do we get ourselves washed from our dreadful sins? Let's continue the study to find out.

#### **2. Now before we repent, confess, and are forgiven, what is the first thing you or I must do?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** John 12:32; John 7:37; John 4:14; Matthew 11:28; Jeremiah 13:23

**Write Bible Answer:**

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The first thing we must realize is that when we are taught about Jesus we are drawn to Him by His power and glory. In other words, He catches our attention. Then in John 7:37, Jesus says "come all who are thirsty" In John 4:14 Jesus says that <sup>14</sup>"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water

that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Amen. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus is calling all who are burden with the stress of sin to come to Him. So in other words, we can conclude here based on all the scriptures that we just read is that the first thing you need to do to begin the process of being cleansed from sin is to COME to Jesus Christ just as you are. The Bible clearly reveals that before you repent, confess, and are forgiven the first thing you need to do is believe that Jesus can cleanse you from your sin sick state and COME to Him broken with sin, hopeless, stress, and in despair. Nobody can fix or wash themselves from sin. There are many “self-improvement” courses that you can buy that will teach various techniques to improve your career, your memory, or help you lose weight, but not one of these can cleanse you from sins and offer you eternal life. Not one self-improvement course can bring you close to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the answer to your problems. And His answers are FREE. You don’t have to pay 5 easy payments \$49.95 per month to improve your life. Just give it to Jesus, He has already paid it all for you. Jesus will not just improve your life, but He will fix and change your life and give you true happiness and peace. So you don't have to fix yourself or improve yourself before you come to Jesus. All you have to do is COME just as you are broken and corrupted by sin. It does not matter what your past may have been or what you have done. First, come. Jesus says come, come, come, just as you are. Even if you are a Christian and have slipped up and find yourself corrupted with sin, COME. **Jeremiah 13:23**, says <sup>23</sup>Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. Remember the Bible makes is clear that we are sinful by nature, and we can not fix it, only Jesus can. We are accustomed to doing evil. It does not matter who you are - rich, poor, or middle class, or how educated you are - high school drop out or PhD - you need to COME to Jesus Christ and go through the sin cleansing process just as you are. Praise the Jesus Christ for what he can do in your life.

**3. After you come to Jesus broken and covered with sin and believing that He can cleanse you from your sins, what does the Bible say you need to do next?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** John 16:8; Luke 5:32; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Psalm 34:18; Psalms 38:18; Psalm 51:1-14

**Write Bible Answer:**

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The Bible mentions in John 16:8 that in is the Holy Spirit that convicts us about sins, but after we are convicted and we come to God as we are, we must first repent and then confess our sins in order to be forgiven. According to Acts 3:19, after we repent a transformation or a change has to take place in our lives. What is the meaning of “repentance”? The Greek meaning for repentance is “to change one’s mind for better” or to be sorry for your sins and hating your sinful actions. In other words, the true nature of repentance is realizing your sin, being so regretful and upset about sin that you do not want to return to your sinful habits. You want your character to reflect the character of Christ instead. Repentance is a state of mind or attitude in which a person has taken responsibility for their sin, making no excuses, and seeks turn from it. Bible repentance is a very humbling experience. Pride is not in the picture. Repentance is humbling, because you are admitting that you are broken and sinful and need help. **Psalm 34:18** says, <sup>18</sup>“The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” In other words, for those who have a humble attitude and come to Christ broken in sin, the Lord will come close to you. He recognizes your true sorrow of your sins. Now, if you are truly a repentant sinner or truly sorry for your sins, what would you be convicted to do according to **Psalms 38:18**? It says, “I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” So you will not try to hide your sin or

be forced to “repent” after you are embarrassed and caught in sin. If you are truly sorry for your sins you will humbly come to God in repentance. An excellent example of repentance is found in Psalm 51:1-14. This passage of scripture gives you an excellent glimpse of the deep sorrow and humble attitude you must have when you are sorry for your sins. Again, the key thing that you must understand about repentance is that it is an attitude or state of mind.

4. After you have come to Jesus just as you are and have attitude of repentance, what do you need to do next?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 1:9; Leviticus 5:5; Psalm 32:5; [McCoy] Proverbs 28:13; Numbers 32:23; Hebrews 4:13; Matthew 6:14, 15

Write Bible Answer:

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After you come to Jesus broken in sin, sorry for your sins or in an attitude of repentance, you must now take action and confess your sins. **Remember , repentance is an attitude or state of mind, but confession or to confess is the action that follows repentance.** Even though we repent of our sins realizing your sinful condition you must then confess, take action, and confess our sins to God. Confession is the key to being washed from your sins by Jesus Christ. Confession is the act of acknowledging your sin. So when you sin you must verbally or consciously confess to God you sin. According to Leviticus 5:5 when you confess your sins to God all sins committed must be confessed individually and specifically to God. You bring every sin before Him that you are convicted of and that you are aware of. Is it possible to hide sin from God? Absolutely not. Numbers 32:23, says “<sup>23</sup>But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out. Hebrews 4:13 says, “<sup>3</sup>Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His [God's] sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.] It is clear that God knows all and sees all.” You can not hide sin from God. We maybe able to hide sin from people for a while, but according to Numbers 32:33 those sins will eventually become exposed. Proverbs 28:13 says that “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” So if you find yourself in sin it is best to confess them because only God can help you out of them. Remember confession is the act of telling and acknowledging our specific sins to God.

5. After you confess your specific sins to God, what immediately happens to your sins?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:17, 18; Matthew 6:14, 15

Write Bible Answer:

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After you come to God, realize your sinful state, humbly repent of your sins and then truly confess your specific sins to God, He forgives you and cleanse you from your sins. [Confess to God your sins, and He through the blood of Jesus Christ will forgive you. Amen. **But there is another major condition to forgiveness that can not be ignored** that is found in Matthew 6:14, 15 . It says, “<sup>14</sup>For if ye forgive men their trespasses [sins], your

heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses [sins].” So another condition of being forgiven or cleansed from your sins you must forgive others who have offended you or done you wrong. The Bible is very clear here.

### How do you know that you are forgiven? [ADD]

In conclusion of today’s lesson we ALL must realize that we ALL have sinned and need the Saviour Jesus Christ. First Timothy 1:15 says that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We all fit that description. But God wants to free us from the bondage and everlasting death that sin causes. <sup>16</sup>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. Ephesians 2:8 says <sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God. This is summary of the salvation of Jesus Christ for you. Remember Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins not IN our sins. So if you find yourself living in sin right now, God is calling you to come to Him just as you are, repent and confess your specific sin to Him right now and He will forgive you immediately. When God forgives you are justified or made blameless in the name of Jesus Christ. You stand before God as if you never sinned. Do you want to be free from the chains, bondage, and burden of sin? Do you want to stop running and hiding from God because of your sins? Do you know that God is waiting to forgive you right NOW? Psalm 86:5 says, “<sup>5</sup>For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. You have nothing to be afraid of. Only thing you will lose is sin, hopeless, and despair in your life. So if you are in sin or convicted of sin, come to God right now, now, now. There is not time to procrastinate. You know procrastination is one of Satan’s most effective weapons against us. Do not fall for that. Don’t get caught in your sins when Jesus Christ returns to this earth. And His coming is very soon. Look at all the signs around the world of His coming. Come as you are or where you are to Jesus He will cleanse you. Just pray right now with a humble and repentant attitude and name the specific sins to God that is convicting you of right now and ask Him for forgiveness. If you prayed that pray of forgiveness to God, God has forgiven you. Just believe it and know it. He has forgiven you. You are free. Now it is time to walk the walk of righteousness that can only be done through Jesus Christ. Your life needs to reflect the life of Jesus Christ. How is this done? Through pray and study. You must study God’s Holy Bible daily for yourself.

Add righteousness by faith....

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Acts