

The goal of this lesson is to give scriptural support for these two main truths:

1. Sin **separates**.
2. Every person is **born** in sin.

Genesis 3 NKJV

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Sin separates:

- Sin separates us from **others**.
- Sin separates us from **God**.
- Sin separates us from the **blessings** of God on the **earth**.
- Sin separates us from **eternal** life.

Key Scriptures:

James 1:13-15 – Selfish Desires → **sin** → **death**

Romans 3:23 – All have **sinned** and fall short of God's glory.

Romans 5:12 - Sin came by **one man** and by **one man** came salvation.

Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is **death**.

Born to Die:

- Adam and Eve were born-again from life unto **death**.
- They were no longer able to pass on **eternal life** to their children.
- Every person born since the fall of man has been born in sin.
- **Death** has spread to all men.

The goal of this lesson is to confirm the doctrine of salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus. We are not saved by what we do but rather by what He did.

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

The wages of sin is **death**, but the gift of God is eternal life. (Romans 6:23)

Jesus said, "You must be **born** again." (John 3)

Whoever calls on the name of the **Lord** shall be **saved**.
(Romans 10:13)

We are saved by **grace** through **faith**, not of works. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Grace is the **undeserved** blessing of God. It is a gift, not a reward.

Justice is getting what we deserve.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve.

Grace is getting what we do not deserve.

We are saved because of what Jesus did. He gave His life on the cross, not because He had to, but because He wanted to. We are saved by grace.

Because salvation is not based on justice or mercy, but on grace, merit has nothing to do with obtaining or retaining God's gift. Jesus took our place so that we could take His. This is the great exchange.

It is not the sin a person does that condemns them to hell, it is the sinner they are. In the same way, it is not the right things a person does that welcomes them into heaven, it is the righteousness they are.

What must you do to be saved?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be **saved**." (Acts 16:31)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we** might become the **righteousness** of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The goal of Lesson Three is to encourage each Believer to follow Jesus in water baptism. At Church on the Rock, we water baptize subsequent to salvation by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Born-again Believers who have been water baptized prior to joining our Church are welcomed as members by their profession of faith.

If an individual feels the need or the desire to be re-baptized at any point in their walk with Christ, we encourage that person to follow through in faith and refresh their commitment to God. Water baptism is a powerful experience which offers much to the Believer.

Here are a few examples of God using water as a sign of His salvation:

1. Baptism of Separation

- Genesis 1:7-9
- God separated the waters from waters and cleansed/washed the heavens.
- God also separated the waters on the earth from the dry ground and cleansed/washed the earth.

2. Baptism of Righteousness

- 2 Peter 2:5 — "And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly"
- By this, God once again cleansed/washed the earth.

3. Baptism of Salvation

1 Corinthians 10:2 — "All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea"

Exodus 14:13 — "And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."

- The Red Sea became a watery grave to the enemies of the past while symbolizing the washing and cleansing of the Children of Israel after they had been delivered from Pharaoh and Egypt.

4. Baptism of Repentance

Acts 19:4 — "Then Paul said, John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance..."

- The cleansing by water is a symbol of a deeper spiritual truth.

5. Baptism of Identification

Mark 1:11 — Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Jesus was not water baptized so that He could become the Son of God but rather He was water baptized because He was the Son of God.

Acts 2:38 — Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Each Born-Again Believer should experience a dedicated life change through purposeful repentance followed by water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We are water baptized not so we can become a child of God, but because we are a child of God.

- God uses water baptism to separate us from sin and the world.
- God uses water baptism to cleanse us and identify us as righteous.
- God uses water baptism to save us from the enemies of our past.
- Water baptism is a declaration of our heart of repentance.
- Water baptism identifies us as a follower of Christ alone.

The goal of this lesson is to recognize and define the difference between receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation and receiving a subsequent in-filling of the Holy Spirit which baptizes the Born-Again Believer with the **power** to be a **witness**.

Acts 1:8 — "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2

1 "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Peter later described this occurrence to be a fulfillment of the prophecy of **Joel**.

Acts 8

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

People were saved and water baptized in Samaria but had not yet received the Baptism of the **Holy** **Spirit**.

Acts 10

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

While Gentiles were listening to the preaching of Peter in Caesarea, they believed and were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit **prior** to being baptized in water.

I suppose the order does not matter to God near as much as formulas seem to matter to some denominations. What matters most to God is that we **trust** **Him** and become a power-filled witness for Jesus.

Acts 19

1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

The Apostle Paul assumed these preachers had accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. He questioned them as to whether they had received the **Holy** **Spirit** since they believed. Evidently receiving the Holy Spirit, in the manner to which Paul was referring, was an experience subsequent to salvation.

These disciples had not yet been saved but believed and preached the message of **repentance** taught by John the Baptist. Paul used this opportunity to lead them to Christ and baptize them in water and when he laid his hands on them they received the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

After a person is born-again, there seems to be two basic conditions to receiving the power and the commission to be a witness:

1. A willingness to **obey** God.
2. **Asking** God for this manifest gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32 — "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Luke 11:13 — "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 68:6 — "God sets the **solitary** in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

The practical aspects of being a Christian include a few obligations and responsibilities. God has ordained the Church to be the **Bride** of Christ, the **Body** of Christ, and the **Family** of God on the earth.

The Church is the "called out" and " **called** **together**" people, bound by the Spirit and commissioned to accomplish the work of God in the earth. The goal and vision of Jesus is defined in Matthew 16:18 where He stated, "Upon this rock I will build My **Church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

God's plan for mankind is always only one **generation** away from extinction. He is not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance. The Church, engaged and equipped, is God's agent on the earth.

Without born-again Believers taking their place of service in the Church; the mission will go largely undone. Here are the three most important responsibilities of a Believer when it comes to Church:

1. **Assembly**
2. **Stewardship**
3. **Evangelism**

Each Believer has a primary calling to outfit the Church with:

1. Goers
2. Stayers
3. Pray-ers
4. Payers

God expects every Born again Believer to **participate** in His plan to reach the lost, teach the saved, and strengthen the Church for the next generation. We are all members of the Body of Christ and, as such, need to be joined together with others so that the Body might function as designed.

Ephesians 4:16 — (Christ) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The goal of this lesson is to understand that death is not the end, but the doorway to eternity, either into eternal life with Christ or eternal separation from Him, and to live with assurance and readiness for that reality.

Hebrews 9:27 — "It has been **appointed** for men once to die, and after this the judgment."

We cannot avoid death. Death is the **door** for every person into eternity. For the Believer, who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

For the unbeliever, those who have refused forgiveness and the blood of Jesus Christ, death brings eternal **separation** and torment. This truth should sober the minds of men and challenge every person to be born again prior to death.

Let's discuss some things death is and some things that death is not.

- Death is an **end** to this earthly life.
- Death is not the end of our lives.
- Death is an **immediate** rejoining together with loved ones in heaven who have also died in Christ.
- Death is not an unconscious state, often referred to as "soul sleep" in the grave.
- Death is a joyful welcome into the loving arms of Jesus for those who know Him and have been **saved** by His grace.
- Death is not an interim period of proving, praying, or paying for your sins prior to deserving the reward of heaven.
- Death is **eternal life** for the Believer.

Eternity is not just a long time. Eternity is life or death **without** time.

2 Corinthians 5:4 — "For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life."

Our dissatisfactions with this life are not because we want to die, but rather because we yearn to really live. One day, this death we live will be **swallowed** up by life.

Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

The only marching orders God ever gave the Church is to go into all the world and make disciples. When a Church ceases to be **evangelistic**, it often becomes **cannibalistic**. The heartbeat of Golden Triangle Church on the Rock is world evangelism.

It has been said that the light that shines the farthest, shines the brightest at home. This is in agreement with Acts 1:8 where Jesus encouraged His disciples to be witnesses in **Jerusalem**, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. This encouragement paints a picture of ever-increasing concentric circles radiating out from each Church and reaching the whole world in every generation like ripples on a pond.

For these reasons, we continue reaching out. To date, more than **30** local congregations have been started out of Golden Triangle Church on the Rock within our surrounding communities, cities, and towns. As well, we continue with a vision to reach the whole world by sending missionaries, providing Bibles, feeding families, drilling water wells, funding orphanages, medical clinics, building schools, and raising up Churches and leaders in country after country all around the globe. We are fully **committed** to reaching the whole world in our generation while raising up runners for the next lap.

Each and every day, people go to bed with food in their stomachs, clothes on their backs, and **hope** for their future because of our Church and the love of Christ which compels us to action. Truly, the sun never **sets** on the ministry of Golden Triangle Church on the Rock.

In 1988, Pastor Ron, along with the elders of the Church, made a commitment to our then small and struggling congregation. We declared our pledge to do whatever it took to put a **smile** on God's face every day. Our one hope is that when any one of our members enters the gates of heaven, that they will hear the words, "Well done good and **faithful** servant."

It is the vision of our House to reach the lost, disciple and equip the saved, and to show the love of Christ to a lost and hurting world.

We believe in:

- The Trinity
- Creation
- Salvation by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ alone
- Water baptism by **immersion**
- The baptism of the **Holy** **Spirit**
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Prayer
- **Divine** healing
- Prophecy
- The rapture of the Church
- Heaven and hell
- Eternal **judgment**
- A new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells **righteousness**