

# FOLLOWING JESUS

*If any man serve me, let him follow me... (Jn 12:26)*

## Lesson 5 Salvation

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Many of these lessons are going to be basic in nature so this is just one more opportunity to remind us all that we should not be tempted to disconnect from the lesson because it is something we have already heard or studied. The willing learner can get something out of every lesson if he/she will continue to be open and teachable throughout the process. Furthermore, as a disciple our goal is to introduce OTHERS to the Gospel! This course should make us more able to do just that!

### PART 1

#### Introduction

Have you ever heard anyone ask, "What is the meaning of life?" I think we all have heard that question voiced in at least some form. Perhaps, before we were saved, we asked that question in a moment of adversity or reflection.

The answers to that question, "What is the meaning of life?", are these...

- to discover our Creator,
- to obtain His forgiveness for our sin nature, and thereby establish an irrevocable father-son relationship,
- to establish a loving fellowship with the Him
- to serve Him with a motive of love and appreciation, and
- to introduce others to Him!

God's summation of the purpose of life is found in the closing verses of Ecclesiastes!

- **Ecc 12:13, 14** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

It is GOD—not human relationships, possessions, activism, or experiences—Who establishes meaning for our lives. Solomon in this same book tells us that God has put a sense of longing in our souls that

only He can fulfill. Some have used the analogy of one of those children's shape-puzzles and likened that yearning to a "God-shaped hole" that nothing and no one but God can fill. The bottom line is that **without God, life is reduced to a meaningless existence. Philosophers call it "despair philosophy"**.

And so, if a relationship and fellowship with our God is the very meaning of and purpose for life, then the biggest question of life deals with what we Christians call "salvation". The biggest question of life is preparing for the next one! **"After death, what then?"**

And so it is sadly ironic that the vast majority of humanity never stops to seriously consider life's biggest question: "What then?" Most people meticulously plan their lives with all kinds of long-range goals. They plan for their education, they plan for their employment, they plan to attain a certain level of income, they plan for their marriage, they plan for a family, they plan for their family's education, and then they plan for that BIG GOAL... financial security in a comfortable retirement.

I don't watch much network TV anymore but I suppose the investment firms are still represented in the world of commercials. Back when I used to watch TV there was a very clever ad from an investment company called Smith-Barney that was all the rage. When someone in a private conversation said the phrase "Smith-Barney", everyone around them would stop talking and immediately eavesdrop.

Investment firms urge people to start planning for retirement the day they get their first job. And this is smart if you want a financial nest-egg when you retire. I honestly wish I had! Most people want to retire as early as possible and then enjoy lots of leisure, with solid, worry-free financial security! And this requires good planning and a good investment strategy. And there is nothing wrong with this IF money and investments do not become an obsession.

But, ironically people plan their entire lives for the retirement years... but not spiritually for **THE END** of life! They plan for the motor home, the retirement cottage, and the hefty 401k or IRA investment... but they never stop to think, "What happens post-retirement? What then?"

Tragically, most planning ends with life insurance for the family, "should the time come for the policy owner to depart". Should? Should the time come? I hate those insurance company/funeral home phrases! People we are all going to "cash it in", policy or no! But, insurance companies and funeral homes attempt, if at all possible, to avoid using the big "D" word. "DEATH" is not mentioned or discussed. The attitude seems to be this: if we don't mention the "D" word or think about it... then it might go away! Our society attempts to soften death with phrases like, "should the time come", "if something should happen", "passing", and "departing". You know, departing is a very good and accurate description. Paul wrote, *...the time of my departure is at hand* (II Tim 4:6). It's just that worldlings\* don't plan their final destination! And let me define that term "worldling". A "worldling" is a person who has no spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ by grace through faith, but instead has Satan as his/her father and has only this vaporous, transient world as his/her home, and source of meaning.

The Bible however, is frank and blunt! It warns, *"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment..."* (Heb 9:27). Men and women invest great amounts of time, energy, and money into planning their short, vaporous lives on this ball of dirt and rock, but little or NO thought is given to planning for their eternity!

Here at the very beginning of our lesson I want to dramatize our World's spiritual blindness with an audio drama. Let me set the scene. Two young, up-and-coming attorneys named Joe and Bill, are eating lunch in a busy, upscale, street-side restaurant in BigCity, USA. Joe is a born-again believer and he wants to witness to Bill who is unsaved. So Joe steers the discussion toward Bill's big focus and love in life: planning and goal-setting. You will discover that Bill is quite the planner! So let's seat ourselves adjacent their table, amidst the hustling waiters, the clanking of dinnerware, the rumble of traffic, the drone of street voices... and let's eavesdrop as Joe guides Bill to consider the big question of life: "What then?"

Listen to **"What Then?"**  
Dramatized by Steve and Tim Patrick

This imaginary story drives home the sad state of the vast majority of our world and especially what we

we call our Western world. People live fast-paced, appointment-driven lives, chock-full of intricate, self-made plans. They live for fun, they exist for entertainment, they live for experiences, they live for human relationships, and they live for possessions and money. They sacrifice their lives and sometimes their families for that future “comfortable retirement”, but with nary a thought about “What then?”, about... eternity. Most men and women simply play the proverbial “ostrich with head in sand” when it comes to thinking about death and what, if anything, might follow.

But our imaginary questioner Joe asked the most important question that can be asked of any man and woman. It is the most important question of life and ironically it pertains to death! Joe asked, “**What then?**” Jesus asked a similar question, *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* (Mark 8:36, 37). Jesus essentially asked, “What then?”

“What then?”, is the question that we as born-again disciples need to be presenting to our family members, our friends, and our acquaintances. **We need to lovingly remind those whom God leads across our pathways that the very focus of LIFE is really that doorway called DEATH: “Where will you spend eternity; what then?”** Because, as Jesus warned, if humans leave this life unredeemed, it would have been better if they had never been born (Mk 14:21).

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## I. My past condition

### A. I was a lost sinner

- Every human is **born** a sinner, i.e., it is our very **nature**. Our sin nature is one of the most verifiable realities in our reality!
  - We inherited our sin nature from our father Adam
    - **Rom 5:12** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned....*
    - And the Bible is very blunt, and even graphic, in regard to our sin-guiltiness!
      - **Ps 51:5** *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
      - **Ps 58:3** *The wicked are estranged (alienated, separated) from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*
    - But just because we are sinners by **nature** doesn't mean we can use our “nature” as an excuse. Perhaps we have heard or even used these justifications...
      - “Oh, that's just the way I am! I grew up an only-child so I just have that selfish personality”, or
      - “My dad spoke very roughly so us boys just picked it up naturally”, or
      - “I'm Irish! My family has quite the temper!”
      - Or worst of all, “It's just the way God made me!” I had a friend at a former church, a much older lady, who used the excuse, “It's just the way God made me!”, to supposedly mitigate and assuage the effects of her often sharp and harsh tongue. I don't suspect that God was in any way pleased that she used Him to justify her often caustic and harsh remarks.
- The truth is that we can't use our “sin nature” as an excuse for our sins. It's not one of those, “I can't help it” scenarios! This is because we are also sinners by **practice or choice!** When we sin, its not by accident; we choose to sin! Yes, sinning IS natural, i.e, it is our nature, but we actually of our own free will and volition CHOOSE to participate in sin acts.

Solomon and Isaiah were on the “same inspired page” when they wrote...

- **Prov 1:16** For their feet **run** to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

- **Is 59:7** Their feet **run** to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

And note in Acts 5:4, as Peter confronted Ananias, that he appropriately asked, ...*why has thou conceived this thing **in thine heart**? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.* The import of these verses is that men literarily RUN to do evil; they create lies and deception in their hearts... and on purpose! Evil is something that human being's relish; it is something they make a great effort to participate in!

Paul writes these truths in Romans...

- **Rom 3:10-12** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one...

- **Rom 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

- And so, what is the consequence of our original sin?

#### B. My sin separated me from God

- **Is 59:2** But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

- **Rom 8:7** Because the carnal mind is enmity (actively opposed or hostile) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **I Cor 2:14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- **I Cor 6:9, 10** **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

#### C. I could not save myself

- **Eph 2:1, 5** And you hath he quickened, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins... 5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were **dead** in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)...

Please note that a dead man cannot revive himself. Only God can “quicken” or make alive. Only He can do it physically (e.g., Lazarus) and only He can do it spiritually (through the new birth).

- **Eph 2:9** **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

I can do nothing to be saved. I can't do enough to be saved!

- **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness **which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost...

#### D. Consequently, I needed a savior

- **Is 6:5** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am **undone**; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

The word here translated *undone* means to be silent in the sense of one failing or perishing away. Isaiah essentially said, “I have been reduced to silence in your holy presence. What can I say? What can I do?” While men are “in their sins”, while they remain captured by their sin nature, there is nothing they can do about it; there is no hope! Or is there?!

- **Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our**

**Lord.**

Our ONLY hope is a person, Jesus the God-man, who overcame our hopeless estate. He offers complete release from the bonds of sin and death!

II. How salvation is accomplished

A. By grace!

- I like this mnemonic phrase that really defines the word “grace”. It is: **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**.
- We are saved ONLY by God’s GRACE, i.e., **we cannot earn or merit salvation in any way**.
  - **Eph 2:8, 9** *For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: 9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.*
- Grace is often defined as the **unmerited favor** of God. Grace and mercy are two sides of the same coin. Grace is God giving us what we DON’T deserve. Mercy is God withholding what we DO deserve.

B. Through faith... alone (adding nothing)!

- Faith is the key that unlocks God’s grace! Paul explains in Ephesians 2:8...
  - **Eph 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved **through faith**....*
- God absolutely demands that we trust Him implicitly. God demands that we anchor our eternity in Him through faith in the promises of His Word.
- And then once we are born-again by repenting and exercising our faith in God’s promise, we must then live out our Christian life by faith.
  - **Rom 1:17** *...The just shall live by faith.*
  - **Gal 3:11** *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*
  - **Heb 10:38** *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

Faith is, very simply, how God set up His system (His economy) from eternity past. We either come to God by faith, i.e., trusting Him alone, or we don’t come at all. And then we must live by faith, else God is not pleased nor glorified. And we will not be blessed!

- Now, it is critical at this point to define **what saving faith IS and contrarily, what it is NOT!**
  - You see, everyone—believer and unbeliever, creationist and naturalist, worshipper of Christ and skeptic— **has faith whether they admit it or not**. Even the atheistic evolutionist has faith, because they cannot observe, test, or prove their ridiculous theories of the Big Bang, the origin of life, and Darwinian Evolution. They must assume much of what they propose, and contrary to what they claim, they have absolutely no foundation in science to believe what they believe.

You see, we all—both born-again believer and the secularist/naturalist—have the same physical data. We have the same physical laws, the same fossils, the same geologic strata, and the same biological marvels (such as the eye and ear!). So, how we interpret all of this data is totally dependent upon our **worldview!** If we start with the assumption that there IS no God, then obviously we are going to come up with our own naturalistic theories to attempt to explain our

reality. On page 6 note a cartoon by Dan Lietha<sup>1</sup> (which was published in Answers in Genesis) that rather humorously depicts the naturalist's bias when it comes to interpreting physical data! Lietha depicts two men wearing what he calls "Worldview Goggles". His point is that we ALL start at a baseline of beliefs or accepted "facts" when we interpret what we see around us. The Christian interprets this world and reality through the Lens of "God's Word"; he has a Biblical Worldview. The secularist/naturalist/humanist interprets this world and reality through a Naturalistic Worldview. For the Naturalist, anything is on the table, anything can be considered, as long as it does not involve a Creator God in the equation. This is why Ph.D. scientists can stand without shame and propose ludicrous fairy-tale explanations of the beginning of life on Earth such as Spontaneous Generation of Life<sup>2</sup> (which biologists already knew was a fairy tale even in the 19th Century) and Panspermia and Directed Panspermia<sup>3</sup> (the seeding of life on Earth by aliens!). The idea of "directed panspermia"—that the Earth was "seeded" with life by aliens from other planets—was proposed by Dr. Francis Crick, the Nobel Prize winning scientist who discovered and described the DNA molecule. In the early 1970's Crick and biochemist Leslie Orgel authored a "scientific paper" about their theory of Directed Panspermia in which they wrote,



“It now seems unlikely that extraterrestrial living organisms could have reached the Earth either as spores driven by the radiation pressure from another star or as living organisms imbedded in a meteorite. As an alternative to these nineteenth-century mechanisms, we have considered Directed Panspermia, the theory that organisms were deliberately transmitted to the Earth by intelligent beings on another planet.

We conclude that it is possible that life reached the Earth in this way, but that the scientific evidence is inadequate at the present time to say anything about the probability. We draw attention to the kinds of evidence that might throw additional light on the topic.”<sup>4</sup>

The bottom line is that if men preclude the possibility of God and special creation, then they must fabricate up the most bizarre hypotheses to explain what simply could be understood by faith and the evidence of Creation: God said, *In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth* (Gen 1:1).

- But for those without Jesus Christ, their faith has no foundation. They simply have faith in ... “faith”! They have a “hope so” faith. If you ask them if they are going to Heaven when they die they reply, “I hope so”. This is faith, **but there is no foundation supporting it!** They have no assurance. They simply hope that “everything will turn out”... whatever “everything” is and whatever “turn out” means!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.danltoons.com>  
<https://answersingenesis.org/media/cartoons/after-eden/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spontaneous\\_generation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spontaneous_generation)  
<https://www.britannica.com/science/spontaneous-generation>  
[http://webprojects.oit.ncsu.edu/project/bio183de/Black/cellintro/cellintro\\_reading/Spontaneous\\_Generation.html](http://webprojects.oit.ncsu.edu/project/bio183de/Black/cellintro/cellintro_reading/Spontaneous_Generation.html)  
<https://www.infoplease.com/science/biology/origin-life-spontaneous-generation>

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panspermia>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/03/aliens-send-space-seed-to-earth\\_n\\_6608582.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/03/aliens-send-space-seed-to-earth_n_6608582.html)

- You see, the faith that God demands, the faith that unlocks God's grace and allows Him to regenerate our sin-deadened spirits, is what the Bible describes as "Heart Faith", as opposed to "Head faith". Paul wrote in Rom 10:9, 10, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For **with the heart** (i.e., not just the intellect!) man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- So, what does the Bible mean by "heart faith"?

• Let's contrast Head Faith vs. Heart Faith.

- **Head Faith** — Head Faith is simply intellectual acknowledgement, i.e., a person willingly acknowledges something to be a fact, to be genuine, or to be true.

- How do we arrive at truth or fact? True scientists determine physical and biological truth by testing hypotheses with the Scientific Method. They test or measure their data empirically and also test for repeatability, to confirm or create an axiom.

Ironically it is the Naturalistic contingent of scientists who cast dispersions upon our Christian faith and insist they will only believe what they can test, see, feel and confirm. Yet, they turn right around and embrace Big Bang creationism, fairy-tale theories of biogenesis, and molecules-to-man evolution EVEN WHEN none of these can be tested, proven, or OBSERVED! These deluded people are exercising faith, but unfortunately, their faith has no foundation.

- Acknowledgment is not saving, spirit-regenerating faith! I acknowledge a lot of things to be accurate and true... but I don't trust them for my eternal salvation!

Unfortunately the vast majority of the world doesn't go deeper than just an intellectual understanding! At one time most of the Western world readily acknowledged the reality of God and of Jesus, God's Son (...not so much anymore and become less and less the case). In times past they even acknowledged that God sent His Son in the form of a human man and that this is THE story of Christmas. And many will even acknowledge the fact that Jesus died on the cross to save men from sin. But these all remain as just facts in their heads, in the same category as the fact "George Washington was our first president". It is just an acknowledgement such as, "The Earth is a globe".

James teaches that even the *devils* (fallen angels) exercise this "head" or "acknowledgement" kind of faith (James 2:19). These fallen angels or *devils* (we call them demons) most assuredly "believe" in God; they understand reality and they know the facts for indeed they were at one time in God's presence, serving Him! And they completely understand and admit that Jesus is the Son of God, for they were created BY the Son! For example, in Mat 8:29 we read a testimony from the devils that inhabited and possessed the two Gergesene demoniacs. These devils readily acknowledged Jesus' Divine nature:

- **Mat 8:29** *And, behold, they (the demons) cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*

They not only knew Who Jesus was, but they also knew about their end! But James says this acknowledgement only causes them to *tremble* (the word means to bristle, to chill, or shudder) in fear!

Therefore, Head Faith could be called "the faith of devils".

- **Heart Faith** — Heart faith moves beyond intellectual acknowledgement. It RESPONDS to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and it moves us to conviction, contrition, and repentance. Heart faith must be Holy Spirit-initiated! Heart faith is produced by God's Holy Spirit when a man yields his free will to what could be considered for study purposes, three steps or phases. The first is...

- **CONVICTION** — **Conviction** is the terrifying realization of the reality and consequences of sin, i.e., that we are LOST SINNERS BEFORE GOD AND WE ARE SEPARATED AND HELL BOUND BECAUSE OF OUR SIN!

Only the Holy Spirit can produce conviction. We can warn, we can urge, we can plead, but only the Spirit can take the Word that we or a preacher has implanted and then use it to convict. This is why no person can be saved unless the Father through His Holy Spirit draws him! Jesus plainly explained, *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...* (Jn 6:44).

And according to Calvinists, God chooses to draw only a few, right? No! Jesus said point blank that ALL are drawn! *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all** men unto me* (Jn 12:32).

The Bible is very plain! Every human being ever born will be confronted by the Holy Spirit! Paul writes in Titus 2:11, *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men...*

The next step or phase is...

- **CONTRITION** — Conviction then should then lead to **contrition**. Contrition is a state of brokenness because of our sins. It is being emotionally crushed because of our sins. Contrition is the attitude being expressed by the publican in Jesus' parable of the praying publican and Pharisee (Lu 18:13).

Then God desires that conviction and contrition leads us to...

- **REPENTANCE** — God designs contrition to lead us to **repent!** The word translated "repent" is from the Greek word pronounced *met-an-o-eh'-o*. It literally means to "think differently or afterwards" (Strong's Concordance). It connotes a change (*meta*) of mind (*noy-eh'-o*) and hence one's direction! Here is the idea of repentance.
  - Before the Holy Spirit convicted us about our sins and our estrangement from God we most likely had the mindset of the world, i.e., we enjoyed our sins, we had no compunction to abandon our sins, sin was no big deal with us (they were a light thing), and most important of all, we did not see our sins as any great affront to God. In fact, we probably considered ourselves as relatively good people and that after we died we would go to Heaven because we didn't do really bad stuff like murder, abuse children, or rob banks!
  - But after the Holy Spirit brought conviction, and that conviction produced contrition, our mindsets should have radically changed! We should now see sin as a horrendous affront to a Holy God, and as a spiritual death sentence for mankind!
  - And this "change of mind" should be accompanied by a CHANGE OF DIRECTION! Paul is very, very plain in II Cor 5:17. He writes, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* And so, if a person claims to be born again, but we can see no change in attitude toward sin and then no change in the direction of their lives away from sin, we have good cause to be alarmed for them! For there is Biblical evidence that they are still deluded and lost!
  - **Repentance is the critical step**; it is that act of turning to God and crying out to Him for His forgiveness! This is why Jesus warned that unless we repent, we will perish! We must cry out to God, as did the publican in the parable, *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner* (Lu 18:13). Yes, asking is THE critical step. We can be convicted, and that conviction can even produce contrition (sorrow over our sins) but unless we move to repentance and cry out to the Lord, we are still lost! If we don't move to repentance, we are just convicted, sorrowing lost people, like that rich young ruler who *went away sorrowful* (Mat 19:22) because he understood exactly what Jesus was demanding.

Now, all of these "steps" in reality happen almost concurrently. The Holy Spirit will convict us, but then WE must allow that conviction to bring us to contrition (brokenness over our sin) and then we must REPENT, a conscious choice of the free will. Jesus was very plain. He told the Jews, *Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish* (Lu 13:3, 5). The Holy Spirit convicts, but WE



must repent!

C. Jesus must be the Object of saving faith for only He is the Giver of God's Grace.

- **Acts 4:10-12** (Peter's sermon to the Council) *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***

- **Acts 16:31** *And they (Paul and Silas) said (to the jailor), Believe on the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

- **Rom 10:13** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the **Lord** shall be saved.*

We can't trust in ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper). We can't trust in good works (because we have none!). We can't trust in confession and penance. We can't trust in membership in some religious organization or group. We trust **ONLY** in the sacrifice that Jesus the Christ made, giving our lives to Him in return, or we will eternally perish.

D. Only Jesus is qualified to be the Savior

- **Acts 4:12** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

- **John 8:24** *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

In our next lesson we will finish Lesson 5, Salvation, in Part 2, starting with...

III. My present relationship as a redeemed child of God