

## Lesson 3

### GOD'S REMEDY

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26).

#### MAN'S PROBLEM

Our problem is spiritual in nature. It is incorrect to think that you sin because of your genes, or a mental illness, or a disease of any kind. The Bible flatly debunks such unscientific, speculative notions.

1. Write Genesis 3:8.

Just as Adam ran from God in the garden, we, as his descendants, by nature, also run from God. Not only do we run and hide from God, we instinctively blame others for our problems.

2. Write Genesis 3:12-13.

Some of our excuses are: "My father didn't love me." Or "I was abused as a child." "All of my relatives are alcoholics so I am too." "I come from a dysfunctional family." It is part of our "Adam" nature to shift blame. Blameshifting cannot heal our sinful condition.

#### WHY DO WE NEED A REMEDY?

Because of our sinful inclinations, we need freedom from the power that sin has over our lives. All of us received our earthly life source from Adam, and it was in depravity and deadness. Our need then is to get a new life source, not merely a modified behavior, but a new nature no longer enslaved to sin.

3. Write Matthew 23:27-28 Jesus said:

Scribes and Pharisees were men who studied God's laws, but Jesus called them hypocrites. They knew God's ways, but their hearts were dark and sinful. We are the same way. We need a new nature that desires to love and please the Lord—rather than loving and pleasing ourselves first—but how?

#### GOD HAS PROVIDED A REMEDY

Adam was the head of all who are born after the flesh. As long as Adam is my head, I am still under the power of sin and death. I may be able to "kick the habit," but I have only dealt with the symptoms and not the root of the problem, which is sin and idolatry. I need to be taken out of the parentage (race) of Adam and born into a new race, and under a new Head, which is Jesus Christ.

#### BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT

Just as Adam's actions affected all who were related to him, Jesus' actions affect all who become related to Him.

4. When Adam sinned, what happened to his relationship with God?

5. What did Jesus say in John 3:6.

6. According to Jesus what is the remedy found in John 3:7?

When I am born into this new race under Jesus Christ, His righteousness is imputed to my account in place of Adam's sin. I also receive a new nature that causes me to want righteousness—and to live righteously. I must be born again by the Spirit. Only Jesus can remake a person to please God and give him eternal life.

Without this, all social programs and efforts can at best only control and restrain sin, but cannot take away the desire and tendency to sin. All men are sinners and need to become new creations or new creatures before they can get any permanent help.

To educate a sinner can only make an educated sinner, but he is still a sinner. To make sinners religious only makes religious sinners. God says, "you must be born again!"

7. Write 1 Corinthians 2:14 to explain why a person must be born again.

When you are born again, you enter a new dimension. Those "in Adam" can't understand this. It's like describing a sunset to a blind person. People can try to describe it, but a blind person will be unable to comprehend it. In the same way, it's hard to describe being born again until you have had your spiritual eyes opened.

8. Write Psalm 34:8-9.

9. How can a person be free from an addiction—or any sin—and live righteously? Write out 2 Corinthians 5:17.

10. Write Romans 8:1-2.

Who is your head? Are you "in Adam" or "in Christ"? In Adam, you are under the power of sin. In Jesus Christ, you are supernaturally liberated from sin. The choice is yours. No matter how deep your pit, God's grace is deeper to save and to keep you.

Choose Jesus!