

Semester 1 – Week 2 – Class 3

HOW TO HAVE CONFIDENCE AMID CHAOS

When we think of the book of Revelation, many people think . . . THE BEAST! Or the dragon with SEVEN HEADS! TEN HORNS! The number 666! And yet the beast power is not the central figure of the book of Revelation. In fact the book begins in Rev. 1:1 “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Jesus is the central figure. Jesus, in the symbol of a lamb, is mentioned over 25 times in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 17:12-14 **“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb...”**

The beast is only mentioned because he’s at war against the lamb. But then the verse goes on to say “ . . . and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: . . .”

Encouraging, isn’t it? Sometimes life gets tough. It gets difficult. It seems to be pressing in on us. But we read the last book and it’ll remind you that no matter how bad it seems, the Lamb is going to win. Just be sure you’re with the Lamb.

And so we’re going to take a break to take time to behold the Lamb.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why is it that something seems missing in my life? How can I find real purpose and meaning in a world that is filled with chaos? How does one really have peace of mind?"

There are many, even thousands, who would like real answers, but they do not know where to look. They are out there wandering around in the darkness of this world, longing, hoping, praying, that some day someone will come along who can talk to them and tell them in simple practical language, what life is really all about.

Have you ever felt that though you owned a great deal of the things of this world, something was missing deep down inside? Isn't life more than getting up in the morning and going to work every day and coming home and eating supper and watching television and getting up and going to work the next day looking forward to not much more in life than weekends so you can relax, play golf, go shopping or go to the beach? Is life merely being born and working and dying?

We need to study about our true condition in the light of what God has done about the condition of man.

1 John 4:8-9 **“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”**

Homes, cars, family entertainment centers, electronic devices, jobs, cell phones, etc. become their gods.

But the fact of the matter is that God loves us so much that He desperately desires for us to be with Him for all eternity.

Imagine for a moment, that you have a large family with over 20 children. Now in today's Western world that would be most unusual, but try to imagine it anyway. Now suppose that one of your little girls died. Would you miss her? Or would you say, "I still have many to take her place, so I'll hardly miss the little girl at all. "That really is an awful thought," you say. "Of course I'd miss her!"

Well, you could always have another one. In fact, if you had 20 more children, there would be over forty. Surely with that many you'd no longer miss the one that died, would you? Before you get too upset with me, I'd better get to the point.

NO OTHER CHILD CAN EVER TAKE THE PLACE OF THE ONE THAT DIES. You could have 100 children, but you'd still grieve for the one that died. We don't replace people the way we do appliances—And neither does God. He loves them too much.

"I know He loves good people," you say. "But you should see the mess I've made of my life. God surely can't love me!"

John 3:16 **“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.”**

God made you, and regardless of how bad you may be, nobody else can take your place in His affections. Now human beings are capable of being a pretty bad lot. The news on any given day is convincing enough. But God's love is so deep and true; it is impossible for you to be so bad that God won't love you! God has demonstrated His love to us in many ways. Delicious food, song birds that sing to the majestic scenery for our eyes to behold. But the greatest evidence of all that God really loves you is in the fact that He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ into this world.

Romans 5:8 **“But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Jesus didn't have to leave heaven. Jesus Christ, King of heaven, was equal with God, because He is God. Adored by angels, crowned with a many-tiered crown, clothed with white robes, with glorious cherubim on either side praising His name, and surrounded by an endless multitude of angels singing praises to Him.

That's what Jesus had in heaven. He traded the tiered crown for a crown of thorns. He traded the throne between the two cherubims for a cross between two criminals. He traded the glories of heaven for this dark earth. He traded the beautiful robes that He wore for a bloody garb of beaten flesh and blood. He gave up the multitudes that were around Him praising His name to be placed in the midst of a mob crying, "crucify Him!"

The great exchange! Few think about it. Few understand it. But just for you! Why would God make such a sacrifice for the relative few that accept Him? God understands the true value of a human being and the price it took to rescue that person from an eternal death. He was ready and willing to send Jesus Christ and give you the opportunity to respond. Though there are 7 billion people on this earth, you make a difference to Him!

QUESTION: Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?

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

Romans 3:10 **"As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one."**

QUESTION: **How does this separation from God effect us?**

Romans 8:7 **"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."**

Sin creates a separation from God. The world's first parents, Adam and Eve, when they sinned, lost the spiritual power they had been originally given and they fled from God's presence. And through their heredity, that selfish nature has been handed down to all mankind.

All false religions have man striving upward to meet God. The Cross shows us a heavenly Father coming to us, reaching downward and embracing mankind.

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."**

Ephesians 2:8, 9 **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."**

God doesn't save me because of what I've accomplished. He doesn't save me because of who I am. He doesn't save me because of all the things that I've stockpiled that have merited His favor. Salvation is by grace alone. There is no other way.

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

How is God dealing with the sin problem?

Typology of Sanctuary - In ancient Israel, there was a sanctuary which was a type of the sanctuary in heaven. If someone sinned they had to bring a perfect lamb to the sanctuary courtyard.

The guilty sinner would confess his sins on the head of the innocent lamb, and then cut its throat. The priest would catch the blood in a basin and symbolically transfer the sin to the sanctuary.

Since our problem is within, we need help from above.

Jesus was God's true Lamb.

John 1:29 **"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."**

All those innocent lambs were pointing to Jesus and the death He would suffer for the guilty sinners.

Romans 6:23 **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Someone says, "But how do I receive this wonderful gift of eternal life?" I want to dissect with you the plan of salvation. There are steps that a person goes through when they receive salvation through God's Saviour Jesus Christ. A person may not consciously go through these steps. They can happen ever so quickly. But for you to see clearly what takes place let's look at:

Step #1 – Drawn to Jesus

John 12:32 **“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”** God draws us. Have you ever felt God wanting to draw you close to Him? Have you ever felt a voice inside you speaking to you and asking you to surrender your life completely to God?

Revelation 3:19, 20 **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”**

Jesus never forces Himself in; we must urge Him to come in and keep Him, and let Him know He is welcome in our life. When Christians talk about "coming to Jesus", we mean choosing to accept His offer of forgiveness, and surrendering to His control.

John 6:44 **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

When the voice of God speaks to our hearts, what will it cause to happen?

Step #2 – Believe in Jesus

Acts 16:30, 31 **“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”**

The word "believe" and the word "faith" in the original language of the Bible are the same word. The word means put your total trust, put your total commitment in this person. That's true faith.

Step #3 – Repentance for sin

Acts 2:37, 38 **“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”**

What is true repentance? True repentance comes when we understand our sins are enough to have caused Jesus to die. True repentance is such sorrow for sin that you never want to do it again. Why? Because true repentance works a change and transformation in the life.

Ezekiel 33:14, 15 **“Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.”**

What else will happen when we repent for our sins?

Step #4 – Confession of sins

1 John 1:9 **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

1 Timothy 2:5 **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”**

Why tell Him if He already knows? Confession is not informing God. Confession is God's way for you to get rid of the load of your guilt. Confession is like an apology. You're getting it off your chest.

Leviticus 5:5 **“And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing.”** Then how do you know that you've been forgiven when you get up off your knees?

Matthew 9:28, 29 **“And when he was come into the house, the blind men came unto him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.”**

Mark 11:24 **“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”**

Romans 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

Romans 5:1 **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

QUESTION: How is it possible to get this faith?

Romans 10:17 **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”**

The more we read the Bible and study the Bible, and hear the Bible preached, the more our faith will increase.

The Bible says God cannot lie. (1 John 2:21). The Bible says it’s impossible for God to lie. (Hebrews 6:18).

The Bible says He’s not a man that He should lie. (Num. 23:19). Now if it’s impossible for God to lie, then He has spoken the truth to you out of His Word.

QUESTION: Why do some come to the light, but most avoid truth?

John 3:19-21 **“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”**

James 1:5-7 **“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”**

So How do we receive this faith?

Faith is KNOWING that God sits on the throne. Why? Because He said He does. (Matthew 5:34)

Faith is KNOWING that God hears prayer. Why? Because He said He does. (Matthew 6:4)

Faith is KNOWING that God is able to answer prayer. Why? Because He said He can. (Matthew 6:33)

- STEPS TO FORGIVENESS:**
- 1. Acknowledge guilt to God.**
 - 2. Confess sin to God.**
 - 3. Accept forgiveness from God.**
 - 4. Believe God’s promise.**

QUESTION: What does it mean to be born again?

John 3:3 **“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

John 1:12 **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”**

Receiving Jesus we receive the gift of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

Pure religion is **“ . . . keeping yourself unspotted from the world.”** James 1:27

You’ve heard it said before, **“We are not saved by faith and works but by a faith that works.”**

James also tells us that **“ . . . faith without works is dead.”** (James 2:20)

There are many that have numerous crosses in their home or around their neck as a symbol of Christian religion but they live their life something almost totally opposite. That’s why Jesus didn’t say, **“Wear the cross”**, He said, **“Bear the cross.”** (Matt. 16:24) In other words, be willing to give up those things which come between you and your God.”

An old German poem says, **“If Jesus had been born a thousand times in Bethlehem but not into my heart—I would have missed it all.”**

QUESTION: Who enters the heart of each born-again Christian?

John 14:17 **“Even the Spirit of truth... ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”**

QUESTION: When Jesus lives in my heart through the Holy Spirit, what will I do?

Philippians 2:13 **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”**

Bible Promises - Claim Them!

Philippians 4:13 **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”**

Philippians 4:19 **“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”**

The reason this subject is the 3rd topic in the first semester is so that the remainder of the 21 topics will have true meaning. Without a connection with Heaven's Saviour this Bible school will be just information which in all likelihood will not make sense to the unconverted person.

Mark 10:27 "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

John 15:11 "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

Hebrews 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 10:10 "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

1 Corinthians 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."

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Story of a father taking his 5 year old daughter to the museum for a cultural experience:

First he takes her by Vincent Van Gogh, then Michaelangelo, then Monnet. Finally the daughter spots a painting of Christ knocking on the door. "Daddy, who's that?" "That's Jesus sweetheart." "What's he doing daddy?" "He's knocking on the door." "What door Daddy?" "The door to people's hearts" "Why is Jesus doing that daddy?" "Well, I guess He wants people to let Him come in?" "Daddy, why don't people let Jesus come in?" "Well, darling, (father reflecting now on his own life) I guess sometimes things just get in the way," "Like what things daddy?" (Father starting to really sweat with anxiety) "Oh, I don't know, maybe friends, maybe bad habits, or money, or jobs, maybe their pride, or maybe they're just lazy." The father tries once again to lead daughter away but notices now tears in her eyes and come back. "My darling, why are you crying?" Daughter looking up with perfect innocence, "Daddy, have you let Jesus come into your heart?"

John 3:16 "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."

Do you feel there are sins in your life? Do you have a guilty conscience over things you've done? Do you feel condemned? Do you feel you need God's mercy and forgiveness just now? We all have sinned. Our only hope is to look away from ourselves and "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

THE SINNER'S PRAYER

O God, I'm a sinner. I'm sorry for my sins. I'm willing to turn from my sins. I'm willing to and I do receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I desire to follow Him as Lord. I need Your help Heavenly Father. Strengthen me with Your Holy Spirit. Thank-you for what You're doing in my heart and mind right now. I ask this in Jesus' name.

End Semester 1 – Week 2 – Class 3

The Next Class - Semester 1 – Week 2 – Class 4