
Getting to Heaven From Here

Answer Sheet

LESSON 1

1. ANSWER: C

In terms of decisions, God is just. When all the facts are known, it will be proven that God has never made an unjust decision. Righteousness deals with God's relationships. God is in a "right" relationship with all of creation—but not all of creation is in a right relationship with Him. Patience marks God's attitude toward people and events. The apostle Peter says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). But underlying just decisions, right relationships and a patient attitude is God's most basic characteristic—love. The Word translated "love" as it applies to God is agape which indicates an "unconditional love." God's unconditional love is the core element of His character and is the source from which everything else springs.

2. ANSWER: B

John 3:16 tells us that God's unconditional love is not limited to any particular group of people. Instead, it encompasses the "world" which includes both saint and sinner, Christian and pagan, believer and unbeliever. God's love knows no racial distinction, national boundaries or creedal differences.

3. ANSWER: D

God has certainly given us a beautiful world in which to live. He gives, as well, the basic elements from which not only our needs but many of our wants can be met. For those who have placed their faith in Jesus, there is even the promise of Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." He even meets our spiritual needs through the forgiveness of sins. But the greatest love gift of all was the gift of His Son's life according to Romans 5:8. Notice that it doesn't say that God waited for us to get our lives straightened out first. Instead, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." While we were still rebelling against Him, God gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins. No greater proof of His love can be given than that.

4. ANSWER: B

Health, happiness, safety and self-fulfillment are all good things and certainly not against God's will for our lives. But apart from salvation (being reconciled to God and headed for heaven), these other items are for this short lifetime at best. God desires something even greater for us; He desires for us to be saved. Only when we receive Christ as Savior do we have the assurance that we can enjoy these other good things for eternity.

LESSON 2

1. ANSWER: C

In its very basic state, sin is a broken relationship with God. When God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die; He wasn't referring merely to their physical condition (Adam actually lived to be at least 930 years old). God meant that the spiritual bond they shared would be broken (spiritual death) that eventually resulted in physical death. The things we do wrong are a consequence of this broken relationship—not the cause. Although it's true that God does not hold individuals accountable for their sins until they reach the age of understanding right from wrong (Jonah 4:11), acts of sin occur long before that. In fact, David indicates that the basic state of sin begins at conception. When he said, "In sin my mother conceived me," he is not indicating that conception is an act of sin, but rather, as soon as life begins in the womb, the conceived child has a separated relationship with God.

2. ANSWER: C

The size of a sin is not important in determining whether it's a sin or not. Whether, from the human perspective, it is a major sin like murder or a minor sin such as telling a lie, the essence of the sin is still the same—rebellion against God. Everyone in some fashion commits sins. Even Christians sometimes act in rebellion against God's standards which is why 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") was written to Christians.

3. ANSWER: B

Feelings can be manipulated so that even the most hideous sin can be excused. Don't trust your feelings; God's Word says, "For all have

sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). If you don't feel like a sinner, the apostle John says that it's only because you're deceiving yourself (1 John 1:8).

4. ANSWER: B

Sin does bring about sickness (such as sexually transmitted diseases) and, at times, poverty (consider the amount of money lost in gambling or wasted in the pursuit of immoral pleasures). But even more tragic, sin brings about death. First, spiritual death as it separates us from God and, eventually, physical death (Romans 6:23). Eternal life is a gift from God that comes when we accept Christ as Savior and our sins are forgiven.

LESSON 3

1. ANSWER: D

Hebrews 10:4 tells us, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." The animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were only symbols of the final sacrifice that would someday be provided by God. This took place when Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for our sins. And while good works are activities that every Christian should do, Ephesians 2:9 reminds us that our salvation is "not of works, lest anyone should boast." In addition, righteous living is an expected part of a Christian's life, but Isaiah says that all our righteousness is like "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Only one option could resolve God's need to express His love and yet remain totally just—His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. ANSWER: A

Water baptism is a symbol of the spiritual baptism which takes place when we accept Christ as our Savior (1 Corinthians 12:13). The physical act of baptism, however, has no saving power and adds nothing to our salvation. In

addition, observing the Law as given in the Old Testament is not a necessary part of our salvation either (Galatians 2:16). The purpose of the Law was to teach us the impossibility of meeting the standards of God apart from Christ. The apostle Paul says, “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). Keeping the Sabbath (which was part of the Law) is also not a salvation issue. The Sabbath was a day of rest (as opposed to Sunday, a day of worship) which was to remind people that God would someday provide a spiritual rest that would do more than refresh their bodies—it would give rest to their souls. This rest was fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 4:1-2).

3. ANSWER: B

The response that God desires for people to make to His offer of grace is not good works (see #1 above) or baptism (see #2 above). Neither is it church membership. At the appropriate time, these are all good responses, but before they are of any value, we must respond to God’s offer of grace with faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith is simply taking God at His word. God says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). Our faith response is to trust that this is true and receive Christ as our Savior.

4. ANSWER: A, C, D, E

We are saved by grace through faith alone—but the faith that saves is never alone. The apostle James says, “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18). A saving faith expresses itself in a four ways: 1) Confession: agreeing with God that you are a sinner; 2) Repentance: not simply being sorry but being willing to turn from your sin; 3) Believing: accepting what God says as true; 4) Receiving: taking that final step of accepting God’s gift of grace through Jesus.

LESSON 4

1. ANSWER: D

The Bible tells us many things: our duty as Christians, our responsibilities as parents, the reasons for our faith. But the most important thing God wants us to know is that we are saved through Jesus Christ. If we do not have the assurance of our salvation, we will be so bound by our doubts and confusion that our enthusiasm for the Kingdom of God will be hindered.

2. ANSWER: A, B, C

We do not become sinless saints after we accept Christ, but our behavior, our desires, even our attitudes do change. For some, these changes are immediate and radical; for others change is a slow process. But as “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17), we will not stay the same as we once were. As someone has said, “Christ meets us where we are, but He loves us too much to leave us there.” We also have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us (Romans 8:16). The Spirit gives us the assurance through an inner peace that we truly do belong to Christ. Then, finally, Jesus has made his own promise. He says in Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Jesus would never back down on a promise. If you have opened the door of your heart to Him, He will come in and give you new life (Galatians 2:20).