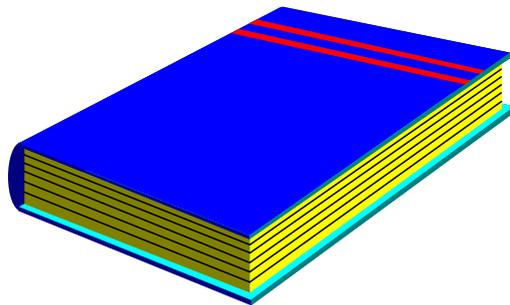


# THE WORD

## BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



## FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

## PART THREE

### MAN'S SIN - GOD'S ATONEMENT

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption

that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:21-24)

## The object of this study is

### **TO DISCOVER AND PROVE:-**

That God's purpose in creating man was to share His love and to fellowship with him forever.

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On completion of this study you will have:-

- Discovered the purpose of creation.
  - Studied the nature of sin.
  - An understanding of the power of the atonement.
  - Will have confidence and security in your salvation.
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### **NOTES**

There are four practical aspects to these courses: exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

1. **Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
2. **Bible Reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
3. **Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
4. **Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers are also to be sent back to the Course Administrator or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to [stangain@btinternet.com](mailto:stangain@btinternet.com) for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

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The Word Bible Training Course  
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## Part 1 - Man's Sin

### In the Beginning

The understanding of many of the foundational doctrines of the Christian life are to be found in the book of Genesis. The few verses recorded prior to the Fall of Man (when man disobeyed God and through sin brought death into the world) are full of details of how God intended Man to live. A detailed study of these chapters is essential for any serious student of the Word of God. Such a detailed study is beyond the scope of a Foundations Course but will form a part of a future study of the Bible training course.

**Read and Study.** In view of the importance of Genesis read carefully the first 9 chapters. Once you are fully familiar with these chapters make a more detailed study of Chapters 1, 2 and 3. As you study make notes of any new light that you receive of the Creation and Fall of Man. Begin to meditate on these chapters as you proceed with the rest of this study.

**GENESIS** is a Greek word meaning “origin” or “beginning”. The original Hebrew word is *Bereshith* which means “In the beginning”.

Therefore a study of the beginnings of creation and of man in creation will give us an aid to understanding what it was that God intended for man. Put another way it gives us the meaning of Life.

**Exercise 1.** Read Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5. We have previously established that Jesus is the Word referred to in John.

A) What do these passages tell us about:-

1. Creation?
2. Jesus?
3. The relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

B) What do you think is meant by the following words:-

1. Good - Genesis 1:4
2. Light - Genesis 1:3 and John 1:5
3. Darkness - Genesis 1:2,4 and John 1:5

Everything that God does and all that He made is perfect. When he made man he made him without fault. He was made to have relationship with God. God walked with Adam in the garden as a man walks with his friend. Man was like God and was made in the image of God.

### The Nature of Love

1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. This is more than saying that God loves us. The very nature and character of God is love. Everything He says and does is love. Love is not His motive it is his life. We will see this love demonstrated in many ways. Man was made in the image of God and therefore has the same ability to love as God has.

Because of the love of God he has given us free will. It is not enough to make man like a machine that automatically says "I love You!" If there is no choice, there is no love. Free will gives man the choice of loving God or loving himself.

However from the time of Adam to the present moment man has chosen to love himself. Just as Adam disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil so the bible says that in the image of Adam we all have disobeyed God.

**Learn** the following verses:-

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

"Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)

"In Adam all die." (1 Corinthians 15:22)

### **In Whose Image?**

As a result of the sin of Adam we have all become sinners at birth. We have no choice in the matter. Because we are all children or descendants of Adam we have become like Adam. When Adam had children they inherited his nature of sin and this has passed to all generations. God said to Adam "You will surely die." This death has been the inheritance of man ever since.

"And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image." Genesis 5:3

Adam had been made perfect in the image of God. Sin spoiled that image. When Adam had a son he was in the likeness of the spoiled image and not in the perfect image of God. Now all the sons of men are born in the image of their fathers and not in the perfect image of their heavenly Father. We all carry at birth the image and likeness of sinful Adam. Death does not reflect God. He is the Living God. He is Life.

**Exercise 2.** It is important that any person who is trying to explain the Gospel to a non Christian is able to do so without using words that the non Christian may not understand. For example every Christian should understand the meaning of the word "sin" or "salvation" but not every non Christian would understand.

Write in your own words your own understanding of how sin came into the world. Do not use any Bible passages or Christian words. Take your time it is not as easy as it may seem!

## **What is Sin?**

We have seen that sin is present in the life of every one born into this world. But what is sin? Without doubt evil and wrongdoing are in the world. One does not have to look far to see the fighting and violence and abuse and greed and selfishness that there is all around us and to know that these things are not good. We see it in the life of every man and woman who has ever lived. It is the nature with which we are born. When we fail to reach God's standards, we sin.

At school children are expected to take examinations at certain times and there is a pass mark. If the pass mark is 50 and you score 49 - you have failed. If another child scores 12 - he has failed. It does not matter that one person has done better than another - both have failed.

God has a pass mark of 100% (perfection). No one has or is able to reach this standard. Even if you reach 99 you have still fallen short of God's standards.

A person may say to themselves "I am not such a bad person. I live a good life." But that is not the point. It is not good enough because it does not come up to God's standard. We have not come anywhere near to it. We are not even able to live up to our own standards! Even though we may not have done anything "evil" we are still not good enough. We have fallen short of the standard of God.

**Exercise 3.** Many people make many different excuses as to why they feel that God will accept them. Some point to good qualities and character. Some point to religious practice. There are many voices in the world that would try to convince men and women that they are going to heaven without receiving Jesus. These voices are all false.

- A) What are some of the things that you have heard people say?
- B) What are some of the religious practices that you know about that are giving people a false hope of salvation?

**Sin is doing what I want to do when it is against what God says is right for me to do.**

**Learn** Isaiah 53:6 describes it in this way:-

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way"

Doing what I want to do is the cause of all the trouble!

**Sin is being SELF centred and not GOD centred**

## **What Does Sin Do?**

There are many effects of sin. Below are listed five of the most serious consequences of sin. At the beginning of each section is a verse of scripture that tells of what the bible says. **Learn** each of these passages as you read each one.

### **1. Sin Brings Death. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)**

The most serious effect of sin is that it brings death. We have seen how death came to man through the one sin of Adam.

### **2. Sin Spoils. “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6)**

Sin is like a nasty blood stain on a clean bed sheet. Each sin brings a new stain. Being selfish, lazy, lying, gossiping, etc. ruins your character. Sin can ruin the peace and happiness of a home or a friendship or a church.

### **3. Sin Spreads. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14-15)**

When we sin, if we ignore it, gradually becomes worse. Sin is like weeds in a field; if they are not pulled up they will soon overrun the whole field. Little acts of dishonesty or disobedience soon become habits that we cannot break.

### **4. Sin Separates. “For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people he was stricken.”**

Sin is like a thick cloud that blots out the sun. That is why when sin is unforgiven it seems that God is miles away. He is pure and holy. He hates sin. He cannot and will not look at sin. It blocks our way to Him.

### **5. Sin Leads to Hell. “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved for judgment then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” (2 Peter 2:4,9)**

If sin cuts us off from God, and God is in Heaven, then we know that sin leads to hell. It is a grim and dreadful place for all who do not receive Jesus in this life. It is an eternal place.

In summary we can say that sin is the thing that brings us death and which separates us totally from God. Because of our sin there is a great gap that has grown between man and God that is impossible for man to bridge. There is nothing that we can do to

bridge the gap. However hard we try we have failed to reach God's standard and are deserving of death.

Thank God, however, that whilst this is the truth, the truth does not stop here. A way has been made for man by which he is able to bridge the gap and come to God. Before we move forward and look at this way please reflect on the following:-

**(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINISTRATOR. The Bible teaches in 1 John 1:8 that if we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Take time to pray and to examine yourself to see if there is any area of your life that is SELF centred and not GOD centred. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin in your life. 1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)**

## **Part 2 - God's Atonement**

### **God is Love**

We have already discovered that God is love. It is because of His nature that He has found a way to close the gap that exists between sinful man and holy God. God knows that it is impossible for man but "nothing is difficult for God" (Jeremiah 32:17).

We saw in the second study that God cannot break His Word. In this study we see that God's Word tells us that "all have sinned" and "the wages of sin is death" If God has said that all men die because of sin, how can God go against His Word?

**Learn** the following verses from Matthew chapter 19:-

**"Who then can be saved?" (v. 25)**

**"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (v. 26)**

God has said that His Word cannot be broken, but in His love he has made a way for the wages of sin to be paid without the penalty falling on man. God has taken the initiative. God has crossed the gap. God has paid the price.

The justice of God must be satisfied. He has not put His justice to one side. He has not broken his Word. There has been no liberal doctrine. But God has satisfied His Word and His justice. Hallelujah! ..... How?

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)**

The wages of sin have been paid by Jesus - the Son of God. The only reason that this was made possible was because Jesus was without sin. No other man that has ever lived has lived a sinless life. No other man can take away sin because all have sinned.

When Jesus was first revealed publicly it was by John the Baptist who looked at Jesus and proclaimed “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29). There are three points that this statement tells us about the plan that God put into practice to close the gap between Himself and man. We will study each one individually.

1. The Lamb of God
2. Who takes away the sin
3. Of the world

**The Lamb of God.** - *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*

Before Jesus died on the cross the people of God depended on the Old Covenant or the Old Testament. The relevance of a lamb would not be lost on them. Even before the blood of Jesus was shed there was a way for the people of God to have their sins covered so that they could have a way of reconciliation. David knew this when he wrote Psalm 32:-

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity”

**Exercise 4.** To understand how David and his people could have a covering for sin it is necessary to read about the Passover. Read and study Exodus Chapters 12. When you are sure that you understand the story write in your own words about the following:-

- A lamb was to be taken and killed. Compare the sacrifice of Jesus with the sacrifice of the lamb. What is similar about Jesus and the lamb?
- It was necessary for blood to be put on the door frames so that the Lord would pass over the house and keep them from death. How does the blood of Jesus protect those that put their faith in Him?
- The Israelites were saved from death and also delivered from bondage. In what way does the sacrifice of Jesus deliver a believer from bondage?

**Note.** THE LAMB WAS TO BE WITHOUT BLEMISH.

When God gave the law of the Covenant to Moses He said that any offering that was to be made to the Lord was to be perfect. Read Leviticus chapter 1. In chapter 6 we see that the sin offering is declared by God to be “Most Holy”.

We have already seen that no man is perfect or holy in his own righteousness because we are children of Adam and “All have sinned”. Therefore there is no man that is descended from Adam that can take away the sin of the world. That is why God could not choose any man to be a sacrifice for sin. Only one who is perfect can be a

sacrifice for sin. Therefore someone who was not born of Adam but one who is born of God must be a sin bearer. That is why God sent His own Son - JESUS. Only He has been born of God. The only begotten Son of God. Hallelujah! That is why "there is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)

### **Jesus is God**

**Who Takes Away the Sin.** - *that whoever believes in Him should not perish*

We have already seen that all men have sinned and therefore all men are in need of a saviour. As children of Adam we are therefore all under the condemnation of death. "In Adam all die". The sin of man is in the body. It is in flesh and blood that we have sinned. John 4:24 tells us that God is Spirit.

- As Spirit it was not possible for Jesus to deal with the sin of man.
- As Spirit it was not possible for Jesus to die.
- As Spirit it was not possible for Jesus to overcome death in the flesh.

Therefore for God to deal with sin in the flesh it was necessary for Jesus, the Son of God, to become flesh and atone for sin in the flesh.

**Learn** Hebrews 2:14-15:-

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"

Jesus became man; Jesus became flesh and blood so that he might destroy death in the body and become the first fruits of resurrection.

### **Jesus is Man**

**Exercise 5.** To understand that Jesus has taken away sin, read and study. Romans chapters 5 and 6. When you are sure that you understand what the apostle Paul is teaching answer the following:-

- Write in your own words the teaching of Paul in Romans 5 and 6.
- If Jesus has dealt with the consequences of sin, what other works of the devil has He overcome?

- In chapter 6:11 we read “reckon yourself dead to sin”. How is it possible to do this?

**Of the World** - *that whoever believes in Him... shall have eternal life.*

The last part of this study deals with the fact that Jesus died for all men at all time so that all men might be saved. That is why John the Baptist described Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” There is no favouritism with God. He does not choose some men and reject others. He has made a way for every man to be saved. The choice lies with man - not with God. When a man receives Jesus, God receives that man.

**This does not mean that all men will be saved.**

**Learn** the following two verses which will help to explain this truth:-

“For since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

The consequence of the resurrection of Jesus in the flesh is that He has dealt with the consequences of sin in all flesh. All men that have ever lived or will live are to be resurrected. Those that believe in Jesus will rise to everlasting life (HEAVEN). (John 3:16) Those that reject His salvation will rise to everlasting death (HELL). This is the reality of the gospel.

The sin of the whole world has been dealt with. Jesus came to the world in the flesh to destroy the effects of sin and to raise all those who believe to everlasting life.

### **The Atonement**

This total action of Jesus is known as the Atonement. It means the same as reconciliation.

Through the sin of Adam, mankind was separated from God.

Through the sacrifice of Jesus mankind can be reconciled to God.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

**Exercise 6** Write out in your own words what you understand to be the effects of Adam’s sin and the results of Christ’s sacrifice.

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## Questions - Part 3

1. What is the meaning of the Greek word *Genesis* and the Hebrew word *Bereshith*?
2. What important facts do we learn about the Word in John 1: 1-5?
3. What do we learn about the nature and character of God in 1 John 4: 7-21?
4. Complete the following verse.. “ As in Adam all die..... “
5. Why is it essential that we must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
6. What is sin?
7. Complete: Sin is being ..... centred and not ..... Centred.
8. What are the 5 major things that sin does?
9. How has God closed the gap between man and God caused by sin?
10. Write out John 3:16.
11. What did John the Baptist mean when he said “Behold the Lamb of God”?
12. What was the purpose of The Passover in the Old Testament?
13. Peter said, “There is salvation in no other name, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” What is this name?
14. What three things were impossible for Jesus to do as Spirit?
15. Did Jesus die for all men or some men or himself?
16. Does your answer to Question 15 mean that every one will go to heaven?
17. If all men are resurrected will all men go to Heaven?
18. What are the two places that men will spend eternity?
19. Where will you spend eternity?

**Remember:** When you return the answers to these questions please return the answers to the 6 Exercises that are included in this study.

Write your name here.....

## **THE WORD**

### **BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS**

This Bible study is part of a course for developing the understanding of church leaders of the practical aspects of Christian Doctrine. It is written in simple language and attempts to avoid religious and theological words (except where these are to be learned.).

If there is any part of this study that you fail to understand or any phrase or word whose meaning you are not clear about then please ask either your Course Administrator or write to the address on page 2.

If you have any suggestions for future subjects for study we would like to hear from you.

If you know of others in a leadership position in your church or your area who would be interested in this Course please write to the address on page 2 and we will arrange for the first part of this course to be sent to them.

We would be pleased to hear from you if you have any additional comments about any aspect of this course.