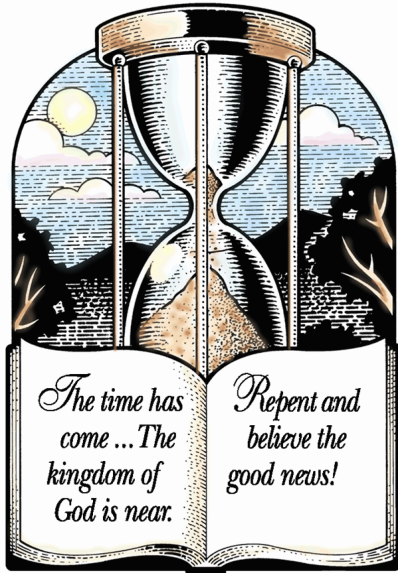


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 7



A SUPERNATURAL ENTERING IN

Scripture Texts: Ephesians 2:1-9; John 1:12-13; John 6:44; Mark 1:15

Natural man is dead in sin. By a supernatural work in the heart, God makes the soul alive. Without this, no one can see the kingdom and certainly not get into it. Our part is to repent and forsake sin and believe on Christ.

In the lesson today we see that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles has been broken down and that all men of all nations and races are on level ground as regarding their Christian privileges.

Paul, in writing to the church at Ephesus, tells of the great change that comes in the life of a converted sinner who is now able to grasp God's plan for man's life in this world. God's work of salvation sets forth for all time a purpose showing the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Jesus Christ. God's plan for the ages is clearly seen in our Lord, Who prayed that they may all be one.

MEMORY VERSE: *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.*

—John 6:44

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**John 3:1-17** Born of the Spirit.

Tue.—**1 Peter 1:17-23** Not redeemed with corruptible things.

Wed.—**1 John 5:10-18** Must have the Son to have life.

Thu.—**2 Corinthians 5:14-21** Christ made sin for us.

Fri.—**2 Corinthians 7:1-11** The result of repentance.

Devotional Reading: John 10:1-18 Christ is the Door.

Natural Man's Condition

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened—made alive—who were dead in . . . sins. Here are described natural people who walked according to the desires of the flesh, **the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation** (conduct). ALL, every person is of this kind until saved. **Dead in trespasses and sins**—sin always brings death to the soul. **In Adam all die**—he brought sin into the world, and all partake of it (**1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 3:23**). All give in to temptation, walk as **the children of wrath**, follow **the prince of the power of the air** (Satan) obey **the lusts of our flesh** instead of God, and thus **reap corruption** (**Galatians 6:8**). Flesh and mind are masters, and such people are natural, do not belong to Christ, are not of His kingdom, for **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts** (**Galatians 5:24**). Such are under God's wrath. With God, sin is not placed in categories. Any sin, whether it is considered large or small, places us under God's wrath. The natural (however good) leaves us dead souls.

Quickened and Raised by Grace

Ephesians 2:4-9 Here is a complete turnaround in description because these Ephesians had had a rightabout change—change of masters, from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God, from death to life, from the

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world to the church. They had been **dead in sins**, but were now **quicken**ed. All saints are quickened **together with Christ** and **raised** to **heavenly places in Christ Jesus**. How blessed—**with Christ . . . in Christ**. God hath (present tense) **quicken**ed and **raised up**. This is now. **That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace . . . through Christ Jesus**—greater blessings were to come.

The operation of quickening, saving the soul from sin and making it alive is **by grace**. It is the work of God, His life given us by faith according to the everlasting covenant. (Lesson 3.) **Not of yourselves . . . Not of works**, nothing any human can do in himself, not a reward for good deeds, impossible to be earned. Our works are natural, earthly. Faith reaches the supernatural grace of God.

Must Be Born of God

John 1:12-13 This work in the heart makes us **sons of God**; it is being **born . . . of God**. It is not done **of the will of man** —is nothing man can do. Our part is to **believe on his name**. When we believe, we receive. This is a supernatural work by God's grace. In **John 14:6** we read, **Jesus saith . . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**. To reach God and Heaven, we must receive Jesus Christ, must have Him living within us. **Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)**.

What are some ways believed to be acceptable for entrance into the Kingdom of God and Heaven? "If I keep the Ten Commandments—live by the Golden Rule—do the best I can— have been baptized in water—have joined some church." There are a number of others, all of which are substitutes, additions, and are all futile and wrong. They may give a sense of false security, causing many to think they are accepted by God when no work has been wrought in the heart.

The Father Must Draw Us

John 6:44 . . . except the Father which hath sent me draw him. The Trinity always works in cooperation, together. The Spirit convicts (**John 16:8**), the Father draws, the sinner yields, and Jesus enters the heart. It is a time **of refreshing** that comes **from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19)**. It is a supernatural process.

Our Part in Salvation

Mark 1:15 As Jesus began His work on earth, He preached, **repent ye, and believe the gospel**. Why? To enter **the kingdom of God** He was setting up. Christ died for all, but not all accept life from Him. Not all enter the kingdom. **Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish . . . he that believeth not shall be damned (Luke 13:3; Mark 16:16)**. Repentance and faith in Jesus Christ opens the way for God to work. Then by His power, we are born again and taken into the kingdom. Even faith and repentance are gifts of God (**2 Timothy 2:25; Romans 12:3**). We must listen and obey His drawing.

JUST A THOUGHT

**A religion that will not take you to church services
will not take you to Heaven.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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