

Advanced Bible Correspondence Course
Lesson 11: God the Son

LORD'S DAY 11

Q.29. WHY IS THE SON OF GOD CALLED *JESUS*, THAT IS SAVIOUR?

ANSWER: BECAUSE HE SAVES US, AND DELIVERS US FROM OUR SINS (A); AND LIKEWISE, BECAUSE WE OUGHT NOT TO SEEK, NEITHER CAN FIND SALVATION IN ANY OTHER (B).

(A)MATTHEW 1:21; HEBREWS 7:25 (B)ACTS 4:12; JOHN 15:4-5; ISAIAH 43:11; I TIMOTHY 2:5; I JOHN 5:11

The Name Jesus

In Matthew 1, we read that through an angel the Lord informed Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, of the coming birth of the Saviour. In verse 21, the angel says, "*And thou shalt call His name **Jesus**: for He shall save His people from their sins.*" God the Father gave His only begotten Son the name "Jesus". So this name must be very special. It means: the Lord saves. That is part of His task: to save, to deliver. To save is to deliver from the greatest evil and to bring to the supreme good.

What is the greatest evil? Is it war? illness? death? hell? No, it is sin! Because of sin the perfect communion with God was broken. Through sin we severed the bond with God and our neighbour. The consequences are terrible: war, illness, death, and hell. All the misery which we see around us and which we ourselves experience is a result of sin.

And what is the supreme good? Is it life? health? riches? prosperity? or perhaps heaven? No, it is communion with God! It is peace with God, companionship with God, joy in God.

The supreme good is the greatest blessedness. The Lord Jesus is the only One who can save us. The Son of God is Saviour.

We cannot save ourselves, nor can Mary, Allah, or Buddha. He who lives on without Jesus remains wretched, that is full of catastrophes. He will go lost forever. Peter said on the day of Pentecost: "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

Q. 30. DO SUCH THEN BELIEVE IN JESUS THE ONLY SAVIOUR, WHO SEEK THEIR SALVATION AND WELFARE OF SAINTS, OF THEMSELVES, OR ANWHERE ELSE?

ANSWER: THEY DO NOT; FOR THEY BOAST OF HIM IN WORDS, YET IN DEEDS THEY DENY JESUS THE ONLY DELIVERER AND SAVIOUR (A); FOR ONE OF THESE TWO THINGS MUST BE TRUE, THAT EITHER JESUS IS NOT A COMPLETE SAVIOUR OR THAT THEY, WHO BY A TRUE FAITH RECEIVE THIS SAVIOUR, MUST FIND IN HIM ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO THEIR SALVATION (B).

(A) I CORINTHIANS 1:13, 30-31; GALATIANS 5:4 (B) HEBREWS 12:2; ISAIAH 9:6; COLOSSIANS 1:19-20; I JOHN 1:7

The only Way

Those who seek their happiness and salvation outside of Jesus are forewarned that they will not find it there. Christ said, *"I am the Way"* (John 14:6). That implies that there is no other way to attain salvation. All other ways which we take will be dead ends.

The Catechism states very explicitly that salvation is not to be sought or found in any other.

However, practice teaches us that we do not believe this. Some churches teach that the merits of the saints and those of the believer himself must be added to the work of Jesus. They believe that Jesus is a Saviour, but a helping Saviour. He will fill in for that which I lack.

To gain salvation by our doing and not doing, along with a helping Jesus, appeals to us more than the message: "Nothing of us, but all of Him." Then we do take the name of Jesus on our lips, but we deny Him by our deeds.

What is meant by denying? It is the opposite of confessing. It is saying that you do not know somebody. Denying can also be done without words. Then your doing and not doing contradict what you confess. If we say "Jesus only can save us," but at the same time think that one must be a good person to be saved, then we deny Jesus with deeds. True faith says, "I can do nothing, but the Lord Jesus can do everything for me." That is said from the heart. We then completely entrust ourselves to Him.

He is all

Faith finds everything in Jesus: atonement for towering sin-debts, peace for a restless heart, and a righteousness which entirely matches to God's honour. The believing sinner finds his full salvation in Jesus Christ. With whatever man would like to contribute, he would degrade Jesus. Then Jesus would not be a complete Saviour. Then on the cross, He could not have said, *"It is finished."* If His work had been deficient in any thing, the Father would not have raised Him from the dead. Then there would never have been an Easter. No one could have been saved. The apostle John wrote, *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (I John 1:7).

Questions:

1. *What does the name “Jesus” signify?*

2. *What is meant by “to save”?*

3. *What is the greatest evil?*

4. *What is the supreme good?*

5. *Can one gain salvation if one adheres to a different religion? Why or why not?*

6. *What events show that the Lord Jesus merited salvation perfectly on the cross?*

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: Matthew 1:21 - *“And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins.”*

O precious birth! Precious Son! Precious name! The Holy Ghost brings consolation to the hearts of poor sinners from the belief of the manhood of Jesus. To this end He bears so particular witness in the Word, of Christ’s conception and birth. It is our happiness, at all times, to consider the Saviour as “Immanuel, God with us”; our Brother, “flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone.” Thus to conceive of Jesus is a sweet mystery, joyfully known to believing hearts.

The name of Jesus is above every name to us; it is “as precious ointment poured forth”; it diffuseth the sweet odour of the Father’s everlasting love issuing in our eternal salvation. In the name of Jesus the whole Gospel lies hid. By His work He saves us. Here is no if, perhaps, or peradventure; but a positive declaration what he absolutely shall do. He shall save his people from the curse of the law, by being made a curse for them; from the wrath of God due to them, by suffering in their stead; from the punishment their sins deserve, by the atonement of His precious blood; from the guilt of sin in their conscience, by the sprinkling of His blood through faith; from the love and power of sin in their hearts, by His Spirit, regenerating and renewing them in the spirit of their minds. So that they are as perfectly saved in Jesus from all sin, as if they had never fallen into sin. And all this by no strength or desert of theirs. Here is blessed work for faith to glory in!

Whom does Jesus thus save? “His people”: all His people, of every kindred, nation, tribe, and tongue, even all that the Father hath given Him. John 17:9. Who are partakers of this precious salvation? Every one who believes in Jesus. It is free for all who will come to Him. All who do come, and trust in Him, find He is JESUS, their salvation. O believer, here is the nature, the name, the work of thy precious Jesus to look to and live upon from day to day. It is thy mercy that salvation is His work, and He hath finished it. It is thy comfort to believe this daily. It is thy duty to give Him all the glory. The more light thou receivest from the Word and Spirit of truth, so much the more wilt thou see of thine own vile, sinful nature, and abhor thyself, even until thou receivest the end of thy faith, the salvation of thy soul. Then wilt thou eternally glory in ascribing all salvation, from first to last, to God and the Lamb. Revelation 7:10.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds	It makes the wounded spirit whole,
In a believer’s ear;	And calms the troubled breast;
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,	‘Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And drives away his fear.	And to the weary rest.

Taken from “A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God” by William Mason