

Steps To Christ

Study Guides

Chapter 7

The Test of Discipleship

Lesson Preparation

1. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9, NJKV.

“⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, lest anyone should boast.”

2. Read *Steps to Christ*, Chapter 7.
3. Put in your own words, or write the passage in Chapter 7, that best describes the theme of the chapter.



4. List several key points as you read the chapter.



Scriptures (NKJV)**1. What two elements are necessary for the plan of salvation?**

Ephesians 2:8, 9. “⁸ For by [] you have been saved through [], and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

2. What should we do if we love Jesus?

John 14:15. “If you love Me, keep my [].”

3. What is the purpose for the law of God?

Romans 3:20. “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be [] in His sight, for by the law *is* the [] of [].”

4. What did the Apostle John desire?

1 John 2:1. “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may [] []. And if anyone sins, we have an [] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

5. What steps did Jesus take in order to save us?

Philippians 2:5-8. “⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of [], did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a [], *and* coming in the likeness of []. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He [] [] and became obedient to the point of [], even the death of the [].”

6. What is the response of salvation?

Romans 10:9. “that if you [redacted] with your mouth the Lord Jesus and [redacted] in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

7. What does Christ’s righteousness provide?

Romans 3:24-26. “²⁴ being [redacted] freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

8. What is the source of our obedience?

Romans 6:17. “But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

9. How does one purify the soul?

1 Peter 1:22. “Since you have purified your souls in [redacted] the [redacted] through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,”

10. Through whom are we reconciled to God?

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19. “¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through [redacted] [redacted], and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

_____ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

11. What did Christ become for us?

2 Corinthians 5:21. “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* _____ for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

12. How has God saved us?

Titus 3:5. “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the _____, of _____ and _____ of the _____.”

13. To whom is the Holy Spirit given?

Romans 5:1-2. “Acts 5:32. “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who _____ Him.”

14. How does God value obedience?

1 Samuel 15:22. “So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as *great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in _____ the voice of the LORD? Behold, to _____ is _____ than sacrifice, *And* to _____ than the fat of rams.’”

Study Questions

1. By what means is a person born again? (Paragraph 2).

2. How can we know the grace of God is dwelling within us? (2).

3. How is the character revealed? (2).

4. What makes some have an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ? (3).

5. What four questions determine whose side we are on? (3, 4).

6. What is the evidence of repentance? (6).

7. What happens when a person partakes of Christ's pardoning grace? (7).

8. What happens when a person partakes of Christ's pardoning grace? (7).

9. What five changes does love make in the heart renewed by divine grace? (8).

10. What two errors do we need to guard against? (9, 10).

11. What is the true sign of discipleship? (11).

12. What is the condition of eternal life? (14).

13. Describe how a person is accounted righteous. (15).

14. How can we be as if we had never sinned? (15).

15. How do you maintain a connection with Christ? (16).

16. Describe what is included in faith. (18).

17. What happens as we come close to Christ? (20).

18. What is our reaction when we realize our sinfulness? (22).

Thought Questions

1. Why can't we be saved by our good works?

2. How can I be sure I have met the conditions or requirements?

3. Why does this seem so far beyond my level of performance?

4. How can I really desire to obey?

5. Should I love first or obey first?

6. What if I really don't feel like obeying? Should I obey for the wrong reason anyway?

7. What should I do to work out my salvation?

8. Why is it so natural to depend upon myself?

9. If I'm having spiritual trouble, should I stop obeying until I get things right?

10. I grew up hating the rules, because my family forced me to strictly obey them. What can I do?

11. My family never had many rules. How can I relate to my church that requires me to live at such a high standard?

12. Everyone seems to be doing better than me, even when I try hard. How can I be more like what God wants?

13. What behavior must I live to be saved?

14. How can I know if God is happy with my level of performance?

15. I was raised to obey without questioning. Now that I am on my own, I find I am always questioning everything. Is this right?



16. I am so very interested in the "Last day events." I don't seem to feel that close to Jesus though. Is this right?



17. The longer I live the farther from the ideal I seem to be. Will I ever be able to have one good day?



18. Will God really accept me just as I am?



19. [Add your questions].



Problem Solving

The following person was a minister for 42 years, but is now dying of cancer. He is confined to a nursing home bed, and has approximately a month to live. He appreciates people visiting, but he frequently talks about his work for the Lord, recounting evangelistic meetings held, baptisms performed and Bible studies given. There seems to be an uncertainty about whether he really has done enough for God, and whether God really has accepted his efforts. He is reluctant to talk about his fears regarding his salvation, feeling he should be the one who has the answers and assurance. How would you help this dying man have assurance and peace that he is accepted?

Notes: (You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply).



Additional Exercises

1. Add three more things to your "Appreciation List."



2. Additional reading:

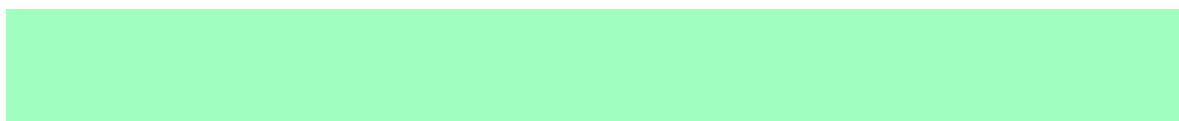
Selected Messages. book 3. pp. 143-204.

"Principles of Salvation"

Faith and Works. Book 1. pp. 389-398

"Ellen White Clarifies the Issues"

3. Research the topic of "conversion."



4. Research the topic "once saved. Always saved."



5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.



Done (if using another source to keep this information)

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Done

Ellen G. White Quotations

“When God pardons the sinner, remits the punishment he deserves, and treats him as though he had not sinned, He receives him into divine favor, and justifies him through the merits of Christ's righteousness. The sinner can be justified only through faith in the atonement made through God's dear Son, who became a sacrifice for the sins of the guilty world. No one can be justified by any works of his own. He can be delivered from the guilt of sin, from the condemnation of the law, from the penalty of transgression, only by virtue of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. Faith is the only condition upon which justification can be obtained, and faith includes not only belief but trust.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 389).

“Under the new covenant, the conditions by which eternal life may be gained are the same as under the old. The conditions are, and ever have been, based on perfect obedience.” (*Letter 216*, 1906, p. 2).

“The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 18).

“A legal religion is insufficient to bring the soul into harmony with God.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 53).

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

“In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty. The old life of alienation from God has ended; the new life of reconciliation, of faith and love, has begun.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 468).

“As the sinner looks upon the Saviour dying on Calvary, and realizes that the sufferer is divine, he asks why this great sacrifice was made, and the cross points to the holy law of God which has been transgressed. The death of Christ is an unanswerable argument as to the immutability and righteousness of the law.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 323).

“But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 366).

“No one can believe with the heart unto righteousness, and obtain justification by faith, while continuing the practice of those things which the Word of God forbids, or while neglecting any known duty.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 396).

“It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 397).

“This goody-goody religion that makes light of sin and that is forever dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner, encourages the

sinner to believe that God will save him while he continues in sin and he knows it to be sin." (*Selected Messages*, book. 3, p. 155).

"The Lord has given a view of other worlds. . . . I asked one of them why they were so much more lovely than those on the earth. The reply was, 'We have lived in strict obedience to the commandments of God, and have not fallen by disobedience, like those on the earth.'" (*Early Writings*, pp. 39, 40).

"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality, but should he from some other motive than genuine love bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet if destitute of the gold of love he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 168).

"My brethren, are you expecting that your merit will recommend you to the favor of God, thinking that you must be free from sin before you trust His power to save? If this is the struggle going on in your mind, I fear you will gain no strength and will finally become discouraged." (*Faith and Works*, p. 36).

"If you would gather everything that is good and holy and noble and lovely in man and then present the subject to the angels of God as acting a part in the salvation of the human soul or in merit, the proposition would be rejected as treason." (*Faith and Works*, p. 24).

"The believer is not called upon to make his peace with God; he never has nor ever can do this. He is to accept Christ as his peace, for with Christ is God and peace." (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 395).

“Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety.” (*Selected Messages*, book. 1, p. 398).

QUIZ – 7

Select True or False according to the reference:

1. T F The character is revealed by the occasional good or bad deed. (SC 7.2).
2. T F The less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite purity and loveliness of our Savior. (SC 7.22).
3. T F Anyone attempting to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. (SC 7.9).
4. T F The condition of eternal life changed with the death of Christ on the Cross. (SC 7.14).
5. T F We have no righteousness of our own to meet the claims of the law of God. (SC 7.15).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. How do we appear when we come close to Jesus? (SC 7.20).

7. List one of the two errors that new Christians need to guard against. (SC 7.9-10).

8. By what is righteousness defined? (SC 7.12).

9. How did Jesus say we show our love for Him? (John 14:15).

10. What did Christ become for us? (2 Corinthians 5.21).

Select the option button of the best answer according to the text.

11. What is the purpose of the law of God? (Romans 3:20).

- Saves us from punishment
- Points out our sins
- Cleanses our record in the heavenly books
- Helps us to be saved

12. How is a per saved? (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- By faith through grace
- By faith alone
- By grace through faith
- By grace alone

13. How does God view us, if we accept Christ as our Savior? (SC 7.15).
- When we test it
 - When God is ready to make it happen
 - When we believe it
 - When God spoke it
14. What is the condition of eternal life? (SC 7.14).
- Perfect trust in God's love
 - Baptism and being born by the Holy Spirit
 - Perfect obedience to the Law of God, perfect righteousness
 - Love for other
15. Complete the following passage:
- “—the service and allegiance of —is the true sign of discipleship.” (SC 7.11).