

Study Questions

1. Describe mankind's original condition (Paragraph 1).
2. Describe the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience (1).
3. What is the condition of the unrenewed heart? (2).
4. Why would the sinner not be happy in God's presence? (2).
5. What is impossible by ourselves? (3).
6. What is the condition of our hearts? (3).
7. Describe what education, culture, exercise of the will can and cannot do (3).
Can:

Cannot:
8. When a person is born again, what does he or she receive? (4).
9. What description exists regarding mankind's condition? (5).
10. What thought most bothered Jacob after his sin in deceiving his brother Esau? (6).
11. Who is the only link of communication with God? (6).
12. How does Christ restore our communication with God? (7).
13. List the things God has given to redeem us (9).
14. List the motives or incentives that urge us to give the heart's loving service to Jesus (10).
15. List one thing presented in scripture to warn us against the service of Satan (11).
16. What can we do to be restored? (12).

Thought Questions

1. What can we do, and what can we not do about our condition?
2. What makes a person choose sin over doing right?
3. How is selfishness part of the problem?
4. Why is it impossible to escape from sin without God's intervention?
5. What makes our nature weak and incapable of doing right?
6. Why has God chosen not to communicate directly with us?
7. What differences existed in Adam and Eve both before and after sin?
8. Why are we unable to change our motives by ourselves?
9. What part does Satan have in our condition as sinners?
10. Are we saved or lost because of our sinful nature or our sins?
11. Is it easier for men or women, young or aged to accept the plan of salvation? Why?
12. If I sin after I accept Christ, does this mean I am lost?
13. Why are forbidden things so frequently desired?
14. What similarities exist in the fall of Satan and the fall of man?
15. I have overcome several things on my own. Does that count?
16. Do people have to reach bottom in order to realize their need?
17. Why do I have to have needs that get me in trouble?
18. How can God use others to help me see my need?
19. What are some advantages and disadvantages in our lives that relate to the Plan of Salvation?
20. [Add your questions].

Problem Solving

This person has been a faithful Christian for many years. She has worked in many church offices, and many in the congregation where she attends church look to her for a good example. Previous to becoming a Christian, she lived a life completely opposite to the principles she now follows. Even though she is not now living in open sin, there have been times when she fell back into the old way of life. No one knew of these failures, and she recovered and continued on as a Christian. If she faces these areas in her life that need correcting, she is fearful that God will some day allow her sins to be exposed like David's were, and then others will find out about her past failures. She is fearful that she might have to give up her church work, and would likely lose the respect of the people where she attends. It seems like she can't go forward or backward. What in our study would aid you in helping to solve her spiritual problem?

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

Additional Exercises

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

2. Additional reading:
 - Education*, pp. 23-27.
"The Knowledge of Good and Evil."
 - Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 52-62.
"The Temptation and Fall."

3. Look up the following passages in *Steps to Christ* regarding Satan's work:
 - Chapter 1, Paragraph 5

 - Chapter 6, Paragraph 13

 - Chapter 8, Paragraph 12

 - Chapter 11, Paragraph 6

 - Chapter 12, Paragraph 9

 - Chapter 13, Paragraph 4

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

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

Ellen G. White Quotations

"The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Co-operation with that power is man's greatest need." (*Education*, p. 29).

"There was nothing poisonous in the fruit itself, and the sin was not merely in yielding to appetite. It was distrust of God's goodness, disbelief of His word, and rejection of His authority, that made our first parents transgressors, and that brought into the world a knowledge of evil. It was this that opened the door to every species of falsehood and error." (*Education*, p. 25).

"Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall. In the judgment men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth." (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 55).

"If you have a sense of need in your soul, if you hunger and thirst after righteousness, this is an evidence that Christ has wrought upon your heart, in order that He may be sought unto to do for you, through the endowment of the Holy Spirit, those things which it is impossible for you to do for yourself. We need not seek to quench our thirst at shallow streams; for the great fountain is just above us, of whose abundant waters we may freely drink, if we will rise a little higher in the pathway of faith." (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 19).

"Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466).

"Selfishness prevents us from beholding God. The self-seeking spirit judges of God as altogether such a one as itself." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 302).

"Sin not only shuts us away from God, but destroys in the human soul both the desire and the capacity for knowing Him. All this work of evil it is Christ's mission to undo. The faculties of the soul, paralyzed by sin, the darkened mind, the perverted will, He has power to invigorate and to restore. He opens to us the riches of the universe, and by Him the power to discern and to appropriate these treasures is imparted." (*Education*, pp. 28, 29).

"Sin originated in self-seeking." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 21).

"The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the

foundation of every heathen religion; it had now become the principle of the Jewish religion. Satan had implanted this principle. Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin." (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 35, 36).

"Selfishness is the strongest and most general of human impulses, the struggle of the soul between sympathy and covetousness is an unequal contest; for while selfishness is the strongest passion, love and benevolence are too often the weakest, and as a rule the evil gains the victory. Therefore in our labors and gifts for God's cause, it is unsafe to be controlled by feeling or impulse." (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 25).

"Another book was opened, wherein were recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of selfishness came every other sin. There were also headings over every column, and underneath these, opposite each name, were recorded, in their respective columns, the lesser sins.

"Under covetousness came falsehood, theft, robbery, fraud, and avarice; under ambition came pride and extravagance; jealousy stood at the head of malice, envy, and hatred; and intemperance headed a long list of fearful crimes, such as lasciviousness, adultery, indulgence of animal passions, etc. As I beheld I was filled with inexpressible anguish and exclaimed: 'Who can be saved? who will stand justified before God? whose robes are spotless? who are faultless in the sight of a pure and holy God?'" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 384, 385).

"Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should understand." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 294).

"No man can look within himself and find anything in his character that will recommend him to God, or make his acceptance sure. It is only through Jesus, whom the Father gave for the life of the world, that the sinner may find access to God. Jesus alone is our Redeemer, our Advocate and Mediator; in Him is our only hope for pardon, peace, and righteousness. It is by virtue of the blood of Christ that the sin-stricken soul can be restored to soundness. Christ is the fragrance, the holy incense which makes your petition acceptable to the Father." (*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 332, 333).

"Coming to Christ does not require severe mental effort and agony; it is simply accepting the terms of salvation that God has made plain in His Word. The blessing is free to all." (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 333).

QUIZ - 2

Circle T for True or F for False according to the reference:

1. T F The unrenewed heart would not be happy in God's presence. (SC 2.2).
2. T F A person must be born again to be saved. (John 3:5).
3. T F Forgiveness and salvation are through Christ's blood. (Ephesians 1:7).
4. T F Education, culture, and the exercise of the will can help in changing the heart. (SC 2.3).
5. T F There are several ways to be saved. (Acts 4:12).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. List one thing you receive when you are born again. (SC 2.4).

7. What condition resulted from the entrance of sin into our world? (Romans 5:12).

8. When sin entered, what replaced love? (SC 2.1)

9. List one motive or incentive that urges us to give our heart's loving service to Christ (SC 2.10).

10. List one thing God enlists for mankind's redemption. (SC 2.9).

Circle the letter of the best answer according to the reference:

11. What deception exists regarding mankind's condition? (SC 2.4).
 - A. It is only necessary to develop the good that exists in man by nature.
 - B. Jesus is able to save us.
 - C. We can have the assurance of salvation.
 - D. God desires all to be saved.
12. What can we do to be restored? (SC 2.12).
 - A. Work hard at resisting the power of sin.
 - B. Find a 30-day, 12-step plan as soon as possible.
 - C. Avail ourselves of the means provided.
 - D. Change our hearts through our diligent effort.
13. What is not subject to God's laws? (Romans 8:7).
 - A. The Holy Spirit
 - B. The new nature
 - C. The struggling Christian
 - D. The carnal mind
14. What is impossible by ourselves? (SC 2.3).
 - A. To escape from sin
 - B. To change our habits
 - C. To correct our faults
 - D. To understand the rules of life
15. Complete the following quotation:

"But through _____, his powers were perverted, and _____ took the place of _____. His _____ became so weakened through transgression that it was _____ for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God specially interposed." (SC 2.1).