



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

By Ellen G. White

Chapter 2 The Sinner's Need of Christ

Memory Verse – Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What condition entered our world?

Romans 5:12 (NKJV). “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Scriptures

2. How many of the human race have sinned?

Romans 3:23 (NKJV). “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Scriptures

3. How is man's natural goodness described?

Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV). “But we are all like an unclean thing,

And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;

We all fade as a leaf,

And our iniquities, like the wind,

Have taken us away.”

Scriptures

4. What is the condition of the human heart?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV). “The heart *is* deceitful above
all *things*,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?”

Scriptures

5. What is the nature of mankind like without God?

Ephesians 2:3 (NKJV). “among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

Scriptures

6. What is the condition of the carnal mind?

Romans 8:7 (NKJV). “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

Scriptures

7. What battle is waged by the Christian?

Romans 7:18 (NKJV). “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.”

Scriptures

8. What relationship exists between God and mankind?

Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV). “But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear.”

Scriptures

9. How can mankind again approach unto God?

John 14:6 (NKJV). “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Scriptures

10. What is provided by the death of Christ?

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV). “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Scriptures

11. Is there more than one way to be saved?

Acts 4:12 (NKJV). “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Scriptures

12. What is required to be saved?

John 3:5 (NKJV). “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

Scriptures

13. What is God's desire for all?

1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV). “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Scriptures

14. Who bridged the gulf between God and mankind?

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV). “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus.*”

Scriptures

15. What gift do we receive through Jesus?

Romans 6:23 (NKJV). “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Scriptures

16. What can we know regarding eternal life?

1 John 5:11-13 (NKJV). “¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. Describe mankind's original condition (Paragraph 1).

“Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy.”

Study Questions

2. Describe the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience (2)

“But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil.”

Study Questions

3. What is the condition of the unrenewed heart? (2)

“It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him.”

Study Questions

4. Why would the sinner not be happy in God's presence? (2)

“The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul. His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there.”

Study Questions

5. What is impossible by ourselves? (3)

“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken.”

Study Questions

6. What is the condition of our hearts? (3).

“Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them.”

Study Questions

7. Describe what education, culture, exercise of the will can and cannot do. (3).

“Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life.”

Study Questions

8. When a person is born again, what does he or she receive? (4).

“The Saviour said, ‘Except a man be born from above,’ unless he shall receive a new heart, new desires, purposes, and motives, leading to a new life, ‘he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

Study Questions

9. What description exists regarding mankind's condition? (5).

“I am carnal, sold under sin.”

Study Questions

10. What thought most bothered Jacob after his sin in deceiving his brother Esau? (6).

“Lonely and outcast as he was, separated from all that had made life dear, the one thought that above all others pressed upon his soul, was the fear that his sin had cut him off from God, that he was forsaken of Heaven.”

Study Questions

11. Who is the only link of communication with God?
(6).

“The mystic ladder of his dream represented Jesus, the only medium of communication between God and man.”

Study Questions

12. How does Christ restore communication with God. (7).

“Across the gulf that lay between, there could be no communion. But through Christ, earth is again linked with heaven. With His own merits, Christ has bridged the gulf which sin had made, so that the ministering angels can hold communion with man.

Christ connects fallen man in his weakness and helplessness with the Source of Infinite power.”

Study Questions

13. List the things God has given to redeem us (9).

“The Saviour’s life and death and intercession, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Spirit, the Father working above and through all, the unceasing interest of heavenly being,—all are enlisted in behalf of man’s redemption.”

Study Questions

14. List the motives or incentives that urge us to give the heart's loving service to Jesus (10).

“Motives stronger, and agencies more powerful could never be brought into operation; the exceeding rewards for right-doing, the enjoyment of heaven, the society of the angels, the communion and love of God and His Son,

the elevation and extension of all our powers throughout eternal ages—are these not mighty incentives and encouragements to urge us to give the hearts loving service to our Creator and Redeemer?”

Study Questions

15. List one thing presented in scripture to warn us against the service of Satan (11).

“And on the other hand, the judgments of God pronounced against sin, the inevitable retribution, the degradation of our character, and the final destruction, are presented in God’s word to warn us against the service of Satan.”

Study Questions

16. What can we do to be restored? (12).

“Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. What can we do and what can we not do about our condition?

Thought Questions

2. What makes a person choose sin over doing right?

Thought Questions

3. How is selfishness part of the problem?

Thought Questions

4. Why is it impossible to escape from sin without God's intervention?

Thought Questions

5. What makes our nature weak and incapable of doing right?

Thought Questions

6. Why has God chosen not to communicate directly with us?

Thought Questions

7. What differences existed in Adam and Eve both before and after sin?

Thought Questions

8. Why are we unable to change our motives by ourselves?

Thought Questions

9. What part does Satan have in our condition as sinners?

Thought Questions

10. Are we saved or lost because of our sinful nature or our sins?

Thought Questions

11. Is it easier for men or women, young or old to accept the plan of salvation? Why?

Thought Questions

12. If I sin after I accept Christ, does this mean I am lost?

Thought Questions

13. Why are forbidden things so frequently desired?

Thought Questions

14. What similarities exist in the fall of Satan and the fall of man?

Thought Questions

15. I have overcome several things on my own. Does that count?

Thought Questions

16. Do people have to reach bottom in order to realize their need?

Thought Questions

17. Why do I have to have needs that get me in trouble?

Thought Questions

18. How can God use others to help me see my need?

Thought Questions

19. What are some advantages and disadvantages in our lives that relate to the Plan of Salvation?

Thought Questions

20. [Add your questions].

Problem Solving

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

Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

Education, pp. 23-27. “The Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 52-62. “The Temptation and Fall.”

Additional Exercises

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

Additional Exercises

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

Additional Exercises

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

E. G. White Quotes

Education, p. 29

“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. 25

“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.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 55

“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.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 19

“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.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 466

“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. 302

“Selfishness prevents us from beholding God. The self-seeking spirit judges of God as altogether such a one as itself. Until we have renounced this, we cannot understand Him who is love.”

Education, pp. 28, 29

“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.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 21

“Sin originated in self-seeking.”

The Desire of Ages, pp. 35, 36

“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.”

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 25

“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.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 384, 385

“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. 5, p. 294

“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.”

Selected Messages, book 1, pp. 332, 333

“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, p. 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.”

Quiz

Quiz

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 thorough Christ's blood. (Ephesians 1:7).

Quiz

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).

Quiz

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

New heart, new desires, purposes, and motives, leading to a new life.

Quiz

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

Death from sin.

Quiz

8. When sin entered, what replaced love? (SC 2:1).
Selfishness.

Quiz

9. List one motive or incentive that urges us to give our heart's loving service to Christ. (SC 2:10).

“The rewards for right doing, the enjoyment of heaven, the society of the angels, the communion and love of god and His Son, the elevation and extension of all our power throughout eternal ages.”

Quiz

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

“The Saviour's life and death and intercession, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Spirit, the Father working above and through all, the unceasing interest of heavenly beings.”

Quiz

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.

Quiz

12. What can we do to be restored? (SC 2.12).
- A. Work hard at resisting sin
 - B. Find a 30-day, 12-step plan
 - C. Avail ourselves of the means provided
 - D. Change our hearts through our diligent effort

Quiz

13. What is not subject to God's laws? (Romans 8:7 NKJV).
- A. The Holy Spirit.
 - B. The new nature.
 - C. The struggling Christian.
 - D. The carnal mind.

Quiz

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.

Quiz

15. Complete the following quotation:

“But through DISOBEDIENCE , his powers were perverted, and SELFISHNESS took the place of LOVE . His NATURE became so weakened through transgression that it was IMPOSSIBLE 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 1.16).

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