



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



Steps To Christ

Ellen G. White

Chapter 7 The Test of Discipleship

Memory Verse – Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

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

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What two elements are necessary for the plan of salvation?

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

Scriptures

2. What should we do if we love Jesus?

John 14:15 (NKJV). “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Scriptures

3. What is the purpose of the Law of God?

Romans 3:20 (NKJV). “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”

Scriptures

4. What did the Apostle John desire?

1 John 2:1 (NKJV). “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Scriptures

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

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV). “⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.”

Scriptures

6. What is the response of salvation?

Romans 10:9 (NKJV). “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Scriptures

7. What does Christ's righteousness provide?

Romans 3:24-26 (NKJV). “²⁴ being justified 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.”

Scriptures

8. What is the source of our obedience?

Romans 6:17 (NKJV). “But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

Scriptures

9. How does someone purify the soul?

1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV). “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,”

Scriptures

10. Through whom are we reconciled to God?

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 (NKJV). “¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,

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

Scriptures

11. What did Christ become for us?

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

Scriptures

12. How has God saved us?

Titus 3:5 (NKJV). “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”

Scriptures

13. To whom is the Holy Spirit given?

Acts 5:32 (NKJV). “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Scriptures

14. How does God value obedience?

1 Samuel 15:22 (NKJV). “Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

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

“Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God.”

Study Questions

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

“While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us.”

Study Questions

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

“The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts.”

Study Questions

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

“The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions.”

Study Questions

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

“Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies?”

Study Questions

6. Describe what we are like if we are Christ's. (4).

“If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.”

Study Questions

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

“There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation”

Study Questions

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

“When, as erring, sinful beings, we come to Christ and become partakers of His pardoning grace, love springs up in the heart. Every burden is light, for the yoke that Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure.

The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness, becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness.”

Study Questions

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

“In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around.”

Study Questions

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

“The first, already dwelt upon, is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. . . .

“The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.”

Study Questions

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

“Obedience—the service and allegiance of love—is the true sign of discipleship.”

Study Questions

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

“The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been,—just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents,—perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness”

Study Questions

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

“If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous.”

Study Questions

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

“Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.”

Study Questions

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

“He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.”

Study Questions

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

“Where there is not only a belief in God’s word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by love and purifies the soul.”

Study Questions

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

“The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature”

Study Questions

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

“A view of our sinfulness drives us to Him who can pardon; and when the soul, realizing its helplessness, reaches out after Christ, He will reveal Himself in power.

The more our sense of need drives us to Him and to the word of God, the more exalted views we shall have of His character, and the more fully we shall reflect His image.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

4. How can I really desire to obey?

Thought Questions

5. Should I love first or obey first?

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

13. What behavior must I live to be saved?

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

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?

Thought Questions

16. How I am so very interested in the “last-day events.” I don’t seem to feel that close to Jesus though. Is this right?

Thought Questions

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

Thought Questions

18. [Add your questions]. ?

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

The following person was a minister for forty-two 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?

Note: 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:

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

“Principles of Salvation.”

Faith and Works, pp. 15-28. “Ellen White Clarifies the Issues.”

Additional Exercises

3. Research the topic of “Conversion.”

Additional Exercises

4. Research the topic of “once save, always saved.”

Additional Exercises

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

Additional Exercises

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

Ellen G. White Quotes

Selected Messages, book. 1, p. 389

“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.”

Letter 216, 1906, p. 2

“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.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 18

“The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ.
We receive righteousness by receiving Him.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 53

“A legal religion is insufficient to bring the soul into harmony with God.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 668

“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 Great Controversy, p. 468

“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.”

Selected Messages, book. 1, p. 323

“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. 366

“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. 396

“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. 397

“It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.”

Selected Messages, book. 3, p. 155

“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.”

Early Writings, p. 39, 40

“The Lord has given me a view of other worlds. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The inhabitants of the place were of all sizes; they were noble, majestic, and lovely.

They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place. 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.’”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 168

“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.”

Faith and Works, p. 36

“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. 24

“If you would gather together 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.”

Selected Messages, book. 1, p. 395

“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. 398

“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.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F The real 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).

Quiz

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).

Quiz

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

“The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature.”

Quiz

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

“There are two errors against which the children of God—particularly those who have just come to trust in His grace—especially need to guard.

“The first, already dwelt upon, is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that can make us holy.

“The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.”

Quiz

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

“Righteousness is defined by the standard of God’s holy law, as expressed in the ten precepts given on Sinai.”

Quiz

9. How did Jesus say we show our love for Him?
(John 14:1 NKJV).

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Quiz

10. What did Christ become for us? (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV).

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

Quiz

11. What is the purpose of the Law of God? (Romans 3:20 NKJV).
- A. Saves us from punishment
 - B. Points out our sins
 - C. Cleanses our record in the heavenly books
 - D. Helps us to be saved

Quiz

12. How is a person saved? (Ephesians 2:8, 9 NKJV).

- A. By faith through grace
- B. By faith alone
- C. By grace through faith
- D. By grace alone

Quiz

13. How does God look at us if we accept Christ as our Savior? (SC 7.15).
- A. Needy, weak, and sinful
 - B. Perfected and ready for translation
 - C. Guilty but still in the growing stage
 - D. Just as if we had not sinned

Quiz

14. What is the condition of eternal life? (SC 7:14)
- A. Perfect trust in God's love.
 - B. Baptism and being born by the Holy spirit.
 - C. Perfect obedience to the Law of God, perfect righteousness
 - D. Love for others

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

OBEDIENCE—the service and allegiance of
LOVE—is the true sign of discipleship.” (SC 7:11).

Contact

- Author: Don Yancy
- Email: mail@bibleguides.org
- Phone: 562-208-4589