

**CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL**

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

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TEACHING BASIC DOCTRINES

COURSE 1

THE WAY OF LIFE

Prof Zacharias Tanee Fomum

LESSON 4: GOD'S WAY OUT OF THE OLD CREATION

REMINDER

Dear student,

We are happy for the interest that this course has produced in you.

The purpose of our Bible Correspondence Course is to help you find the Lord Jesus. This first series of this Bible course comprises seven lessons based on the book, "The Way of Life". As you begin to study, we encourage you to press right to the end.

We insist that you get a Bible that you will read systematically. If you fail to do this, then this course might not be of full benefit to you. All the Bible passages quoted should be carefully read.

Our prayer is that by the time you finish studying these lessons, you would enter into a living relationship with Jesus so that you will truly begin to live.

May God bless you richly!

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INTRODUCTION

Reading through lesson 3, you may be shocked to discover that the efforts exerted by many hundreds of thousands of men, in the name of their religions do not draw them any nearer to God than the atheist's doctrine will do for those who adhere to it. Yet, the explanation is simple. Man did not go out of the Garden of Eden on his own initiative. It was God who drove him out of the garden due to man's disobedience. Man would have wanted, in spite of his rebellious nature to remain in the garden to enjoy all the blessings that come from the presence of God. But the holiness and righteousness of God compelled Him to drive man out of His presence. Since the act of separation was God's initiative, the act of reconciliation must also be God's initiative, so as to be led by God's principles from beginning to the end. God is therefore, the author of man's salvation. He Himself found the way, and this way is the way of the love of God, the way of the grace of God. As we shall see, God offers salvation to all men freely. The only condition man has to make is to bring all his sins to God in order to be liberated from them once and for all.

1. THE INDISPENSABLE SHEDDING OF BLOOD

The Bible says: "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6: 23) and elsewhere it says "*...Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*" (Hebrews 9:22). Fundamentally, these two verses are saying one truth. God's throne is based on righteousness and equity. It is by virtue of these that He judges all sin, and the wages of sins is death. We saw this in details in lesson 1. For each sin committed there must be shedding of blood without which forgiveness is impossible.

1.1. The First Shedding of Blood.

The first shedding of blood took place in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned. God saw the exposed nakedness of Adam and Eve and had compassion on them. Adam and Eve had managed to cover their nakedness with leaves. This talks of man's efforts. Adam's effort to cover his sin was ineffective. God caused the blood of an animal to flow and this is what Genesis 3: 21 talks about. *"And the Lord made for Adam and for Eve his wife garments of animal skins and clothed them"*. The righteousness of God constrained Him to shed the blood of some animals because of what Adam and his wife had done. As a matter of fact, the problem of Adam and Eve was much deeper than physical nakedness. It was a matter of reconciliation with God. Adam and his wife wanted to solve the problem through their own efforts by making a belt of leaves. God was not satisfied. That is why he intervened personally. By acting that way, God established the fact that, by means of the shedding of blood, man's deepest need which is reconciliation with God can only be met by God Himself and not by the works of man.

1.2. The Blood and the Children of Israel in Egypt

When God decided to deliver the children of Israel out of the bondage in Egypt and to bring judgement on the gods of Egypt, the Egyptian king and her people, He used blood to grant safety to the children of Israel. He told the children of Israel to take a lamb without blemish, kill it, take some of its blood and put it on the two door posts and the lintel of their houses (Exodus 12 : 3,5,7). He further said, *"For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land Egypt, both man and beast and on the god's of Egypt. I shall execute judgement: I am the Lord. THE BLOOD SHALL BE A SIGN FOR YOU, UPON YOU THE HOUSES WHERE YOU ARE. AND WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD I WILL PASS OVER YOU? AND NO PLAGUE SHALL FALL UPON YOU TO DESTROY YOU, WHEN I SMITE THE LAND OF EGYPT"* (Exodus 12: 12-13). This rite was called *"the sacrifice of*

the Lord's Passover" (Exodus 12: 27). The angel was to pass through the land of Egypt and he would pass over any house that was marked by the blood. The children of Israel obeyed. God kept his word. The angel passed through the land of Egypt destroying all the first-born. He also passed over all the houses of Israel which were marked by blood.

Why were the children of Israel spared?

It was not because they were more righteous than the Egyptians. It was not because they sought God more diligently than the Egyptians. They were spared because the destroyer saw the blood; for God had said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you".

Why were the Egyptians destroyed?

It was not because they had sinned more. It was because they did not have marks of blood. The Egyptians were all destroyed. Even 'good' Egyptians first-born were smitten by the angel. The criterion for being spare that night was not human goodness. It was the presence of blood on the door posts. Indeed, *"without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin"* (Hebrews 9: 1-22).

1.3. The Blood and the Old Covenant.

We have seen from above, that forgiveness of sins depends on the shedding of blood. It is on this principle that the first covenant (Mosaic covenant) was inaugurated. *"For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book and the people saying : This is the blood of the covenant which god commanded you"* (Hebrews 9 : 19-20). According to this first covenant (now become the old covenant) the high priest had to

go into the holy of holies once every year to offer the blood of the animals for himself and for the sins of the people. "*Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year, with the blood of the sin offering of atonement for it once in the year throughout generations*" (Exodus 30: 10). Hence it was in this manner that the sins of the people were atoned for, every year. The animals were sacrificed and their blood was poured out. To sum up all that has already been said. The forgiveness of sins was possible on condition that an animal was killed and its blood poured out. On the eve of departure of the children of Israel from Egypt, God commanded that the animal to be sacrificed was to be a lamb without any defects. The first born of all the houses marked by the blood of the lambs were spared while the first born of all the houses that were not marked were killed. The Bible teaches that, what happened was but a shadow of good things to come and not an exact representation of the things (Hebrews 10: 1). More clearly, what God had planned in view of the salvation of humanity was accomplished many centuries later. God Himself provided the Passover lamb, without defect, in the person of Jesus-Christ, His only Son. He was born and lived without sin. He was slain and His blood flowed for the sins of the world.

2. JESUS, THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION.

2.1. The Birth of Jesus.

As we have seen, it had to be a Passover lamb slain and its blood applied to the door posts. This lamb was special. It had to meet specific requirements. It had to be, a "*lamb without blemish, a male a year old*" (Exodus 12: 5).

When God decided to bring the fallen human race out of the bondage of sin, into His new life, He needed a paschal lamb without blemish. No human being could fulfil that requirement for all have sinned and are therefore with blemish. No angel could fulfil the role for angels are really not human beings.

Jesus-Christ alone could fulfil that role for He was truly human; born of a woman and born under the law (Matthew 1:18-

25). The Bible says, *"But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons"* (Galatians 4: 4-5). Jesus was also without blemish. He was without sin. The Bible says, *"For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4: 15); *"For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens"* (Hebrews 7: 26). *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, which you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted to him who judges justly"* 1 Peter 2: 21-23).

Jesus came to this world to be God's paschal Lamb. John the Baptist said of Him; *"Behold the lamb of God"* (John 1: 36). the Lamb of God is Jesus' greatest title. Even in the kingdom of God when all that has to do with sin would have been settled and finished with eternally, the Lord Jesus will continue to bear His great title "The Lamb". The Bible says, *"then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb... there shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of the lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him"* (Revelation 22 : 1-3)

2.2. The Death of Jesus

2.2.1. Jesus Christ Destined to die, According to God's plan.

A lamb has ultimately only one destiny death. Even before the Lord of all glory came to earth, He knew that he had only one destiny on earth. He said, *"For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many"* (Mark

10: 45). He did not die by accident nor was death forced upon Him. Long before he went to the cross, he said, *"I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father"* (John: 10:17-18). Jesus –born to die! He persistently talked about His death. The Bible says, *"and He began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed and after three days rise again"* (Mark 8: 31). Again he said to them, *"The son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him and when he is killed, after three days he will rise"* (Mark 9: 31). He further said, *"Behold, we are going to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priest and the scribes and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him; and spit upon him. And after three days he will rise"* (Mark 10: 33-34).

Jesus was not only born to die. He was crucified and competent authority affirmed the fact that He was dead.

2.2.2. The Death of Christ put an end to the Old Covenant.

The Old Covenant was characterised essentially by two things: the law and sacrifices. By law, we mean all the ordinances and interdicts that governed the people of God. Sin was therefore a failure to observe the law. Anyone who voluntarily sinned against the law was condemned to death without mercy, if there were two or three witnesses. Anyone who sinned unwilfully offered an animal which was then sacrificed as an atonement for his sin (Numbers 35: 30; Deuteronomy 17: 6; Leviticus 4: 27-37).

2.2.2.1. The Inadequacy of the Old Covenant.

The Bible says: *"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law and do them"* (Galatians 3: 10). Therefore, man was under the curse of the law. But this situation was temporary for God knew that man could not keep the law. Why then did God make the law? The Bible says: *"Now before faith came, we were confirmed under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith"* (Galatians 3:23-26). To be clearer, it is through his failure to keep the law that man realises that he is 'good for nothing' and that he needs a saviour. The law is therefore a mirror in which man sees his true self. It is a custodian who leads man to Christ.

What solution did Christ then give to the problem of the law? The Bible says : *"And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having cancelled, the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this He set aside, nailing it to the cross"* (Colossians 2 : 13-24)

What about sacrifices for sin?

In the Old Testament (The Old Covenant) as we saw a matter of offering sacrifices acceptable to God up to a certain time. But these sacrifices were inadequate. They could not take away sin. The Bible says, *"But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins"* (Hebrews 10: 3-4).

The inadequacy of these sacrifices made the death of Christ necessary. The Bible says, consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said: *"Sacrifices and offerings thou has not desired, but a body thou prepared for me; in burnt offerings thou hast taken not pleasure... Then He added, I have come to do thy will... And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering*

of the body of Jesus-Christ ONCE FOR ALL" (Hebrews 10: 5-10).this same truth is found in Hebrews 9: 11-14.

The sacrifice of Christ was final. The Bible says, "*He has appeared once for all to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*" (Hebrews 9:26).

Before Jesus offered Himself on the cross as the one sacrifice for sin, other sacrificial systems could be tolerated. By His death, He offered one sacrifice, once and for all. This sacrifice puts an end to all other sacrificial systems.

From the day the Lord Jesus died on the cross as god" supreme sacrifice for sin, it is an absolute abomination to offer animal or human sacrifices to God. Such an offer infuriates God enormously and brings God's fullest wrath on the one offering the sacrifice. To keep on offering sacrifices is to reject God's one sacrifice and bear the consequences for that.

2.3. The New Covenant.

It is a covenant of grace (Romans 5: 12-21).the New Covenant was sealed with the blood of Jesus. He Himself said, "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26: 28). When a sinner comes to Christ, he is covered by the blood of Christ and God passes over him even though he sinned.

The new covenant is the covenant of the unique sacrifice of Jesus-Christ (Romans 5: 12-21). Jesus-Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant. The Bible says "Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant" (Hebrews 9: 15).

2.2.4. The Death of Christ and the Satanic Trinity.

Satan made a trinity for himself, with he opposes god. The satanic trinity is a counterfeit of the Divine trinity. It is make up of the world, the flesh and the devil.

The world opposes God the Father. The Bible says *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever”* (1 John 2:15-17). By his death on the cross Jesus won a great victory over the world. The world was judged on the cross. The apostle Paul said, *“But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus-Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world”* (Galatians 6:14a).

The Flesh: the flesh opposes the Holy Spirit; the Bible says *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the spirit; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain ; fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”* (Galatians 5: 16-24).

By his death, Jesus-Christ triumphed over the flesh. The flesh was judged on the cross. The Bible says: *“We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin”* (Romans 6:6).

“I have been crucified with Christ ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who live in me ; and the life I now live in the flesh, I live

by faith in the Son of God , who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2 : 20).

The Devil: The Devil opposes the Son: the bible says: "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, *"If you are the Son of God, command these stoke to become loaves of bread. But He answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God". Then the devil took Him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him; "If you are the Son of God;, throw yourself down ; for it is written, He will give His angels charge of you, and on their hands they will bear you, lest you strike your foot against a stone."* "Jesus said to him, *"Again it is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God."* Again the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, *"All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."* The, Jesus said to him, *"Be gone, Satan's for it is written you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve"* Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him" (Matthew 2: 1-11).

The devil and his works were conquered on the cross. The Bible says: *"He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him"* (Colossians 2: 15). *"The prince of this world is judged"* (John 16: 11).

The death of Christ is the perfect answer to the satanic trinity.

2.2.5. The Death of Christ and Salvation.

Salvation from sin can best be understood in three aspects;

1. Salvation from the consequences of sin.
2. Salvation from the power of sin.
3. Salvation from the presence of sin.

The death of Christ on the cross purchased the salvation of all human being from the consequence of sin, which is the lake of fire. The Bible says, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53: 6). *"Since therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life"* (Roman 5:9-10). From the moment that a sinner repents and receives Jesus Christ, he is saved from the consequences of sin.

The death of Christ on the cross provides the way for salvation from the power of sin day by day. The Bible says, *"We know that our old body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin"* (Romans 6:6). Those who have died with Him are freed from sin (Romans 6:7). All who know Christ have the way to continuous victory over the power of sin day by day. This is wonderful!

Because of the death of Christ on the cross, the believer will be saved from the presence of sin. Those who are already saved from the consequence of sin and who are being saved from the power of sin nevertheless, live in a sinful world. This will however not continue to be the case endlessly. The day is coming when the Lord Jesus who will come and take His own away and they will then be saved from the presence of sin. There in His immediate presence, the Bible says, *"We ourselves who have the first fruits of the spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of bodies"* (Romans 8: 23). *"There shall no more be anything accursed but the throne of God"* (Revelation 22: 3).

2.3. The Resurrection.

The Lord's resurrection was real. After His resurrection, he was seen by many people. The word of God says: *"That he was*

buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scripture and that He appeared to Cephas then to the twelve, then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at once time, most of whom are still alive today, though some have fallen asleep, then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles” (I Corinthians 15: 4-7). Then He appeared to Saul the great persecutor of Christians and changed him into Paul the great apostle, and then in 1966 He appeared to me also. He came into my room, in the darkness of my life, he took me and changed me and I have never been the same again. Even this afternoon, when I was coming out of my care, he was there with me. He spoke to me and I spoke to him” (1). He is truly alive.

2.3.1. The Father Approved of the Work of the Cross.

On dying on the cross, the Lord Jesus disarmed dominions and authorities, and made a public show of them. The devil’s entire kingdom felt the impact of this victory. The cross was the battle for eternal supremacy. Two powerful princes went to the cross. Prince Jesus and prince satan. By rendering perfect obedience to the Lord God, Jesus gave the Father of disobedience a technical knockout and secured victory once and for all. The Bible says, “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is the devil (Hebrews 2 : 14).

(1) Testimony of Prof Zacharias T. Fomum.

How did the Father react to this? He reacted with fullest approval. He did this by raising Jesus up from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is God’s stamp of approval (Acts 2: 24) “*God raised the Lord*” (I Corinthians 6: 14). There is an empty tomb to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and this empty tomb says, God was satisfied with the work of redemption accomplished by His Son on the cross

2.3.2. Jesus and who else?

What about the other religious leader?

Well, God did not raise them. He has left them in the tomb until that day, to prove that, what they did was something of their own creation (initiative), in their rebellion against God. He has abandoned them in the tomb until that day when the dead, great and small will appear before the lord Jesus for judgement. It is a sure thing that all these religious leaders will rise on the last day to face the chief judge.

Had Jesus not been resurrected, he would have been taken for a great religious leader like Buddha, Mohammed etc. he would have been conquered by death in the same way in which the other religious were conquered and are held in captivity until that day. However, the Lord Jesus is risen from the dead. His resurrection gave him a special place. There has never been anyone like Him. There will never be anyone else like Him. Jesus is rightly the only way back to God. He said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father but by me" (John 14: 6). The word of God says of Christ: *"And salvation is in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4: 12). *"For there is only one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all"* (1 Timothy 2: 5-6). Was Jesus mistaken when he said He is the only way? Are the scriptures mistaken when they testify to the fact that Jesus is the only way? If Jesus was mistaken and if the scriptures are false, then Christianity is the greatest deception and Jesus, the greatest liar that has ever lived.

But he would have been the liar who perfectly lived a righteous life and whom lies raised from the dead. He would be a liar whose life and death changed many things, my life included. But Jesus was not a liar. The testimony of the scriptures is true. He is truly the only way to the life of God. Whoever thinks he can

obtain salvation by another way other than Jesus, is self-deceived or in being deceived. The Bible says, *“No one ascended to heaven, but he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, and a Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”* (John 3: 13-15).

3. THE WAY OUT OF THE OLD CREATION.

3.1. The man.

As we saw, God’s special creation had become an old creation by the incident of sin. All of creation had become so abominable in god’s sight that He could not just try to patch it up or modify it. So he decided to get rid of creation totally. On the cross, God brought all of creation together in Christ and put an end to it once for all. Adam first of this race. He had sinned, and transmitted his deformation to all his descendants. All his descendants were therefore born into the old creation. The only way out is death. This death, is the death of Christ on the cross. Jesus took with him, all of the old creation and when he died on the cross, all of the old creation died with him. This is how the old creation was legally brought to death. Hence Jesus was the last Adam. The last of Adam’s race. Through Him this entire race was brought to an end on the cross. All are therefore, dead in Christ.

Therefore, the dead man, because of sin (see lesson 2) died on the cross. God’s way out of the creation is the union of the sinner (a dead man) with Christ in His death on the cross.

3.2. The Rest of the Creation.

God’s purpose in redemption was that all that was lost in Adam, be regained in Christ. His idea was that all inanimate and all animate things should come to life in Christ.

For that part of creation which did not have a free will, the death of Christ acquired an automatic redemption for them,

which will be completely visible when Jesus returns. For the time being, we only have sorrows: earthquakes, floods, hostility among animals etc. the Bible says, *“for the creation was subject to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it; in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God”* (Romans 8: 20-21).

A day will come when the groaning of creation will come to an end. When the Lord Jesus returns in all His glory, the deliverance of creation which was acquired for creation will then be fully evident. There will no longer be earthquakes; floods; etc. there will be perfect peace and harmony in the animal world. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like ox and the dust shall be the serpent’s food, they shall not hurt or destroy in my entire holy mountain, says the Lord (Isaiah 65: 25).

God will create a new heaven and a new earth and the former things shall not be remembered (Isaiah 65: 17). It will be possible because all that was of the old creation was united to the death and the resurrection of Christ.

WHAT SHOULD BE RETAINED?

We saw in lesson 3 that man’s condition puts him in a state of permanent dissatisfaction, and that his attitude expresses a conscious or unconscious desire for the redemption of his being. We said that, the biblical explanation of this situation is the fall of Adam, which made him the first of a degraded race known as the Old Creation. In lesson 4 we have seen that God have put an end to the old creation by crucifying it on the cross in Jesus Christ.

Therefore all died on the cross, but are all members of the new creation? No.

Even though all died on the cross with Christ, not all know the experience of a new life in Christ. By putting an end to the Old Creation on the cross, God opened a way out of the Old Creation. But it is important to notice that it is by a personal decision that anyone enters the new creation. People can be divided into two groups: those who are still living in the Old Creation although God has legally put an end to the latter, and those who having known the truth have decided personally, to believe God and have entered into the experience of the New Creation.

“The cross and the switchblade” a small portion of David Wilkerson’s (an American pastor) evangelisation among gangsters of New York, gives us examples of transformed lives. Led by God, this country pastor brought the good news of Jesus Christ to thousands of young delinquents in the streets of New York. The power of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of these drugged youths, and opened the door to the organisation of a rehabilitation work which today, is wide spread among many countries of the world. The vice president of one of the biggest gangs in New York, in 1959 tells about his conversion which took place during one of the evangelistic meetings organised by Wilkerson. ‘You can be different’ he was saying ‘your life can be changed’. I wanted this, I needed it, but I knew that it was not for me. He told us that any who wanted this change could come forward, but I knew that for me no change was possible. Then Israel (the president of the gang) asked us to stand up and follow him. I was the first at the altar. I knew and made my first prayer – My God I am the most odious sinner that New York knows. I cannot believe that you want me. But if you truly want me, here am I. I belong to you, and you can transform me in spite of all my vices, I want to become righteous for Jesus.

A little afterwards, the pastor gave us Bibles. I came back home wondering whether the Holy Spirit was really in me, and how I would know this. I first felt him as I shut the door behind me. For the first time I didn’t feel frightened. I felt fine, as if I was not alone. It was not the presence of God or anything alike, but

what I would have felt if my mother came back. I had four sticks of Marijuana – I crushed them and threw out off the window” (1)

Since this gangster took this commitment with God in prayer, God changed him and he became a new person. Through this prayer and commitment, he became a member of the new creation.

Nicky Cruz, the person in terrible judgment of God.

(1) “The Cross and the Switchblade” – D WILKERSON

Dear reader, have you become a new creation? Some have specialised in blaming Adam for having fallen and thereby ruining creation. No one will go to hell because he is a sinner by nature. God has settled the matter in a supreme way, through the death and resurrection of His Son. People will however perish for not having accepted the way chosen by God, to get out of the Old Creation. The Lord Jesus said, about the Holy Spirit *“And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement concerning sin because they do not believe in me”* (John 16: 8-9). *“And this is the judgement that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil”* (John 3: 19).

If you are not yet part of the new creation (creature), here are two ways open before you. The way of life in Christ or the way of death outside Christ. God offers the choice between the Lord Jesus and the devil, between eternal life and eternal death, between remaining in the old creation and getting out of it. The offer comes from God, the choice is yours.

In lesson 5 we will talk about the new creation, the race of new men in Jesus.

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QUESTIONS ON « THE WAY OF LIFE »

LESSON 4: GOD'S WAY OUT OF THE OLD CREATION

Student's name and surname (in capital letters)

Date of birth

Place of birth

Country:

City:

Tel:

E-mail:

Profession

Marital Status:

Student's Registration Number:

Student's mark:

QUESTIONS 4

LESSON 4: GOD'S WAY OUT OF THE OLD CREATION

1. What did Adam and Eve do to clothe themselves after they had sinned?
.....
2. Was God satisfied; yes or no?
If not, what did He do to clothe them?
.....
.....
3. What conclusion can you draw from this?
.....
.....
4. When the angel passed through the Egyptian territory, he went through the Egyptian houses, killing the first born sons but he passed over the houses of the Israelites, sparing theirs. What the difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites?
.....
.....
5. What conditions had the Pascal lamb to fulfil?
.....
.....

6. How did Jesus fulfil these conditions?
.....
.....
7. Was Mary, Jesus' mother married when she became pregnant? Yes or no?
8. Did Joseph break the relationship when she became pregnant? Yes or no?
9. Explain, according to your answers, why Joseph behaved as he did
.....
.....
10. Did Jesus die by accident, yes or no?
11. Was Jesus forced to die, yes or no?
12. Did Jesus know when he was going to die, yes or no?
13. Jesus refused to die, yes or no?
14. Was Jesus crucified on a tree, yes or no?
15. Was Jesus crucified on a cross, yes or no?
16. In the Old Testament what punishment was given to a person who sinned: (Support your answers with Bible verses)

a) Voluntary?

.....

.....

b) Involuntary?

.....

.....

17. On what conditions can the keeping of the law save?

.....

.....

.....

18. Can man fulfil these conditions? Justify your answer?

.....

.....

.....

.....

19. Why did God give man the law?

.....

.....

20. How did Christ's death affect the law?

.....

21. What is the major imperfection of the sacrificial system practised in the Old Testament?

.....

22. Can God tolerate sacrifices to be repeated today?.....

Why

.....

23. Quote 4 characteristics of the New Covenant?

.....

24. Who are the members of the satanic trinity?

.....

25. Who are the members of the Divine trinity?

.....

26. Who does oppose who in the two trinities?

.....

27. What is the effect of Jesus' death on the satanic trinity?

.....

28. What is salvation :

- In the past?

.....

- In the present?

.....

- In the future?

.....

29. Was God satisfied with the work of Christ on the cross? If yes,
 how did he show his approval?

.....

30. How many ways can lead Man back to the Father?

.....

31. How many mediators are there between God and Man?

.....

32. Will God forgive those who are sincere but are seeking salvation outside of Jesus Christ?

.....

33. Does redemption involve only human beings?

.....

34. Who was included in the death of Jesus?

- Some people only, true or false?
- The whites only, true or false?
- The blacks only, true or false?
- Everybody, true or false?

35. Who was included in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

.....

36. Who is the first of Adam's race, which is also called the old creation?

37. Who is the last of the race of Adam?

38. Who is the first of the new race which is also called the new creation?

39. Does everyone belong to the new creation?

40. If not, what must one do in order to belong to the new creation?

.....

.....

.....

41. Are you a member of the new creation, yes or no?

Since when?

42. Do you have someone helping you to grow in your new life with Jesus?

If not, should I propose one to you?

.....

43. What else do you have to say on this lesson 4?

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