

Nature of Christian Salvation - Part 1

Volume 1 - Unit 3

I. The Creation of Man

A. Purpose

1. Fellowship (John 4:23, Revelation 3:20)
2. Dominion (Psalm 8:4-8)

B. Method (Genesis 2:7, 21-22)

C. Time

II. The Fall of Man

A. The Test (Genesis 2:16-17)

B. The Temptation (Genesis 3:1-5)

C. The Disobedience

1. Eve - Deceived (Genesis 3:6a)
2. Adam - Deliberate (Genesis 3:6b)

D. The Punishment

1. The Serpent (Satan) (Genesis 3:14-15)

- a. Lowly position
- b. Enmity with man

2. Eve (Genesis 3:16)

- a. Sorrow of childbearing
- b. Subjection to the man

3. Adam (Genesis 3:17-19)

- a. Curse upon natural creation
- b. Arduous toil for physical survival
- c. Physical death for all human beings

E. Continuing Implications for Adam's Descendants

- 1. Curse upon natural creation ----- → man's lack of dominion → man vs. creation. (Hebrews 2:8)
- 2. Mortality ----- → physical death. (Romans 5:12, Hebrews 9:27)
- 3. Spiritual death ----- → the second death. (Revelation 20:14)
- 4. Adamic nature ----- → personal sins. (Romans 3:23)

III. The Divine Dilemma

A. God's Holiness, Justice, Veracity Demand Punishment. (Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 6:23)

B. God's Love Desires Fellowship.

Scripture Memory *Addendum to Unit 3*

Beginning with this unit, we will all undertake a modest program of Scripture memory. Mature Christians everywhere testify to the benefits of having strategic portions of the Bible committed to memory. The purpose is simply to have certain key verses and passages immediately available when needed to stabilize our own lives and to assist in counseling others.

Experience has shown that overly ambitious programs start well but seldom are continued over the long haul. Since systematic review is essential to the retention of the verses, we must be realistic in evaluating the time and effort available from the typical busy person. Therefore, we are requiring only one verse per week. (Occasionally, two verses will be taken together to complete a thought.) The verses will pertain to the material currently being studied and will thus help to fix some key concepts in the mind. Specific verses will be selected for each unit, starting at this point and continuing through Volume 8. At the completion of Volume 8 (approximately 2 years), 94 verses will have been memorized, covering key doctrines and techniques of the Christian life.

Suggested Techniques. Don't be afraid to memorize. Even if you have been out of school for years, even if you may be well along in years, you can do it. It really isn't very difficult. Take the verse selected each week and read it over several times in the original context in which it occurs. This will help you to see the verse as an integral part of a passage - not just as an isolated proof text. Then attach the reference to it and read it over several times. (Some find it helpful to say the reference before and after the verse.) For example, taking our first verse, say: "Colossians 2:9 - For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily - Colossians 2:9. " Say this over and over again until you can repeat it without looking at the verse. Then say it many more times until it begins to get fixed in your mind. Go on about your other business, but try to say it again a few minutes later - and again periodically as you think of it during the day. If you have trouble, go back and look at it again and repeat the process. Review the verse many times a day for the first week. This will fix the verse in your mind and will also turn your attention periodically to the truth of the verse and thus help to keep us occupied with Christ each day.

Do the same thing with the verse for the following week, and (very important!) review last week's verse each day as well. In time you will find that some of the older, more familiar verses will need to be reviewed only two or three times a week - and eventually weekly or even less, but the newer verses will need daily review. The review is essential. Knowing a verse for a week is fine, but it is infinitely better to know it permanently. This is our goal - and retention comes only with systematic review. Your sponsor will help you at this point. He will check you out on your verses each week (and you might check to see that he knows them, too!).

As already indicated, our first memory verse has to do with the deity of Jesus Christ, and it will receive further comment in Unit 4.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE 1: Colossians 2:9 – “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”