

Lesson # 3 – Sunday – July 2, 2017

The 12 Step program in Comparison to Scripture

- # 1. We admitted we were powerless over (Something sinful) - that our lives had become unmanageable.
- # 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- # 3. **Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.**
- # 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- # 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- # 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
- # 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- # 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- # 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
- # 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- # 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
- # 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to (Those in need), and to practice these principles in all our affairs (our life).

For this Lesson we will be looking at Step # 3:

3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

This step can lead people to a false understanding of the human nature.

It is important as Christians and students of Scripture, to remember that the sinful state of mankind leaves ALL Men and Women unable to turn our lives over to God, since we have inherited the sinful nature of Adam and Eve. As sinful human beings we instead run away from God and resist Him and are by nature, enemies of God. We will look at this with the following Bible Passages. It is only by the power of God working through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament (Baptism & Lord's Supper) that we are enabled to bear Fruits of Faith in service to God our Creator and Savior.

Genesis 3:6-10 – When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 – Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 – Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **they hid from the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. 9 - But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ 10 - He answered, I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so **I hid.**”

Romans 8:6-8 – The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 - **the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** 8 – *Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*”

Ephesians 2:1-6 – “As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins, 2 – in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 - All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 – But because of His great love for us, **God** who is rich in mercy, 5 – **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. 6 – And **God raised us up with Christ** and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,”

Romans 10:17 – Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through **the Word of Christ.**”

Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”