

MAILBOX BIBLE COURSE

**LESSON 1 – STRAIGHT PATHS BIBLE STUDY**

*Welcome to our Mailbox Bible Study Course. We trust you will enjoy these lessons as much as we did composing them. We are glad to be able to serve the Lord and you in this way. Many are being saved and helped through these simple Bible lessons. We suggest that you try to do one lesson each week; this will keep your interest in them active. This particular course contains nine lessons on Straight Paths Bible Studies. Please save this lesson onto your computer, read the lesson carefully, fill in the answers in the blocks provided then attach this lesson into an email addresses to us [biblelessons@uniserve.com](mailto:biblelessons@uniserve.com) and then push your send button. We will then evaluate and return any corrections to you with your next lesson. On completion of the full course, you will receive a beautifully presented certificate. Should you have difficulty opening or sending this file to us, please let us know by return email. We suggest that you print these lessons and put them in a binder for future studies.*

*May God richly bless you as you proceed?*

*Your Instructor*

*Harold Smith*

All Courses are copyright and may not be used as Courses without permission.

---

**INDEX - PRINCIPLE SUBJECTS TAKEN UP OR REFERRED TO**

Introduction. General and Distinctive Truths  
The New Birth. Why Necessary--How Effected  
Assurance of Salvation Presumption--Always Confident  
Law and Grace. A Contrast--Rule of Life--Higher Footing  
The Two Natures. The Difference--Testimonies  
Judgment of Believers. The Last Day--Judgment Seat  
Security of the Believer. Four Crowns--Hold Fast  
The Work of the Holy Spirt. "In' or "For"  
Inspiration of the Scriptures. Three Forces--Testimonies  
Separation from the World. In, not of the World  
What Church Should I Join? Which right?--Conversations  
Denominationalism. Ancient and Modern--Party Walls  
Ground of Gathering. The True Center--Special Presence  
A Distinguishing Name. Then and Now--In Heaven  
Christian Baptism. Mode--Subjects--Testimonies  
The Lord's Supper. When Observed--For Whom  
"The Principles Won't Work." Supernatural Power  
Clergy and Laity. Why Introduced--"Reverend"  
Christian Ministry. Choosing and Hiring Ministers  
Ordination. Apostles and their Delegates--Credentials  
Position and Condition. Minor Point--False Principles  
Common Objections. Put Things Right--Narrow Path  
Acting Out the Truth. Principles Unchanged--He is Coming

## LESSON 1 STRAIGHT PATHS FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD

In various countries these are to be found companies of Christians assembling for worship and ministry who are professedly unconnected with any sect of society. Believing in the sufficiency and supremacy of Scripture in all matters pertaining to life and godliness, they refuse to be bound by human creeds, catechisms, or confessions and have no doctrinal declaration or theological "system" other than God's Holy Word. Whilst holding the fundamental doctrines common to all Christians, they recognize the following truths:- The Church of God is one body (Ephesians 4:4); all Christians are members of it (1 Corinthians 12:13); Sectarianism, which is "schism" in the body of Christ, is sin (1 Corinthians 1,10), Christ is the centre of gathering; believers ought not to meet on the ground of any doctrine or truth, however precious, nor should they assemble in the name of any man, sect or party (Matthew 18:19-20); liberty should be afforded for the exercise of the "gifts" bestowed by the risen and ascended Head of the Church (1 Corinthians 14:31); the hope of the Christian is the return of the Lord Jesus to take His people to be with Himself (Titus 2.13). A gifted evangelist, whilst preaching under the auspices of the "Evangelization Society," in our hearing, publicly defended himself from the charge of being a "Plymouth Brother," and remarked that "whenever a Christian begins to read the Word of God for himself, he is immediately branded a 'Plymouth Brother.'" Those who decline to allow any man, Or body of men, to interpret the Scriptures for them, know somewhat of the truth of the evangelist's statement.

### THE NEW BIRTH

Nicodemus, the learned Jewish rabbi, was startled by Christ's declaration *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Though educated, moral, and religious, the Lord Jesus, in answer to his enquiry, emphasized His statement in the words - *Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye MUST be born again* (John 3:7). What is the reason of this necessity? Some look upon it as an arbitrary decree on the part of God to hinder earnest, seeking souls from obtaining salvation. This is a great mistake. There is a moral necessity for regeneration, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh"* (John 3:6), and can never be anything else. Cultivate it, improve it, religionize it, it is still "flesh." If one were taken to Heaven without being *"born of God"* (1 John 5:1), he would be wretched and miserable. *"The carnal mind" - or the mind of the flesh - "is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be; so then they that are in the flesh cannot please God"* (Romans 8:7-8). All of us by nature are *"children of wrath"* (Ephesians 2:3). Some imagine that they were born into the world "Christians," but they are mistaken. We were all born sinners to start with. *"Through the one man's disobedience, the many were made sinners"* (Romans 5:19. R. V.) By the fall of Adam the many - that is all of us - were made, or constituted sinners. If we were to ask a Sunday School class "What is a sinner?" most likely the reply given would be "one who sins." But the answer does not go deep enough. Men are constituted sinners by virtue of what they are, not on account of what they do. Men sin because they are sinners. No one is guilty of Adam's transgression, though all suffer on account of it. An apple tree is an apple tree in January as much as it is in September when it is laden with golden fruit. Because it is an apple tree it bears apples. The new birth is Scriptures say about it. *"Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible by the Word of God"* (1 Peter 1. 23). The Holy Spirit is the author of the new birth, but it is through the word of the truth of the Gospel that sinners are born anew. *"As many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"* (John 1: 12-13,(R.V.) It is by receiving Christ that one is born of God, and to receive Him is to believe on Him. *"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God"* (1 John 5:1). By believing on the Son of God Who loved him and gave Himself for him, the unconverted reader will be born again (John 3:3), saved (Romans 10:9), forgiven sin (Acts 10:43), obtain eternal life (John 6:47), peace with God (Romans 5:1), and be "justified from all things" (Acts 13:38-39). *"For God so loved the world, that*

*He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*

### **ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

Some declare that it is "presumption" for any one to say that he knows he is saved. All we can do, it is confidently affirmed, is to "hope" for the "best" and wait until the "great day" to see where we are to spend eternity. But such teaching is not according to God's Word. Christians, in apostolic days, had no doubts about their salvation from sin's penalty. For proof of this let us appeal to Scripture. *"We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1) "We are "always confident" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). " In Whom we leave redemption through His Blood even the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians. 1:7) . "Being justified by faith we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). "We know that we have passed from death unto life" (1 John 3:14). "I write unto you little children because your sins are forgiven you, for His Name's sake" (1 John 2:12).* If God tells me that by believing on Christ I am forgiven which is the greater "presumption," to believe or doubt His testimony? Scripture declares that those who believe on Christ are forgiven. *"Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).* I believe that Christ bled and suffered and died for me, and according to God's Word, my sins are remitted or pardoned. Am I "presumptuous" in taking Him at His Word and believing that I am forgiven? In Acts 13:38-39, it is distinctly stated that "All that believe are justified from all things." I do believe on Christ, and God's Word says I am "justified from all things." Ought I to doubt my justification , or believe that I am justified because God says so? *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).* I do believe on Him Who died on Calvary for all my sins, and according to God's Word, I am saved. Shall I "set to my seal that God is true" and thank Him for salvation, or shall I disbelieve Him and assert that "no one can know that he is saved until the great day" ? *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness (or testimony) in himself; he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son, and this is the record that GOD HATH GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE and this life is in HIS SON; he that hath the Son HATH LIFE and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5: 10, 11)* Scripture says that those who believe on Christ have everlasting life (John 3:16, 6:47 ). I do believe on Him, and therefore I have everlasting life. If I did not believe that I was the possessor of everlasting life what a horrid sin of making God a liar, and I dare not commit such a heinous offence. *"Verily, verily I say unto you," says the Lord Jesus, "he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me HATH everlasting life, and SHALL come into condemnation ( judgment, R. V.), but is PASSED from death unto life" (John S 24).* All who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are privileged to say "GOD LOVED, GOD GAVE. I BELIEVE, AND I HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

**TEST PAGE OF LESSON 1 FROM STRAIGHT PATH BIBLE STUDY**

**Fill in the blank in the space provided.**

1. What are the guiding principles of denominations? \_\_\_\_\_
2. A body of local Christians gathered to the Lord, should acknowledge certain things? Could you name one of them? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does God improve the "flesh" when a person is born again? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What makes a person a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How can we be so sure that we are saved? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Give one verse that proves we can know that we are saved now.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do we know that salvation is a "gift from God?" \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you know "for sure" that you are saved or do you just think or hope? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How can we make God a liar? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Give one verse that says a born again believer will never COME INTO JUDGMENT?".  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FILL IN YOUR DETAILS:**

Your name:

.....

Email Address:

.....

Postal Address:

.....

STUDY HELPER DETAILS:

Harold - [biblelessons@uniserve.com](mailto:biblelessons@uniserve.com)

Shelly - [email.bible.lessons@gmail.com](mailto:email.bible.lessons@gmail.com)

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Once you have completed this lesson, please attach it to an email addressed to us, and send it. We will then check it, send through any corrections and send you the next lesson. If there is something that you do not understand, please send us an email for an explanation. If you do not hear from us within two days of emailing us, please re-send it. Do you have a friend that would like to do these lessons? If so, email us their details and we will send them the list. Thank you.