



**The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guide
Lesson #4
“Far From the Peaceful Shore”**

We have spent three lessons looking at step number one, which is God’s Love for fallen man. And what a story it is. We studied how God has told us repeatedly through parables, prophets, Psalms, and various other methods, but our fallen condition demanded that God also had to demonstrate it through the death of his Son. By allowing Jesus to suffer our just sentence of death and pay the second death for us God truly demonstrated that love for mankind.

However, that is not all. God would also cover us in The Judgment with the righteousness of Jesus. He would proclaim to the Universe that we are justified and are seen as righteous when in fact we are not. We are saved by both the life and death of Jesus.

What amazing love is this? But, for many of us, we remain unmoved by the topic. It is a well-worn record that we have heard played over and over again, and we are unmoved by it. It solicits no tears, no emotive response, and we seem to be

desensitized to the story. Sadly, we don't even blush, and at best we may reflect upon the story with a somber brow, but does it change our life? Has it caused our life to be brought into captivity to the will of God, and has it subdued the soul as the book **Steps to Christ** suggest that it should?

What is wrong with us? This is a fair question, and the subject matter for today's lesson.

1. What is the title of chapter two in the book **Steps to Christ**? _____
_____. The Sinners Need is Step #2 on the Wheel of Faith.

Read:

a. Job 14:4 (NKJV)

*"Who can bring a clean thing out of an _____?
No one!"*

b. Romans 7:18

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing _____ dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find."

c. Jeremiah 17:9

*"The heart is _____ above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?"*

d. Isaiah 6:5

*"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of _____
lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of _____ lips: for mine
eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts"*

e. Daniel 9:7

"O Lord, Righteousness belongs to you, but to us _____ of face"

- **Discuss:** What is the true condition of these spiritual giants, and what can be said of our own state?

Do you think that there is a disconnect in the current church landscape between what we consider ourselves to be, and what we might actually be?

- Read **Revelation 3:17:** Besides their apparent issues what is their greatest issue?

“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have _____ of _____’. . .and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked . . .”

The real issue with the Laodicean people is that they “have no need.” They feel that they are anything but sinful, and they feel secure in their spiritual attainments, and they do not know that at the core, human nature is foul.

- Read this statement, then discuss what it says about even our best works. Why are they contaminated?

“The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the Heavenly Sanctuary; but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ's propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable.” ISM 344

2. In the New Testament era what does Paul say about the Gentile believers?

- Read **Romans 1:29-31**

- What do you think of his description? Is it an accurate description of the non-believer today?

a. What does Paul say about God’s own people?

Romans 3:9

“What then? Are we better than they? _____ at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.”

- **Read Romans 3:10-20:** This is actually a quote from the Old Testament. In fact, what Paul is effectively saying is “listen to what David and the prophets said about those that were supposed to be closest to God”
- **Discuss:** How might this apply today?

b. As a last resort when cornered by Paul’s mighty arguments and convicted by their own conscience as to the validity to Paul’s claims about the human nature, the Jews pull the Abraham card as a defense.

Read Romans 4:1-2

- Abraham was a man that could boast before men. He was called the father of the faithful, the friend of God, he offered up his only son, set out and knew not where he was going, was faithful in all his doings; yet Paul said though he may be able to boast when compared to other men, *“but NOT BEFORE God!”*

3. Read Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God”

a. What is the Glory of God?

Read Exodus 33:18; 34:5-7

- We understand that the glory of God can be a physical manifestation of His person, and it is also a description of His character. Thus, in light of Paul’s statement “that we have all fallen short of His glory” it is, in

essence, saying that we have all fallen short of the character of God.

- **Discuss:** In what ways was the life of Jesus a demonstration of the character of God? Does the life of Jesus become the standard that we are to measure ourselves? Is the life of Jesus the glory, character that we all have fallen short of?

b. Read and discuss this statement:

“He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation.” CD 152.4

“As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin.” FLB 50

- It should be becoming evident that Jesus’ life was a full demonstration of perfect righteousness, and that is something that I can never achieve. It is why He had to come as a man and live a life that I need to have lived in order to meet the requirements of a perfect righteousness that the law demands.
- c.** As I compare my life to His, or my righteousness to His righteousness what should be the effect on me?

4. Read this statement then discuss:

“One ray of the glory of God, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character.” FLB 128

- Read **Job 9:20-21**.

*“Though I **am** righteous, my mouth will condemn me;
Though I **am** guiltless, He will declare me guilty. “I **am** guiltless;
I **do not** take notice of myself; I **despise** my life.*

- What an amazing statement by Job. In one sense he recognizes that he is a righteous man. Throughout the entire narrative of Job, he defends his righteous life, but as seen in this verse from another point of view Job recognizes that his righteousness in God’s eyes is no righteousness at all. What a great fundamental truth. While we may be living advanced sanctified lives, and God may be doing great things in us, still, our righteousness when compared to the infinite standard of Christ falls woefully short. The infinite standard that the Law reveals in the life of Christ is as high above us as Everest is to the Dead Sea!

5. Let us review our needs so far:

- #1 A need to be saved from the penalty of sin
- #2 A need for His righteousness imputed to me

a. **Now a third need:** A need to be saved from continuing in sin.

- **Read Romans 7:21-25**

“I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O _____ man that I am! Who will _____ me from this body of death? I thank God . . . through _____ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

- We also have a need to be saved from the power that sin has over us. We need to be saved from a life of continual sinning. Because of my sinful nature the proclivity to sin will always be there in this life, and because of that fact, I will always need Jesus to deliver me from myself!
- **Read and discuss:** *“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God.” PK 174.3*

6. **Our 4th and final need.** What is the result of seeing ourselves in the truest light that can be shed upon our sinful condition?

- **Read Romans 5:6-11**

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God _____ His own _____ toward us, in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also _____ in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

- As we see ourselves as sinners, and then consider that despite what we are, God loved us anyway; and by that understanding of what we are it is then that we can truly see God for who He is. And as we consider His great love then our minds can be subdued by that love, and our wills brought into captivity to His.
- I have a need to be subdued by the love of God by knowing my true condition, and His love for me.

7. What is the take away in all this discourse from Paul about how bad we are?

- #1. We have a need to be saved from the penalty of sin - the 2nd death
- #2. We have a need of His righteous life imputed to us because our righteousness is insufficient
- #3. We have a need to be saved from continuing in sin
- #4. We have a need to know the love of God by being honest about what we are, and what He is.

Appeal

Will you take some time today to . . . recognize the truth about the human condition? . . . to doubt your own goodness? . . . to consider Jesus’ goodness, and His righteousness? . . . to consider how He loves you? . . . to confess your great need today?