

The Restorer



SABBATH—JUNE 3

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Genesis 1; Jeremiah 17:9, John 15:13; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:10-19; 1 Corinthians 13:4-13; Titus 1:15; 2 Peter 1:2-8.

MEMORY VERSE: “I [Paul] am sure that the one who began a good work in you will carry it on until it is completed. That will be the day Christ Jesus returns” (Philippians 1:6, NIV).

ONE OF THE GREAT HOPES OF ALL CHRISTIANS IS THE HOPE OF ETERNAL¹ LIFE. Without that hope, we have very little. Eternal life is not a continued life here in this world as it now is. Instead, we have this wonderful promise: “But we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth. Godliness will make its home there. All of this is in keeping with God’s promise” (2 Peter 3:13, NIV). Eternal life is not eternal life in this sinful earth but in a new earth. In the new earth, there will be no sin and no death, but there will be righteousness (holiness).

From the beginning, God has been working toward that eternal life in a new earth. The plan of salvation is how God is working to get us into that new earth. That is why salvation includes the process of restoration.² God is getting us ready for the new earth and the perfect life we will have there.

This week, we will continue our look at what the Holy Spirit is doing in order to prepare us for the new earth.

Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, June 10.

¹ eternal—forever; without beginning or end; lasting forever.

² restoration—to make us once again have God’s character.

SUNDAY—JUNE 4**CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE
(Genesis 1).**

Genesis 1 shows that our life is no accident. We are not here because of something that just happened to cause this planet to be filled with people. We are here because God put us here on purpose. All of Genesis 1 shows God as the Creator. Genesis 1 shows that He had a clear plan for our life. He left nothing to chance. This is very different from evolution.³ Evolution teaches us that we are here only by chance. There was no plan nor purpose for us. We are just an accident. It is hard to imagine any view that is more opposed to the Bible than evolution. No wonder Satan works so hard to get people to believe in evolution.



God put us here for a reason.

³ evolution—the false belief that lower life forms slowly changed over millions of years until these life forms became human.

⁴ the Fall—when Adam and Eve first sinned.

Genesis 1:26, 27 says that God created man and woman in His own image. What does it mean to be created in God's image? How does 1 John 4:8 help us to understand this?

God is love. So, as people made in God's image, we also have the ability to love. This ability to love separates us from the rest of what was created in Genesis 1. The moon, the grass, the seas, and even the animals do not have the ability to love as humans do because they were not made in God's image. Certainly, the ability to love, as we have it, has made us different from everything else God created in our world.

From your personal experiences and your study of the Bible, what is your best understanding of love? John 15:13, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:10. What does your answer tell you about Adam and Eve after God created them? What does your answer tell you about what life on this earth is supposed to be? Be prepared to share your answer in class.

MONDAY—JUNE 5**LOVE AND THE FALL⁴
(Genesis 3:1-6).**

What did Adam and Eve have to have in order to be able to sin?

God created us in His image (Genesis 1:26, 27). So we must have the ability to love because God is love (1 John 4:8). However, love has to be free. God cannot force us to love Him. He cannot force us to love one another. For this reason, God also gave us free choice. The Fall is a powerful example of what happens when people make wrong choices. God did not take away our free choice after the Fall.

Adam and Eve were perfect people. They lived in the full light of God's glory. Their natures were not sinful. We are fallen people with sinful natures. Having free choice while being perfect is one thing, but having free choice while being sinful is another. Which is more scary: a kind, gentle, loving person who carries a gun or a nasty, hateful person who carries a gun?

What kind of picture do the following verses give us about sinful human nature? Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3; Titus 1:15.

The Bible is very clear about the condition of sinful human nature. Sinful human nature is very bad. If not stopped, sinful human nature would lead to death and destruction for all of humanity.⁵ All one has to do is look around to see what our sinful nature has done. We see war, terrorism, drug abuse, molestation, prostitution,⁶ crime, et cetera. Because of God's

grace, we have not destroyed ourselves. If we had enough time, we would do just that.

What things do you see around you every day that show sinful human nature? What do these things tell you about just how terrible our world would be if it were not for Christ?

TUESDAY—JUNE 6

SECOND CHANCE (Romans 5:10-19).

Sunday and Monday we looked at the creation of humanity and at the Fall. Our situation as sinful people was hopeless. Adam and Eve's behavior after the Fall showed their sinful condition. They were fearful, guilty, ashamed, and separated from God. Adam and Eve's children added murder to this list (Genesis 4:8). Before long, people's hearts were "only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

God did not leave people to suffer the full and final results of sin. God started the whole plan of salvation to rescue us from being destroyed. Jesus came. He was tempted the way Adam was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). Adam failed, but Jesus succeeded. Because of Jesus' success, the whole world was given another chance. Through faith in Jesus, anyone can have the promise of eternal

⁵humanity—all of the people of the world.

⁶prostitution—people selling their body for sex.

life, the promise of having everything restored⁷ that was lost through sin.



Jesus' success gives us another chance.

What is the important message in Romans 5:10-19? What brought death? What brings life?

Jesus came. Through all He did with His sinless life and sacrifice, humans have received another chance. We can be restored to God, but none of us is automatically saved.

“The Bible shows we are not our own. Instead, we are bought with a price. It is at a great cost that we can find freedom from the slavery of sin

caused by the Fall. Adam's sin brought humans into hopeless suffering, but by the sacrifice of God's Son, a second chance was given to us. In the plan of salvation, a way of escape is given to all who will accept it.”
—Adapted from *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 15.

Were you ever given a second chance at something? What did you learn from that experience that can help you understand the second chance God has given us?

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 7

THE RESTORATION—PART 1 (2 Peter 1:2-8).

Yesterday we saw that our situation was hopeless. However, God gives us hope through Jesus. He has opened the way for each of us to return to the perfect condition Adam and Eve were in before the Fall.

That is the gospel. The gospel is salvation. The gospel is a change in our relationship (connection) with God. The gospel is also restoration. We were made in God's image (Genesis 1:26, 27). The plan of salvation restores us to His image. This is not something that will happen at the Second Coming. It is something that begins now. The Holy Spirit is working in us now to restore God's image in us.

⁷ restored—to have made something as it was in the beginning.



The Holy Spirit is restoring God's image in us.

How does 2 Peter 1:2-8 help us understand the restoration going on in us right now? How does 2 Peter 1:2-8 relate to Genesis 1:26, 27?

God works to change fallen sinners into His image by changing their wills, minds, and desires. The Holy Spirit works on our characters. We will be completely changed. "Our faces are not covered with a veil. We all display [show] the Lord's glory. We are being changed to become more like him [the Lord] so that we have more and more glory. And the glory comes from the Lord, who is the Holy Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV). Jesus showed us what God is like. Jesus was "the exact likeness" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV) of God. Jesus is not here now; the Holy Spirit is here as His Representative.⁸ The Holy Spirit shows us the truths that will completely change our lives. Our restoration in God's image will not be finished until there is a new heaven and a new earth. Until then, God is work-

⁸ representative—someone who acts for another person. The Holy Spirit acts for Jesus.

ing in us. He is getting us ready for a new life that has been made available to us through Jesus.

Imagine what your life would be like if you more and more showed Jesus' character. What changes would take place if you were to start showing His character in your relationships (connections) with others?

THURSDAY—JUNE 8

THE RESTORATION—PART 2 (Romans 5:1).

Write the important message of each verse listed below. How well are you experiencing the promises given in each verse?

Romans 5:1 _____

2 Corinthians 5:17 _____

Ephesians 4:24 _____

Philippians 2:12, 13 _____

1 Peter 5:10 _____

In the New Testament, *perfection* is a word that comes with the idea of “completion,” “fully grown,” or “mature.” Wherever we are right now in our Christian life, we are complete. However, we will continue to be more complete until Jesus returns.

Without Christ, we cannot reach any kind of “perfection.” It is Christ who “has become God’s wisdom for us. He makes us right with God. He makes us holy and sets us free” (1 Corinthians 1:30, NIV). In Christ, we are holy. We are “complete in Him” even now (Colossians 2:10). It is the Holy Spirit’s work to make this “completeness” in our lives. Our spiritual growth, our character development, our restoration toward the image of God become the example for all to see what it means to “be filled with everything that God had for you” (Ephesians 3:19, NIV). In Christ, the Holy Spirit is making real in us what Christ has done for us. The gospel is salvation from sin and restoration to God’s image. We must be saved from sin and restored

to God’s image to receive eternal life.



The Christian life is a road toward heaven.

FRIDAY—JUNE 9

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44, 45; *Steps to Christ*, “Consecration,”⁹ pp. 47, 48; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pp. 21–23; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, “The Sower Went Forth to Sow,” pp. 33–69; “Two Worshipers,” pp. 161–163; Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, pp. 1097, 1098.

“In the work of salvation, there is no force. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we are free to choose whom we will serve. A change takes place when we surrender to Christ. In this change, there is the highest sense of freedom. The casting out of sin is the act of the soul itself. We have no power to free ourselves from Satan’s

⁹ consecration—dedication for a holy purpose.

control, but when we desire to be set free from sin, we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we obey the commands of the will in fulfilling the will of God.”—Adapted from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 466.

“Those who are guided into a new life by the Holy Spirit are being restored to God’s image. In all their habits and practices, they will give proof of their relationship (connection) to Christ.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1101.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a class, review your answers to Sunday’s final question. Before you do, have each person write on a card his or her own meaning of love. Then have each person read it before the discussion begins.
2. Read aloud in class the second Ellen G. White quote listed in the first column of this page. How does this quote help us understand the close relationship between faith and works?
3. As a class, talk about the idea of a second chance. Is there anyone you know who needs a second chance? If so, as a class, try to find that person and let him or her know that he or she has another chance, with God.