

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this teaching series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will teach from the Bible what is a disciple of Jesus Christ. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. Today's teaching is: A DISCIPLE BEARS FRUIT BY SHARING THE GOSPEL TO OTHERS.

We will consider the message of the gospel and the practical way how to share this message with other people. The gospel is the most important message in the world. Together we will discover the truth of this message in five points: the truth about God, the truth about man, the truth about Christ, the truth about salvation, that is, how the truth can set you free, and the truth about the new life of the Christian.

(S) **POINT 1. THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

The truth about God is that God really exists and that you can know God personally and intimately!

How do we know that God really exists? We know that God really exists, because he has *revealed* himself.

First. God has revealed himself in creation. When you consider the greatness of the universe with its uncountable stars, the powers in the universe, like the power of the sun or lightning, and the beauty of creation, like the beauty of flowers and people, then you can know that there must be a great Designer and Creator behind all this.

Second. God has revealed himself in providential circumstances. The farmers know that every year has different seasons and that the rain and sunshine make plants grow and give them the ability to produce food. It is God who regulates the seasons, gives rain and sunshine and causes plants and trees to produce food! Maybe you have wanted to cross a railway line when an unseen hand pulled you away just before an oncoming train! That was the hand of God that saved your life! Thus providential circumstances tell you that God exists and he cares about you.

Third. God has revealed himself by speaking clearly to man. In the past God spoke through prophets, but he spoke his final words through Jesus Christ. All the things that Jesus Christ revealed about God are written in the Bible. Read the Bible, because it will teach you to know God.

(T) How can we know the character of God? God has not only revealed his power, his care and his will to us, but he has also revealed to us who he is and what he is like. Let us consider two of his characteristics. 1 John 1:5-6 says, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth." God's divine nature is light. God hates darkness. Light and darkness cannot live together. If you want to know God, then you must come out of the darkness into the light. 1 John 4:8 says that God's divine nature is love. If you want to know and experience God, then you must be willing to receive God's love for you.

(S) How did God create you? In Genesis 1:27 we read that God created you in his own image. This means that God created you with the same characteristics that he has. God is a person and can think and talk, see and hear. God created man to be a human person. Therefore man can think and talk, see and hear. God is love and loves man. In the beginning man also loved God. God is holy and righteous and in the beginning he created man holy and righteous as well.

Why did God create you? In Isaiah 43:7 we read that God created you to live for God and not for yourself. God created you to have fellowship with you and to be your friend. God created you so that you would glorify God and serve God.

(T) **POINT 2. THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN**

The truth about man is that he is *condemned* and on his way to destruction.

What is the cause of man's condemnation and destruction? Romans 1:18,28-32 says, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them."

This passage describes what is sin. Sin is wickedness; it is doing all kinds of evil to other people as well as yourself. But sin is also godlessness. It means not to know God, not to live with God and not to live for God. Sin is independence from God. You may live a very good life, but if you do not know the Living God and do not live for the Living God, then you are godless. Both people that are wicked and people that are godless, that is, people that live independent from the Living God are called sinners.

(S) What does sin do to your relationship with God?

First. Sin brings separation between you and God. Let me read Isaiah 59:1-2. "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." God will not listen to any of your prayers, because your sins stand between you and God. God will not welcome you into his presence, because your sins stand between you and God.

Second. Sin brings death into your life. In Romans 6:23 God says that the wages of sin is death. On earth most people fear death more than anything else. Why do all people die? All people die because sin has come into their lives. Because all people die we know that all people have sinned.

Third. Sin brings God's judgement into your life. In Hebrews 9:27 God says that after death comes judgement. Death is not the end of human existence. After death all people will one day stand before the judgement seat of God and God will judge every one of their thoughts, words and deeds that they have done in their whole lives! All unbelievers and wicked people will be thrown in hell. Hell is a place of torment and everlasting destruction. It is a place away from the presence, love and care of the Living God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

(T) POINT 3. THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

The truth about Christ is that he came from God to save everyone who believes in him.

Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God not only speaks of love, but also *demonstrates* that he loves sinners by giving Jesus Christ to die in the place of sinners that believe in him. God revealed himself in Jesus Christ. God himself took on the human nature in Jesus Christ and became a human being that lived on earth. Jesus Christ saved many people from their sicknesses, from demons that plagued them and from ignorance about God. Finally the people on earth rejected him, because they could no longer tolerate the truth that he spoke about their wickedness and godlessness. Both the Jews and the non-Jews condemned him to death. They hammered long nails through the hands and feet of Jesus Christ onto a wooden cross. After hanging on that cross for more than 6 hours, Jesus died.

(S) Why did Jesus Christ have to die? Why can God not save people from their sins without the death of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ had to die, not only to prove that people are evil, but also to satisfy God's holy and righteous anger against their sins. Without the death of Jesus Christ, God could not and would not save believers. There are two reasons why Jesus Christ had to die.

First. Jesus Christ had to die in order to take away God's holy and righteous anger against our sins. God is holy and righteous. He demands that all people live absolute holy and righteous lives. Because no human being can live an absolute holy and righteous life, God must punish their unholiness and wickedness. As long as their unholiness and wickedness has not been punished, God's holy indignation continues to rest on those people (John 3:36). God's holiness and righteousness demands that all sins must be punished. Because all human beings on earth are sinners, no human being can pay the penalty for sin. The death of Jesus Christ was a sacrifice of atonement that turned God's holy and righteous anger against sin away from everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Second. Jesus Christ had to die in order to justify the believer and to reconcile the believer to God. Because sin condemns us to eternal death, we need to be justified and because sin separates us from God, we need to be reconciled to God. In 1 Peter 2:24 we read that Christ bore our sins in his body on the tree. He took the sins of every believer on his own body. Both he and all those sins were nailed to the cross. Jesus Christ was punished in our place. Jesus Christ not only took something away from us, he also gave something for us. He took our sins away and gave us his righteousness. Because Jesus Christ paid the penalty, God *declares* us completely righteous in his eyes. We are justified. From now on, God *regards* us and *treats* us as completely righteous. When God looks at us, he only sees us in Jesus Christ! In 1 Peter 3:18 we read that Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God. Christ's death is like a bridge that brings us to God and reconciles us to him. That is why we call the illustration of the gospel message "the bridge of life illustration".

(T) What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplish for us? Romans 6:4-5 says, "We were therefore buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Christ in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection." The resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplished two things.

First. Jesus Christ was resurrected to transform us. According to Romans 6:4-5, we are united with Christ in his resurrection. He gives us his Holy Spirit in our hearts and this Spirit transforms us to become more and more like Jesus Christ. After his Second Coming, Jesus Christ will also transform our bodies to become like his glorious resurrected body (Philippians 3:21). Our resurrected body will never experience pain, sickness or death anymore!

Second. Jesus Christ was resurrected to be the head of the whole universe. From his resurrection onwards, all power and authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ. He rules the universe and will one day very soon judge every one. Jesus Christ is also the head of the Christian Church. He rules the Church through the Bible, through the Holy Spirit and through the elders of the local church.

(S) Some people believe that they do not need Jesus Christ as Saviour, because they say that they do many good works. Can a person be saved by his good works? Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." The Bible says very clearly that no one will be saved by his good works. Good works cannot save you, because even the very best human good works are not good enough in God's eyes! All good works of people fall short of God's standard of goodness. Anyone who tries to save himself by his own good works is like a person who tries to pull himself up by his own shoelaces! It is impossible to save yourself by good works. It is also impossible to save yourself by religion or religious works, no matter what religion you have. The Bible says that salvation is found in no one else than Jesus Christ, because God has not given any other name to people by which they must be saved (Acts 4:12).

(T) **POINT 4. THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION**

The truth about salvation is that Jesus Christ saves anyone one who believes in him.

John 5:24 says, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

According to Jesus, what are the two things you must do and what are the three consequences?

(S) The two things I must do are: I must *hear* his word and I must *believe*. And when I believe, then the three consequences are: I will *have eternal life*. I will *not be condemned*. And I have *crossed over* from death to life.

(T) Correct. You can only believe after you have heard what you should believe. You have heard the gospel. The response God wants you to make is to believe in Jesus Christ.

(S) How do I believe?

(T) Let me read John 1:11-12. Jesus Christ “came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.”

Let me tell you “the money illustration”. One day I showed to a group of children some money. I promised that whoever wanted this money could have it. Some children laughed and thought that I was joking. Finally, one child came forward, stretched out his hand and received the money. In his heart he had believed that I spoke the truth. So he acted on his faith and received the money. He wanted to give the money back to me, but I told him that I had promised that he could keep it. With a big smile he put the money in his pocket, while the other children looked disappointed that they had not believed my words. Faith works the same way. God promised to give salvation to whoever receives Jesus Christ. People, who do not believe in their heart that God speaks the truth, will also not receive Christ. If in your heart you believe that God speaks the truth, you will receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Conclusion: You believe *by receiving* Christ.

(S) How do I receive Christ?

(T) When you believe in your heart the truth of the gospel, then you receive Christ by praying the following prayer: “Dear Lord Jesus: I confess that I am a sinner and lost. I believe in my heart that you died to pay the penalty for my sin and that you were resurrected to give me eternal life. I now ask you to come into my heart and life. From now on I will confess with my mouth that you, Jesus Christ, are my Saviour and Lord. In Jesus Name. Amen!”

(S) **POINT 5. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEW LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN**

The truth about the Christian life is that it is abundant and very sure.

John 10:10,27-28 says, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand.”

Jesus Christ promises that the Christian life will be very satisfying, very meaningful, and very sure. But Jesus Christ also says that real Christians will listen to his voice and follow him.

(T) **POINT 6. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Memorise the Bridge of Life illustration. Practise explaining this illustration together with other Christians.

Finally, explain this illustration to one non-Christian during the next week.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www. etc.

Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.