

## **LESSON 4**

# **ENCOUNTER WITH A NEW LIFE**

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**

**(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

## LESSON 4. ENCOUNTER WITH A NEW LIFE CONCEPT OF THE PICTURE

1. **Two Tablets in the Sky** ..... The standard of God's holiness never changes.
  
2. **Man Standing with His Back to the Light** ..... Man's sinful nature never changes.
  - (1) **First Tree** ..... Sinful life does not produce harvest.
  - (2) **Second Tree** ..... Sinful life brings death.
  
3. **Burning Fire** ..... God's judgment never changes.
  
4. **The Cross** ..... God's love never changes.
  
5. **Child on His Father's Back** ..... God's method of saving man never changes.
  
6. **Man Standing Facing the Light** ..... The blessing for saved man never changes.
  - (1) **First Tree** ..... Peace
  - (2) **Second Tree** ..... Purpose
  - (3) **Third Tree** ..... Power

# LESSON 4. ENCOUNTER WITH A NEW LIFE

## INTRODUCTION

Why is it that many people are not interested in becoming Christians? Why is it that many people don't have the confidence of salvation even though they say they believe in Jesus Christ? Some of the reasons could be (1) lack of information, (2) misunderstanding, and (3) prejudice.

In this lesson, we learn how we can enjoy the abundant life the Bible promises.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
(John 10:10)

### **1. The standard of God's holiness never changes.**

Living in the world where everything is always changing, man is searching for something that is unchangeable and absolute. The standard of God's holiness, shown in the Ten Commandments, never changes (Exodus 20:1–17).

- (1) You shall have no other gods before me.
- (2) You shall not make for yourself any carved image.
- (3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- (4) Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- (5) Honor your father and your mother.
- (6) You shall not murder.
- (7) You shall not commit adultery.
- (8) You shall not steal.
- (9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor .
- (10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

God's law is like the light from a lighthouse that leads man to a happy life. We can choose to ignore this light, but no one can escape from reaping its unhappy result.

### **2. Man's sinful nature never changes.**

When exposed to the light of God's holiness, it becomes obvious that every man is a sinner. What is sin? It will be defined by the following characteristics.

- Belonging to the devil (John 8:4)
- Disobeying the laws (1 John 3:4)

- Not doing correct things even though you know what you are supposed to do (Jacob 4:7)
- Things that do not come from faith (Romans 14:23)

(1) Sinful life does not produce harvest.

In Jesus' parable recorded in Matthew 13:3–23, there are four kinds of soil: along the path, rocky places, among thorns, and good soil. In good soil, we see harvests of a hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold.

Some people think that they can live a fairly good life without becoming Christian. What should be noticed here is that if such people are reconciled with God, they can live even more fruitful lives.

(2) Sinful life brings death.

"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."  
(Genesis 2:17)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
(Romans 6:23)

### 3. God's judgment never changes.

The Bible is clearly teaching about God's judgment.

"But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."  
(Romans 2:5)

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."(2 Peter 3:7)

"just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,"  
(Hebrews 9:27)

The parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus" in Luke 16:19–31 has an important meaning, especially for us Japanese. Many people say that they'd rather go to a place where their ancestors are, but what are the ancestors shouting? Let's take a look at what the rich man is saying.

"for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."  
(Luke 16:28)

#### **4. God's love never changes.**

The cross is the symbol of God's love. It was once a horrible tool for capital punishment, but it came to be loved by many.

- (1) God's love is unconditional. (Matthew 11:28)
- (2) God's love is self-sacrificial. (Romans 5:8)
- (3) God's love is everlasting. (Jeremiah 31:3)

#### **5. God's method of saving man never changes.**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God tried to save us by faith. Faith means:

- (1) Knowledge about the Gospel
- (2) Agreement with the Gospel
- (3) Decision to receive the Gospel
- (4) Action to follow the Gospel

#### **6. The blessing for saved man never changes.**

Salvation brings various blessings, but here, let's deal with three main blessings.

##### (1) Peace

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1)

##### (2) Purpose

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

##### (3) Power

"On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.'" (John 7:37, 38)

You can start a new life today with this prayer.

"Heavenly Father, I was a sinner. Please forgive me. I welcome Jesus Christ into my heart as my Savior from my sin and Lord of my life. Thank you that my sin is now forgiven and you made me a child of God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen"