

# Lesson 1: So, You Are A New Christian

## Introduction

You have recently experienced the most life-changing event that you will ever experience. The fact that you are a new Christian means that you have followed God's Plan of Salvation. This is not a man-made doctrine but rather the way God has instructed us in the way He adds us to the church (Acts 2:41).

## The Plan of Salvation

### **Hear the Gospel**

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) After hearing the Word of God being preached or taught, you would have believed it.

### **Believe**

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24) After believing, you would have repented of your sins.

### **Repent**

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) After having repented of your sins, you would have confessed the name of Christ.

### **Confess**

"You must, confess that Jesus is Lord. He is Lord whether you confess it or not, but it is unto your salvation that you must acknowledge His deity and His ownership" (Romans 10:9-10)

### **Baptized**

After confessing His name, you will have been baptized. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)



## Blessings in Christ

As a new Christian, you have access to many blessing being in Christ.

### **A. The Gift of Salvation**

1. Jesus promised salvation after baptism. (**Mark 16:16**) - ***He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.***
2. When we speak of salvation, we must necessarily realize that we are saved "from" something.
  - a. The Christian is saved "from" his sins.
  - b. The Christian is saved "from" eternal damnation.

### **B. The Remission of Sins**

1. The very first time that the gospel was preached in Acts 2, Peter told those assembled to "Repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Remission means to "release from guilt," or "to forgive."
2. Sins are washed away (**Acts 22:16**) - ***And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'***

3. The Christian is no longer enslaved by sin (**John 8:34**) - **Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin,** and he is no longer under the dominion of sin (**Romans 6:14**) - **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.** Rather, he has become a “servant of righteousness” (**Romans 6:18**) - **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

### **C. Genuine Joy**

1. When the Ethiopian eunuch came forth from the waters of baptism, he “went on his way rejoicing” (**Acts 8:39**) - **Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.**
2. When the jailor and his family were converted, they “rejoiced greatly” (**Acts 16:34**) - **Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.**

## **As A New Christian, You Have New Relationships**

### **A. You are a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13)**

1. This “body” is His, or Jesus’ church (Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18, 24).
2. Since we are members of the body of Christ, we have a connection with the “head” that being Jesus Christ.

### **B. You are a child in God’s family (John 3:3-5)**

1. The church is the family of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
2. Because we are children of God, then we have brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **C. You are a citizen in the kingdom (church) of God. (John 3:5; Matthew 18:3)**

1. The church is referred to as the kingdom in the Bible (Matthew 16:18-19; Hebrews 12:28)
2. Christ is the King (Acts 17:7; Acts 2:36)
3. In the kingdom, we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens (Ephesians 2:19)
4. You are a laborer in Christ’s vineyard. (Matthew 20:1-16)

### **D. You are a laborer in Christ’s vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)**

1. The church of our Lord is a vineyard where people work.
2. Christians are said to be God’s fellow workers (1 Cor. 3:9)
3. And our “toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58)

### **E. You are a priest in the temple of God (1 Pet. 2:5-9; Rev 1:5-6)**

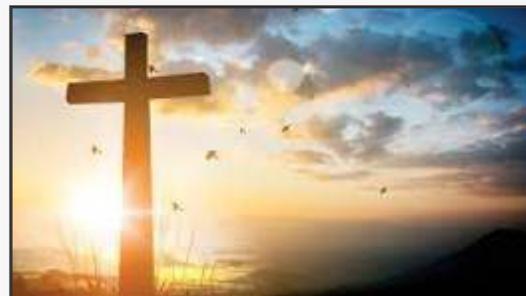
1. As priests, we offer to God our spiritual sacrifices, the sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15)
2. Our bodies are to be presented as “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1)

### **F. You are a part of the bride of Christ (Rom. 7:4; Rev. 21:9)**

1. We are to keep ourselves pure and clean (Eph. 5:26-27)
2. We must never destroy the purity of the bride of Christ (James 1:27; James 4:4)

### **G. You are a branch in the vine (John 15:1-8)**

1. As such, we are to bear fruit, that we might glorify God (John 15:8)
2. We must be fruitful in every good work (Col. 1:10)



# As A New Christian, You Have Responsibilities to Fulfill

## **A. You have the responsibility of walking in newness of life. (Rom. 6:3-4)**

1. The Christian does not continue to love that old life, that life characterized by sin, that life associated with sinful companions.
2. He does not continue to practice sin (1 John 3:9). Note that this word “sin” (or the expression “he cannot sin”) is a progressive tense, which indicates that he cannot continue to love a life of sin.

## **B. You have the responsibility of developing the desire to grow (1 Pet. 2:2)**

1. We must truly hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6)
2. At the outset we are indeed immature, babes in Christ, not able to consume the meat of the word (Heb. 5:12-14), but we can grow, and indeed we must grow.
3. A lagging appetite and desire to study the Bible is a sign of spiritual sickness.

## **C. You have the responsibility of glorifying God in every aspect of life.**

1. Every responsibility of the Christian could properly be reduced to the matter of glorifying God (1 Pet. 4:16)
2. The severest condemnation of God, and the one reason why God “gave them over” is found in the fact that men failed to glorifying God (Rom. 1:21).

## **D. You have responsibility of teaching others.**

1. Each member of the body of Christ is to function properly for the overall good of the church (1 Cor. 12:13-27)
2. What you have heard, you need to tell others about (Acts 9:20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
3. The Christian is to be a channel, not a reservoir.
4. Just as some parts of the body have greater functions than others, so in the body of Christ. But the point is that each of us can function in some way, so that others may know of Christ.

## **Conclusion**

### **A. You are a new Christian, a babe in Christ, and growth will take place.**

1. You can grow in your faith and knowledge, or you can grow away from Christ.
2. But you will grow! It becomes a matter of choosing the direction of your growth.

### **B. You are a new Christian, and we are delighted to welcome you into the family of God.**

1. You have received the greatest of blessings, but you also have assumed the greatest of responsibilities.
2. We are here to help you in your growth process. We need to assure you that we are too are in the process of growth; we haven’t “arrived.”
3. May God help you to become grounded in the faith, firm in your convictions, and determined to “be faithful unto death” (rev. 2:10)