

Conversion

A Bible Study Course for Adults

by

Jonathan E. Schultz

Leader's Guide

Lesson One—Why Do We Need to Be Converted?.....	4
Lesson Two—God Provided the Solution to Sin	10
Lesson Three—We Are Saved by Faith Alone.....	19
Lesson Four—The Holy Spirit Has Called Us by the Gospel	26
Lesson Five—The On-Going Results of the Spirit's Work	34
Lesson Six—Beware of False Prophets.....	41

All rights reserved.

New edition, 2008

Northwestern Publishing House
1250 N. 113th St., Milwaukee, WI 53226-3284
© 2000 by Northwestern Publishing House
Published 2000
Printed in the United States of America
ISBN 978-0-8100-1087-1

To the leader

May our Savior, who so graciously cleansed us from every stain of sin, who so wonderfully gave us faith and life eternal, pour out his richest blessings on your faith and life as you learn his Word.

Jonathan Schultz

Using the computer CD included in this Bible study kit

Thank you for purchasing an NPH Bible study kit. The computer CD included with this Bible study offers resources to help you prepare to teach God's Word to his people.

What will I find on the CD?

Each CD contains two text files, GUIDES.TXT and RESOURCE.TXT, and two directories, GUIDES and RESOURCE.

Read the short text files first. The GUIDES.TXT file tells you what is in the GUIDES directory. It lists the various formats for the student's guide copy masters. The RESOURCE.TXT file tells you what is in the RESOURCE directory. It contains a list of articles and resource material you may find helpful in preparing to teach the course.

How do I open the text files?

There are no programs on this CD. In other words, there is nothing you need to install on your computer and run. These are simple files, such as a letter or sermon you might save on your hard drive. To use these files, simply open them as you would any other file.

Most word processors have a window in which you can navigate to various places to locate files. You will need to tell your word processor that you want to find a file on the drive in which you inserted the Bible study CD. This will usually be drive c: or d:. If you are using a Windows™ word processor, click on drive c: or d: in the Open File window. When you have selected the appropriate drive, it will list the files and directories that are on the Bible study CD.

What if no files or directories appear? Some word processors are set to show only files created by or for that program. You need to indicate that you want to see *all the files* on the CD. A pull-down menu in the Open File window gives you the options for the types of files you want the program to list. Choose "all files" or the equivalent. All the files and directories on your CD should appear. At this point you should be able to open the two text files. By navigating to the GUIDES and RESOURCE directories, you will be able to view the file names and open their contents as well.

How do I use the files in the GUIDES directory?

The GUIDES directory contains the student's guide copy masters and leader's guide.

The files in the GUIDES directory are provided in both RTF and PDF formats. We have made every effort to provide you with the capability of adapting this Bible study to your needs. However, some degree of reformatting may be necessary to use the RTF files on your computer.

The files included on this CD can be used by both IBM and Macintosh systems.

If you have any questions about using the CD, please call NPH at (414) 615-5773.

Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

SAMPLE

Lesson One

Why Do We Need to Be Converted?

Conversion, pp. 11-22

Goals

1. To see the wonderful way God had originally created mankind
2. To understand the root source of evil—Satan's rebellion
3. To learn how sin and death entered the human race
4. To see our need for the Savior, Jesus, for without him we are lost

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, as we begin this study, we may be filled with many questions about evil in the world and even in our own hearts. Lead us to accept the truth of your Holy Word regarding our predicament lest we turn away from you or speak evil of you. Then, as we sense the urgent need for forgiveness of sin and new life, may the gospel news of your Son breathe that life into our souls. In his name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

- What deeds of kindness and goodness do you see people performing?
Ask the class to give examples. People still perform deeds of kindness and goodness. These deeds reflect the natural knowledge of God's law that all people still have.
- There are, however, many signs that something is drastically wrong with the world and with human beings. Can you name some of these things?
Open a weekly magazine or daily newspaper and pick out the headlines that speak of natural disasters, accidents, immorality, disease, and man's inhumanity to man.
- If the world has such beauty, and the human race has such potential, why is there evil in the world?
We'll answer that question today as we turn to his revealed truth, the only reliable source for spiritual answers.

God is not responsible for evil

Genesis 1:4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (The word "good" is repeated in Genesis 1:10,12,18,21,25,31.)

- How did God make everything?

Everything was very good. There was nothing imperfect or evil in his creation. Although we see evil in the natural world, we must guard against the thought that God might be its author.

Genesis 1:26,27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- How did God create Adam and Eve?

God created Adam and Eve in his image, that is, holy and righteous. They had a complete knowledge of God's will and the ability to live by it. See also Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10.

Psalms 104:33-35 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD. But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Romans 11:33,36 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- What is the ultimate purpose of God's creation?

According to the Scriptures, the ultimate goal and purpose of creation is the glory of God. Our personal comforts are not the ultimate goal of creation. Ultimately, the world was created for the Lord's own sake. God made all things to serve his loving purposes.

Satan's rebellion and human sin are responsible for evil

Holy Scripture clearly teaches that angels exist. It doesn't state when they were created, although it was within the six days of creation (Colossians 1:16). They were created very good. Angels are spiritual beings, without physical form. They assumed human form from time to time to appear to men. They have intelligence, will, and emotion. Their purpose is to serve the Lord and his people.

Jude 6 The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

2 Peter 2:4 God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment.

- What happened to some angels?

Some angels left their original created position. Of their own free will they turned away from God and became his enemies. The Scriptures don't reveal the specific nature of their rebellion as they followed Satan away from God. It was probably their

pride that moved them to want more than God had given them. The Bible doesn't reveal when they sinned. Their rebellion occurred after the sixth day of creation and before the fall of man.

The evil angels continuously think evil of God and his purposes. They exist in eternal death, separated from God's gracious presence in anguish and sorrow, awaiting the final judgment.

***Genesis 3:1-7** The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

***John 8:44** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- How did Satan lead the human race to take part in his rebellion?

Satan entered the Garden of Eden and, through a serpent, tempted Eve and Adam. Note the path of temptation and sin. The Devil, in his hatred toward God, tempted Eve to doubt God's Word. He contradicted the Word and then promised Eve something better if she disobeyed the Word. She then questioned God's goodness, sensing that the forbidden fruit was good and something she should be allowed to have. She believed Satan rather than God, and in her unbelief she actively disobeyed God. She then became part of Satan's plan to spoil God's perfect creation as she gave the fruit to Adam. He also ate it.

For Discussion

- Some accuse God of injustice by saying: "Why did God create people in such a way that they could be tempted to sin? Why does he still allow us to be tempted by sin?" How would you answer those questions?

Skewed reason will either accuse God of being the cause of sin, or it will deny the reality of sin and guilt. God has chosen not to reveal the full answers to these questions. We must simply accept that in this area God's ways are beyond our comprehension.

- Agree or disagree: "God must at least approve of sin, since he allows evil to continue."

Scriptures reveal that God was not the cause of sin in the devil or in man. Nor does he approve of sin in any person. God is so perfect and so opposed to every evil that