



Like a Moth in a Flame

Romans 9:16

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Copies of coloring page
- ✓ Copy of Photo Illustration
- ✓ Copies of take home overview sheet



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Objective of Lesson

It is important to understand who we are and what we are in the light of who God is and what His Son, Jesus Christ, did for His people. Salvation is altogether a work of God. It has nothing to do with what we do and how well we do it. We are bound by our sin nature and can do nothing outside of it; but in Christ we are set free from the law under which we are condemned.

Scripture Reference

(Romans 9:16) "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."

Lesson Instructions

1. The scripture we are going to talk about this morning you may have heard many, many times, either from your Pastor, parents, or Sunday School teachers. It is a verse that is referred to a lot by God's pastors, and it teaches us a very important fact about how sinners are saved by God. I want you to turn with me to Romans 9: 16. This is a short verse. Can any of you read it to me? (Hold up the verse for someone to read on the provided print out) *(Romans 9:16) "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."* I am going to read to you another

version of this verse. NIV Romans 9:16 "It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy." What is this verse talking about? That is what we are going to discuss today. First let's go over a few things we may have forgotten.

2. I am going to ask you a few questions. Can you look over and see the person next to you? Yes, they have a physical body, arms, legs, eyes etc... Now can you look at that same person and see that person's spirit? No. Why? These physical eyes can't see spiritual things. Anything that has to do with the spirit we can't understand OR see. Hmm...Why is that? Did you know we USED to be able to see and understand spiritual things? Yes, we really did. Do you all remember the story of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman on the earth? When Adam and Eve were first created they were perfect creatures. They never sinned and were made to only do good and right things; they did no evil. They were created to love God perfectly. They were created to walk and talk and commune with God and they were made to never, ever, die. Can you imagine that? They were created to live forever and ever. Wait a minute! Didn't we come from Adam and Eve? Why are we not like that? Do we live forever and ever? Do we love God perfectly with all our hearts? What happened that ruined us? Adam and Eve sinned against God.
3. How did they sin against God? God, their Father and creator, gave them ONE rule - only one rule they had to follow. He gave them everything they needed. He told them they could eat of any tree in the whole garden but the ONE tree in the midst of the garden they were not to eat of. That was God's only command. God is sovereign. He rules all things and there are no other rulers. He is the only God there is. He created Adam and Eve and freely gave them everything, but God told them in the day you eat of that one tree - you will definitely, for sure, no doubt about it, die. You would think that would be enough of a warning, right? Oh, but what happened? They ate of that tree anyway, and God spoke the truth, because God cannot tell a lie. So what happened? Did they die? Yes! They died in ways they couldn't even imagine.

Immediately their spirits died, and at the same time their bodies began to corrupt, and get old, and die.

4. How did their spirits die? Spiritually they died because their spirits became as dead men are. Can a dead man see, or talk, or hear? No, of course they can't. They are dead! You can scream and yell at a dead man all day and he is not going to respond, or hear you. It is the same thing when we died spiritually. We became blind and deaf to God. Because God is spirit and we spiritually died, we can no longer see and hear God. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of that fruit they lost all those abilities and privileges. God is so holy and good that He CANNOT even LOOK on something sinful. Where He sees sin, no matter who it is - even if He sees it in His OWN SON - it MUST be punished. After we died spiritually we FORCED to leave God's presence. We could no longer hear, speak, or see God. We were cast out of the garden. Why? It's because we are now horribly ruined in sin and because God must punish sin with death.
5. Every human being born from Adam and Eve after that point is born a horribly ruined and sinful creature. The scriptures say, "we are born in sin". (Psalm 51: 5) That means that whatever Adam and Eve became, we inherited their same dead spiritual nature, and as soon as we are born our bodies are headed for the grave to die as well. The Bible tells us, "the wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6: 23) That means every person born a sinner is going to physically die and is born spiritually dead. I heard an illustration once that will give you a good picture of how horrible in sin we are and how God looks on us now.
6. How many of you have been to a bonfire? (Hold up illustration of Bonfire and moth) Those types of fires are big and HOT! Right? What if a little tiny moth flew into that bonfire? What would happen? POW! That moth would just disintegrate into nothing. It would be completely and utterly destroyed!!! That is a great illustration of what would happen to us if we came before God as we are now - as a sinful and horrible creature.

7. Imagine you are that little bitty moth. Now imagine you say this..." I am going to go to God just the way I am now. I am really not THAT bad. I want to go to God. It is my decision - even though I am a sinful creature. I will just do my best, work really hard, and He will accept me, because I want Him to, and if I show Him I can work hard to not be sinful, then He will accept me!" OH no! What happens? POW! We would be burned up immediately because of our sin! Before you got a word out of your mouth! POW! It would be over!!! You would be gone! Death forever!
8. That is EXACTLY what this verse is teaching us. Let's read it again. (*Romans 9:16*) "*So then it is not of him that willeth,*" Wait a minute...Isn't that what our little moth said? I WILL to go to God? I WANT to go to God? I am just going to will it to happen? Yes, but what happened? POW! He was burned up! But he WANTED to go to God? Doesn't that count? NO, you cannot go to God in your sins. Sin has to be punished. The next part of that verse says...*nor of him that runneth...* Wait a minute. Isn't that what the moth said too? I will try really hard to follow all of God's rules and make up for the fact that I am sinful and horrible and corrupt. If I do my best God will accept me! What happened? POW! He was burned up! But he TRIED his best? Doesn't that count? No, you CANNOT go to God in your sins!!!! SIN MUST BE PUNISHED!!!
9. Now what? If we can't will ourselves into God's love and we can't pay for our sins by doing better, then what is our hope? How are sins paid for? God provides the payment! (*Genesis 22:8*) WE can't pay for it with our death, and WE can't will it better, or work hard to make up for and pay for our sins, so is there any good news in this? Is it all gloom and doom for us little moths? Read the last part of the verse..., *but of God that showeth mercy.* - OH, there it is!!! There is hope for us sinners! GOD shows mercy! If we need it we don't look to ourselves to provide payment for our sins, but instead we look to God! God chooses to give mercy as a free gift in Christ Jesus His Son! If you need it, who do you go to? Christ Jesus! (*Psalm 55: 16*) God provided a

way for our sins to be paid for in His Son's death on the cross and He gifts it to whomever needs it. Do you need it? Romans 10: 13, "For whosoever **shall call upon** the name of the Lord **shall** be saved."

10. That is what our Bible is all about! Christ is our hope! All those who were put into Christ by God Himself are safe from His great fiery wrath. If you need pardon for your sins, go to the Son of God, who has the authority to give you pardon! (Matthew 28:18) His people don't trust in their works but the perfect work of Jesus Christ. God's people don't trust in their own decisions and their own desires, but instead they trust and believe that Christ is their salvation. (Proverbs 3: 5-6) They trust that Christ really did come to this earth and pay for their sin debt. (John 19: 30) All those who are in sin, who have no hope of being saved by anything they do, have hope in Christ! Christ took the sins of His people, paid for them and gifted them free pardon, and now they don't have to die. They can be welcomed into God's presence and they won't be burned up because of their awful sin. Their sin is gone! (Psalm 103:12)

Lesson Activities

- Coloring Sheet

Take Home Lesson Overview



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has the authority to give you pardon! (Matthew 28:18) His people don't trust in their works but the perfect work of Jesus Christ. God's people don't trust in their own decisions and their own desires, but instead they trust and believe that Christ is their salvation. (Proverbs 3: 5-6) They trust that Christ really did come to this earth and pay for their sin debt. (John 19: 30) All those who are in sin, who have no hope of being saved by anything they do, have hope in Christ! Christ took the sins of His people, paid for them and gifted them free pardon, and now they don't have to die. They can be welcomed into God's presence and they won't be burned up because of their awful sin. Their sin is gone! (Psalm 103:12)

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