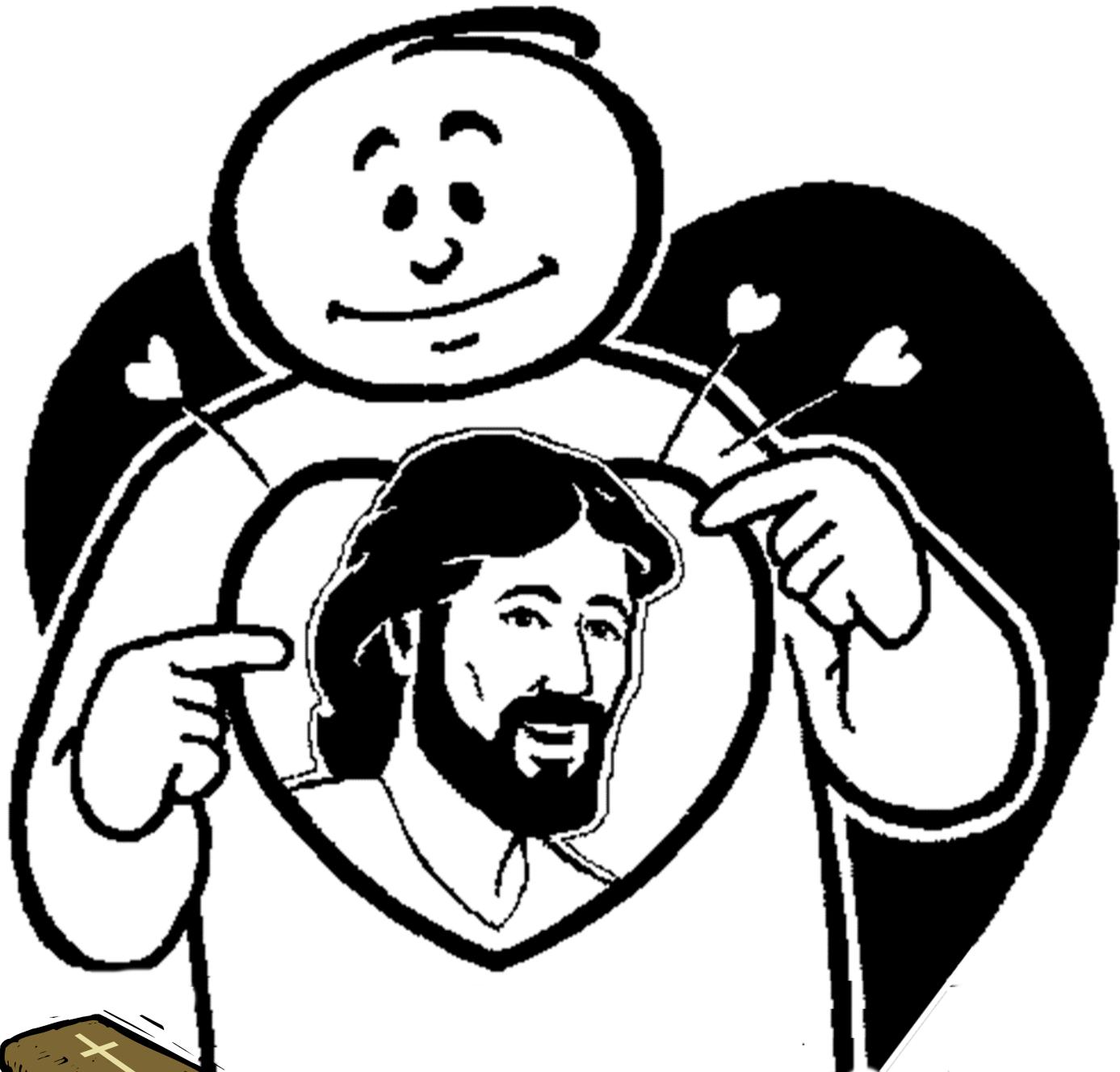


# The Greatest Love

*Eternal Salvation*



12 Foundation Stones Class 8B

# Class Section 1: Eternal Salvation by Grace

## \* Salvation—Eternity in Heaven with the God of love

The greatest gift of love that God has given us is Jesus! Jesus loved us enough to leave His home in Heaven to come to earth with a mission from His Heavenly Father—to live, love, and die for humankind. He left the splendors of Heaven to suffer a cruel death at the hands of cruel men. Why? That we may be saved.

God knows that none of us could be good enough to earn our way to Heaven. It's only Jesus' sacrifice in our place that makes it possible for us to obtain salvation, the blessing of spending eternity in Heaven with the loving Creator.

### Receiving Jesus guarantees eternal life in Heaven

*John 11:26a—And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.*

*John 14:3—I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

*1 John 5:11b—God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*



## \* We can only get saved by receiving Jesus

We don't deserve to go to Heaven. We are all sinners, and sin brings about spiritual death; but Jesus died in our place, taking our punishment:

*Isaiah 59:2a—But your iniquities have separated you from your God.*

*Romans 6:23a—For the wages of sin is death.*

*Romans 5:8—But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21—For He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for [instead of] us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*Acts 4:12—Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

*John 14:6—Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

*1 Timothy 2:5—For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*

*1 Corinthians 3:11—For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

## The two religions

While presenting the Gospel on the street of a California city, we were often interrupted as follows: "Look here! There are hundreds of religions, and the followers of each sect think theirs the only right one. How can poor men like us find out what really is the truth?"

We generally replied something like this: "Hundreds of religions, you say? That's strange.—I've heard of only two."

"Oh, but you surely know there are more than that?"

"Not at all. I find, I admit, many shades of difference in the opinions of those comprising the two great schools, but after all there are but two. The one covers all who expect salvation by doing. The other, all who have been saved by something done. So you see the whole question is very simple. Can you save yourself, or must you be saved by another? If you can be your own savior, you do not need my message. If you cannot, you'd do well to listen to it."

**\* We can't work for our salvation. It is by grace, a gift of God, and cannot be earned.**

*Ephesians 2:8-9— For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

*Titus 3:5a—Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.*

*Galatians 2:16—A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.*

*Romans 11:6—And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*

Jesus died because we're all sinners and it is impossible for us



to be perfect, it is impossible for us to perfectly keep laws like the Laws of Moses. Only Jesus was perfect and that's why He could pay the price of our sins and God could forgive us, because He took our punishment for us. He gives us salvation as a gift, because we could never earn it, we could never be perfect. We always make mistakes and commit sins.

God has offered pardon to the guilty. It doesn't matter how bad you are, how wicked you are, or what you've done.—It doesn't matter to God! If you'll just confess your sins to Him, ask Him to forgive you and take Jesus into your heart, He'll save you.

### **Following Jesus' example is not enough**

At the close of a Gospel service, an intelligent-looking man came to the minister and said, "I do not see any necessity for the Blood of Christ in my salvation. I can be saved without believing in His shed Blood."

"Very well," said the minister. "How then do you propose to be saved?"

"By following His example," was the answer. "That is enough for any man."

"I suppose it is," said the minister. "And you propose to do just that in your life?"

"I do, and I am sure that is enough."

"Very well, I am sure that you want to be following right. The Word of God tells us how to do that. I read here concerning Christ, 'Who

did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.' (1 Peter 2:22) I suppose that you can say that of yourself too?"

The man became visibly embarrassed. "Well," he said, "I cannot say that exactly. I have sometimes sinned."

"In that case you do not need an example, but a Savior; and the only way of salvation is by His shed blood."

## **Cleansing for ALL sins**

No matter what your sins are, if you are sorry, Jesus will forgive you!

*1 John 1:7—The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

All sin, A-L-L, all sin! You don't have to worry about all those different kinds of sins, because you're going to be forgiven for all your sins: Past, present and future! Because He promised, "the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin!" Praise God!

**\* You cannot lose your salvation: Once saved, forever saved!**

*John 6:37—All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

*John 10:28 — I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*

*Romans 8:38–39 - Nothing can ever separate us from God's love.*

*Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears*

*for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

If you have Jesus, then you have eternal life, and you cannot lose eternal life! You can lose your physical life, but never your eternal life.

Salvation is forever! Once saved, you are always saved, because God cannot lie or go back on His Word or on Himself. God doesn't change His mind. Once you've received Jesus Christ and you've let Him into your heart and you love Him and you know Him and you believe on Him as your Savior, you are a saved child of God and you're going to live forever!

Once you are "born again" as His child, you will always be His child. You can't be unborn!

*John 3:36a—He who believes in the Son has everlasting life.*

You have salvation right now! Your salvation does not depend on your



behavior, or on going to church, or on anything like that. It doesn't say you're going to have it, it says you have it right now!—"Has everlasting life!" If you stand in danger of losing it many times, how can you have everlasting life? It's not everlasting if it only lasts a few minutes, till your next sinful thought or next evil deed.

How can you be saved and unsaved, and then saved and unsaved, 100 times a day? Some say, "Well, I won't know if I'm going to make it to Heaven until I'm dead and He balances up and measures all my good deeds against my bad deeds. If the good ones outweigh the bad ones, well then maybe I'll make it." They never really know when or where they stand or how or if or what! It's enough to make a nervous wreck out of you! But thank God, we can have rest and peace of mind, knowing that we don't have to worry about whether we're good enough or if we've been too bad or if we're going to make it or not, every day wondering whether we're going to be saved or not. If you could save yourself, the Lord wouldn't have had to give His life for you.

True, you are more likely to receive His daily blessings upon your life if you conduct yourself in the way that He wants you to, if you do the things that please Him. But you can't keep yourself saved. Jesus did that once and forever, and His gift is eternal life.

### **\* What about sin?**

Although your sins won't result in you losing your salvation, you may lose some of God's blessings in your life if you walk on the wrong paths.

*Romans 6:1,2,11, 16 —Should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not!*

*...you should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. ... Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.*



If you commit sins against the Lord and others that are unconfessed, unrepented of, and not made right, you will

endure the consequences for them in some way. As a loving Father, the Lord will try to help you learn from your mistakes and discontinue from taking the wrong paths in life.

*Hebrews 12:5–8 — For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child. As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.*

*Revelation 3:19 — I correct and punish the people I love. So show that nothing is more important to you than living right.*

Just remember, that even if you are disobedient and chastened of the Lord for your sins, once you are saved, you'll always be saved!

## **Class Section 2: Jesus' death ended the Mosaic Law and ushered in the era of grace**

In the beginning, God created man to freely and willingly choose to love and obey Him as His thankful children. He really preferred the whole thing by grace and faith to begin with and there were very few rules, very few laws, everything was to be done voluntarily out of love.—That was His original plan.

But as man became more and more disobedient and wicked, God had to give him more and more laws and rules and regulations. These laws were not made for the righteous person, because the righteous person doesn't harm or do wrong to his neighbor, but they were made for the wrongdoers, the evil people, the wicked. The Laws were given for the people who do not have love, who do evil, unloving, harmful things. The Bible says that:

*1 Timothy 1:9—For the law was not intended for people who do what is right. It is for people who are lawless and rebellious, who are ungodly and sinful.*

Because man didn't follow grace and faith and love, God had to crack down with the rules, the cage of the law for the transgressors. But the rules couldn't save man, they only showed him where he was wrong.

In fact, it is impossible for anyone to be good according to the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law makes every one of us a sinner, because not one of us can keep all the law!

*Galatians 3:10-11 - But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say,*

*“Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.” So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. James 2:10 - The person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws.*

**\* Scrupulously keeping the Mosaic Law never saved anyone**

*Romans 3:20—No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

*Romans 9:31-32 —The people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him.*



**\* The Old Law was merely a copy, a shadow, of the real thing**

*Hebrews 8:5—They [the Israelite priests] serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven.*

*Hebrews 9:10 - That old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a*

*better system could be established.*

*Hebrews 10:1—For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.*

*Colossians 2:16-17 - So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.*

## **\* Jesus' death ended the Mosaic Law and ushered in the era of grace**

*Romans 10:4—For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

*Colossians 2:14—Having wiped out [the slate completely clean of] the handwriting of requirements [the law] that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

*Hebrews 8:13—In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first [covenant] obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

*Hebrews 10:9—Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first [law] that He may establish the second.*

*Hebrews 8:6—But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*

The law was only our teacher, our instructor or "schoolmaster" to show us that we're sinners, to bring us to God for mercy, and to show us His absolute perfection and perfect righteousness which

was impossible for us to attain:

*Galatians 3:24-25—Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

A testament or a contract was often sealed with the testator's blood. They would sometimes prick their finger and sign their name in blood as proof that they really meant business. When Jesus shed His blood, He was in a sense signing His name to the covenant in His own blood. This was the new contract.

### **The saved are no longer bound by the rigid Mosaic Law**

Jesus has liberated us from the Mosaic Law, in its place, giving us His laws of loving God and loving our neighbor.

*Romans 6:14b—You are not under law but under grace.*

*Romans 8:1-2—There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

The Lord far prefers that we willingly and cheerfully do what He asks with the right loving motivation, because we want to do what's right and because we love Him and others, rather than just because we have to obey because it's the law or because of fear of punishment or fear of judgment, etc.



*Galatians 5:14—For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

*Matthew 7:12—Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

*Romans 13:8—Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

If you have love, you are fulfilling the laws of God.

## **\* Salvation is simple**

Jesus came to try to make salvation as easy as He possibly could! He showed the people that they didn't have to follow the religious laws and rules and regulations and the Ten Commandments and all the rest. All they had to do was simply confess that they were sinners and needed salvation and ask Jesus to give it to them.

The whole idea is so simple and so childlike that Jesus said you must become as a little child to enter His spiritual Kingdom of love, joy, and happiness here and now in this life—as well as a beautiful, wonderful, and thrilling eternity in His heavenly Kingdom in the next life. He said,

*Matthew 18:3—Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*John 3:3—Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."*

Does a baby understand the love of its mother? Does a little child understand the love of its father?—No, he just feels it, knows it, accepts it, and receives it! Even before he understands language,

before he even learns to talk, he understands love, he feels love, and he trusts his parents because they love him. He hasn't read it in the Bible, he hasn't read love letters from his mother, he simply feels it in her love and sees it in her actions.

So you don't have to understand all about God to know His wonderful love and salvation in Jesus.—All you have to do is receive it!

## Let's Live!

*From Jesus with love*

If you have found Me, you have found the secret to experiencing life to the full. I am far more than a historical character who lived and



died 2,000 years ago. Because I rose from the dead, I am even more alive and active today than I was when I walked the earth. And because I live, you too can experience life and love as they were meant to be experienced, both here and now, and forever—boundless and eternal. There is no hurt that I can't heal, no sadness that I can't turn to joy, no need that I can't provide, no void that I can't fill.

I am alive today in each heart that welcomes Me. I am active and at work, always renewing, restoring, and replenishing, making everything better and more beautiful whenever I am given a chance. Let Me live in you!