

**BIBLE STUDY: FACING LIFE'S ISSUES
WITH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

**What has God done to give us
an outward-directed focus in life?**

LESSON 2

1. He established a unilateral covenant with us.

Read Genesis 15:8-10; 17-18: In Abram's day, a contractual agreement between two parties was sealed by cutting an animal in half, linking elbows together, and then walking together between the two halves. In this case, three animals (heifer, goat and ram) were used instead of one. Why?

In verse 17, what indicates that this covenant with Abram was a unilateral rather than a bilateral covenant?

What is significant about that?

How does it affect our focus in life?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

What distinguishes the "new covenant with the house of Israel" from the covenant they broke?

Count the number of times God says "I will" in these verses. What was his purpose for the repetitions?

2. He declared the whole world to be righteous for Jesus' sake.

Read Romans 5:18-19.

To whom do the words "one trespass" refer?

To whom do the words “one act of righteousness” refer?

Who are the beneficiaries of the “one act of righteousness”?

Why is it essential to know that what Christ did, He did for all, not just for some?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:19.

Who has been reconciled to God “in Christ”?

What words does Paul use to explain the meaning of reconciliation?

Read 1 John 2:2.

Why is it essential to know that Christ “is the atoning sacrifice... for the sins of the whole world”?

3. He initiates our relationship with Him.

Read Ephesians 1:4.

What is the significance of the fact that we are children of the Father by His choice rather than by our choice?

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 and Colossians 2:13.

To whom and to what do we owe our salvation?

4. He grounds our faith entirely upon His promises,

Read Romans 10:17.

What is the “message” that Paul has in mind? (Cf. CW 382: “My Hope Is Built On Built On Nothing Less”)

5. He has worked out every last detail of our salvation.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

What is Paul’s purpose in emphasizing that God “has blessed us... with every spiritual blessing in Christ”?

6. He provided the means of grace to create, nurture and sustain our faith with its Biblical perspective.

Read 1 Peter 1:23.

“The living and enduring word of God” joins the written word with the visible word, the sacraments.

Read 2 Timothy 3:15.

Paul’s Prayer for the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-19):

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

NEXT LESSION: God’s Strategy with Our “Issues” in Life (Joseph)

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