

STEPS TO CHRIST

There are many today who claim that we live in an enlightened age. In a sense this is true. Discovery, invention, improvement, modernization, quicker and easier ways of doing things, all have affected business, farm, factory, kitchen, laundry room, travel--you name it.

But we have not done so well in improving the spiritual darkness and deterioration of our world. After many, many centuries, and lesson after lesson of resulting heartache and tragedy, the words of John 3:19 are still painfully with us, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Educators, inventors, wise businessmen and women, able political leaders, great minds, really cannot solve and improve this problem. Even our best religious leaders are limited. It rather is a problem that demands a one-person-at-a-time, individual solution.

God has sent the world Light--His Son. (John 1:4.) God has also sent His personal Enlightener--the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7,8.) God has made it clear that we must come to that Light if we are to find forgiveness for sin, and restoration to His likeness. And He makes the invitation to all to come. (Matt. 11:28.)

In this lesson, let us seek to discover the "how" of coming to Jesus. We have already studied "what" we need to do. The "how" is vital. The idea of "Steps to Christ" can be simple, and beautiful, and rewarding, or extremely difficult and frustrating. Alone, I cannot take even one step to Christ. (John 15:5.) I might try in my own strength, but I am doomed to failure. Rather, I must trust in God to enable me to take them, to inspire me to want to take them, even to believe it important to consider taking them. This is basic. (John 6:44.) **WHAT ARE THESE STEPS?**

1. We have already examined the **First step** in past lessons. It involves the need to open and **read the Bible**, find therein the sinful condition of all mankind, then consider the promised rescue and redemption of a lost human race by Jesus Christ. (Rom. 3:23; John 3:16; *Acts 17:11.)
2. The **Second step** we have also studied. We must come to **believe** in what we find in the Bible. (2 Chron. 20:20; *John 2:22; *John 12:36; Hebrews 11:6; *1 Peter 2:6.)
3. What is the **Third step**? Do you remember Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one?" Read Matthew 5:3,6 and identify what this third step is.

4. Study Matthew 5:4 and Psalms 34:18 and identify the vital **Fourth step** to Christ. After writing it down, compare this step to the condition many find themselves in when they sorrow simply because they got caught.

5. The **Fifth step** is imperative--we must be willing to **admit our sinfulness**, all of our many mistakes. When we face Christ, we cannot successfully hide anything from Him. Make a comparison of the reactions of people to God's confrontation, taking careful note of how God wants us to react.
 (a) Genesis 3:7,8 _____

- (b) Acts 3:19 _____
- (c) Luke 18:9-14 _____

6. The **Sixth step** is not easy for many. Read Luke 19:1-9, especially verse 8, and summarize this step.

With your answer in mind, think these questions through: Could this step be eliminated? If not, why is it vital in connection with the acceptance of Christ? Could there be situations where it would be impossible to carry it out? If such are found, what should be done?

7. The **Seventh step** is glorious – **claim Christ's full forgiveness**, His full acceptance, and the fact that we can now live without guilt or fear. The core thoughts of these Scriptures will assure us that we have a right to these marvelous blessings.

- (a) 1 John 1:9 _____
- (b) John 6:35-37 (especially verse 37) _____
- (c) John 8:1-11 (especially verse 11) _____

8. Read and memorize Isaiah 55:7 from the last lesson. What a wonderful assurance of acceptance and salvation! Here the healing of Luke 5: 30-32 begins, as we have come under the care of the Great Physician.

