

Lecture 9: Themes from Basic Bible Studies (IV)

Introduction and Review: Professor Barrs makes a final point on the abnormality of life (outline point III-B-3) before moving onto other major themes of the *Basic Bible Studies*.

Themes from Basic Bible Studies (IV)

I. Origins

II. General Emphasis

III. Themes

A. The character of God

B. The nature of humanity

1. Created in the image of God

2. The goodness of life before the fall

3. The present abnormality of life (Genesis 3:17-19)

a. The term “abnormality”

b. The five-pointed curse

c. The apologetic “benefits” of the doctrine of the fall

d. Suffering and the Christian

e. The abnormality of life

1) Humanity subject to three deaths (BBS 23)

a) Separation from God

b) Physical death

c) Eternal death

2) Central issue for compassion in apologetics

C. The doctrine of salvation

1. God’s holiness is not compromised (BBS 4) (Phil. 2:7-8, Romans 3:24-26)

a. Sin requires judgment before a holy God

b. Christ’s substitutionary death maintains the moral absolute

2. Emphasis on history (BBS 4) (Genesis 22:1-18)

a. Refuge of historical truth in an age of relativism

1) Neo-Orthodoxy and Karl Barth

b. Crucial to preaching the Gospel in this age

3. The meaning of faith (BBS 4) (John 3:15-16)

a. “The empty hands of faith” - our response to work done on our behalf

b. “Faith plus nothing” (BBS 12)

c. “Without adding humanistic works” (BBS 5)

4. Sanctification also by faith, not human works

a. I John 5:3-5 - True spirituality recognizes how Christ’s perfect work affects our lives daily NOW

1) “Moment-by-moment” dependence on grace

2) Recognition of our weakness and inability

b. “Active activity” versus “active passivity”

1) Example of Mary: not resignation, but recognition of dependence

5. Emphasis on present relationship with all three members of the Trinity

a. The threefold aspect of salvation (2 Corinthians 13:14)

b. The threefold aspect of the “new relationship”

c. A present, vital relationship