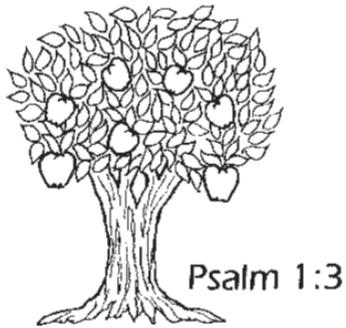


Good News Bible Series Basic Course



This is a written copy of the electronic course you have enrolled in. You can copy or save this for use in the study and to take the section quizzes and final tests. You may also share this with others as an evangelistic tool and to encourage them to take the course. As you work through the course online, you can mark the correct answers to the questions in the lessons. The lesson quizzes and the final quiz are not included and must be taken on line at www.goodnewsbibleseries.com. You can register there and will be notified via the email you provide when you are enrolled. Once you finish the entire course and take the final quiz with a grade of 70 or better, you will receive a certificate for your work.

Any questions that are not answered on the website you can email to jotis@reformation.edu or send an email to the teacher.

GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY

Basic Course, Part 1

About God

(2019)

WELCOME! This is the hard copy of the electronic course you have enrolled in. This course is designed to help you understand what God wants you to know about Him, yourself, Jesus Christ, and how you can be right with Him. You have made a very wise decision to enroll in this course. If you diligently study and complete this course, you will be even wiser.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the ages — since the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the lives of many people have been changed by hearing and responding to “**the gospel**” (meaning “**good news**”) of Jesus Christ.

This same gospel still changes lives when God’s Holy Spirit (called the “Holy Ghost” in the King James Version) opens the heart of the one who hears it, causing them to respond to it the way God commands.

This study has been prepared to aid you in sharing the true, biblical gospel with others. When you complete this course, you should get others to take the course so they may also hear this age-old message from God.

This series of studies assumes that you believe in God and respect the Holy Bible as His written Word given to mankind so that you may know what He wants you to know.

For you to understand God’s GOOD NEWS (gospel), you need to know a few basic things about WHO GOD IS and WHAT HE IS LIKE. People from around the world believe there is some kind of God — One Who is Lord of all things. They often wonder who God is and would like to know many things about Him.

Before starting, take just a moment to pray to the only True God and ask Him to help you understand the things this Bible study can teach you about Him.

Did you pray?

YES.

NO.

A. GOD IS THE CREATOR

When a man looks at a house, he knows another man built that house. When a man looks at another man, at the stars, at the earth, or trees and animals, he sees something about their Maker. These things tell him that Whoever made these things must be very, very great.

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

1. Who is the very, very great One that made the heavens and earth? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Heaven.
 - b. God.
 - c. Nobody.
 - d. Nothing.

2. Who was living and here before anything or anyone else? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- Nobody.
 - Good and evil.
 - God.
 - Don't know

When God created everything, He did not start with things (such as wood, stone, chemicals) like man does when he makes some-thing. God does not start with anything.

Read **Psalm 148:2-5** (especially verse 5).

2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.

3. What did God do to create everything? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- Praised.
 - Nothing.
 - Commanded.
 - Thought about it.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4. With what kind of material did God's word make the things that are seen? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- Words.
 - Chemicals.
 - Dust.
 - Things that do appear (are visible).
 - Things that do not appear (are not visible).
 - Faith.

When God created everything, He did not need to take a long time like man does when he makes something.

Exodus 20:11

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5. How much time did God take to make the heavens, earth, and all that was in them? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- 7 days.
 - 1,000,000 years.
 - 6 days.
 - No one can know.

When God finished everything, it was perfect and good. He made no mistakes.

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

6. What did God see about all that He had made? (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. Everything.
 - b. Morning and evening.
 - c. It was pretty good.
 - d. It was very good.

7. How many things did God make that were “very good?” (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. Everything.
 - b. Many things.
 - c. Some things.
 - d. Nothing.

Revelation 4:11

“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

8. Why is God worthy of our glory and honour? (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. He is to be pleased.
 - b. He created all things.
 - c. Because of His glory and honour.
 - d. He is selfish.

B. GOD IS IN CONTROL - HE IS SOVEREIGN

The God who created the whole world, the universe, all animals and man is a very great God. The Bible tells us repeatedly that God is on the throne of the world. He is all powerful. He directs all things. He makes no mistakes. He has everything under control.

Not only did He create all things, but He is ruling over them as Lord and governing them as their King. This must be so or He would not be God. Either God is their ruler or He is ruled; He either does His will or He is angered because He cannot do what He would like to do.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all.

1. God is the head of (He is in control of) _____ (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. some things.
 - b. most things.
 - c. all things.
 - d. nothing.

Daniel 4:34-35.

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?” 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

2. Where does God do His will? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- In heaven and on earth.
 - In heaven.
 - On earth.
 - Nowhere.

Today many people speak of God as someone who is like a big grandfather in the sky who is at the command of His creatures. They speak and He does it. Others think of Him as very upset and angry about what is happening in the world. They agree that God started the world right, but somehow everything got out of control. They think of God as running here and there begging people to let Him be their God.

Psalm 22:28.

For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations.

3. God is ruler among _____. (Choose only **ONE** that is in Psalm 22:28)
- the Nations.
 - the heavens.
 - All the earth.
 - Nowhere here on earth.

He sets up kingdoms, overthrows empires, and controls all governments so that they do as He pleases. Even governments that are oppressive serve His will. He uses them to judge a wicked nation for its sinfulness.

Romans 9:14-15

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

When it comes to being saved from sin and its punishment, the Bible also tells us that God is in control.

4. God has mercy and compassion upon _____. (Choose only **ONE**.)
- everyone in the world.
 - Christians.
 - those who are poor.
 - those whom He chooses.

C. GOD IS ETERNAL

This means God *always was* and *always will be*. Because everything else we know about has a beginning and an end, it is hard to understand how God has no beginning. **He has always existed and always will.**

Revelation 1:8 (“Alpha” = the first letter of the Greek alphabet; “Omega” = the last.)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Psalm 90:2.

Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

1. Who was there before God? (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. The angels.
 - b. Not sure, but someone or something was there.
 - c. Adam and Eve.
 - d. No one.

2. Who made God? (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. God made Himself.
 - b. The angels.
 - c. Man made Him up in his mind.
 - d. God was not made; He has always been.

3. Can God die? (Choose only ONE.)
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. No way to know.

D. GOD NEVER CHANGES

Any time something or someone is changed, it is either for better or for worse. If God changed and became better, that would mean He was not perfect before, and therefore, He was not really God. If God changed and became worse, then He could not be God because He would not be perfect. If He changed His mind about something, it was because He made a mistake or found new information. But this cannot be, because God knows all things and never makes a mistake.

Malachi 3:6

For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

1. What does this verse say about God? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. He is the Son of Jacob.
 - b. He does not change.
 - c. He changes.
 - d. Verse does not say much.

James 1:17 - variation means "apt or liable to vary or change; changeable" so if God has no *variation*, then He does not change.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

2. What does this verse say about God? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. He does not change.
 - b. He changes when He makes a mistake.
 - c. He changes when man does not make the correct choices.
 - d. Only when He has changed his mind to correct a mistake man made.

E. GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS

God knows what a man is thinking about.

1 Chronicles 28:9

As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

1. What does this verse say God knows about man? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Everything he says.
 - b. Everything he does.
 - c. All of his sins.
 - d. Everything he even thinks about in his heart.

Psalm 139:2

You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

2. What does God also know about us? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Every thought and action.
 - b. Almost everything.
 - c. Only what we tell Him.
 - d. Only what He can see.

No thought can be kept from God. He even knows what you are thinking now. What are you thinking right now? (STOP AND THINK.) God knows it even before you do. Therefore, He knows what you are thinking every minute of the day and night. He knows your good thoughts and your evil thoughts, and He does not forget one of them. God knows every word you say.

Psalm 139:4

For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

3. What does this verse tell us that God knows about our talk? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Every word on our tongue.
 - b. Only our cursing.
 - c. When we lie.
 - d. The good things we say.

Matthew 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

4. What **TWO** things do these verses show us God knows about that tells us He knows about everything that happens? (Choose the best **TWO**.)
 - a. The value of a sparrow.
 - b. How many hairs you lose.
 - c. The number of sparrows that fall.
 - d. The number of hairs you have.
5. Who is of more value to God than many sparrows? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Everything.
 - b. The men to whom Jesus spoke.
 - c. The hair on your head.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

6. What can the eyes of the Lord see? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. The good and evil everywhere.
 - b. The evil everywhere.
 - c. The good everywhere.
 - d. He misses many things.

F. GOD IS ALL WISDOM

God not only knows everything, but He knows the best way to do things.

Proverbs 3:19

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens;

1. What did the Lord use when He created the earth? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. His hands.
 - b. His feet.
 - c. Wisdom and understanding.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

2. Can man understand God completely? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Some men can.

His judgements are unsearchable, and His ways are past finding out. We can only know what God chooses to reveal to man.

G. GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL

God can do everything He wants to do. (Of course, He can never sin because He can never want to sin.) His power has no end. Nothing can change or stop God's power — not Satan, not man.

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

1. When God says He will do something, He will _____ (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. do it most of the time.
 - b. do it.
 - c. do it when He feels like it.

Study some amazing, powerful things God has done by reading the Scripture verses below. Match the verses with the correct event by putting the letter from the event (from the right column) on the blank line before the correct Scripture verse (in the left column). (*You will need to use your Bible to look these verses up*)

2. Luke 1:30-35
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

3. Luke 1:36-37
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

4. John 11:38-44
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

5. Genesis 1:1
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

6. Genesis 7:11-12
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

7. Genesis 11:1,7-9
 - a. Barren woman giving birth in her old age.
 - b. Making the heavens and the earth.
 - c. The great world-wide flood.
 - d. Mary having baby Jesus while yet a virgin.
 - e. Creating the languages of men at Babel.
 - f. Raising from the dead a man who was in the grave four days.

H. GOD IS EVERYWHERE

Psalm 139:7-12

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning,

And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,

And Your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"

Even the night shall be light about me;

12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,

But the night shines as the day;

The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

There is no place where God is not. God is Spirit and has no body like man. He is always present everywhere.

1. To what place can man go where God is not present? (Check the best answer, there is only ONE).
 - a. Heaven.
 - b. Hell (underworld).
 - c. In the sea.
 - d. No place.
 - e. In the night.
 - f. The uttermost parts.

Though God is everywhere, He IS NOT *in* everything as many Hindus believe. If God were the same as everything He created, then He would have created Himself — an impossibility. God is separate from His creation. Furthermore, if God were the same as His creation, then that would mean God could be sinful since much of His creation is now evil. But God cannot be both holy and perfect AND sinful at the same time.

I. GOD IS HOLY AND PERFECT

Leviticus 11:44

For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

For God to be holy, He must be free from all sin. God cannot sin and cannot cause sin. God is completely pure. He cannot do evil and has no evil in Himself.

1. Who is it that says, "I am holy"? (Choose only ONE).
 - a. Moses (Leviticus' author).
 - b. God.
 - c. Creeping things.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Since all men have sinned and are evil AND since God is a holy God, MAN HAS A REAL PROBLEM: *a holy God cannot have fellowship with sinful men.* The gospel tells us how God solved this problem.

Acts 17:25

Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

This verse tells us that God depends upon no one and needs nothing. Only God is COMPLETE and INDEPENDENT. Therefore, He is perfect because ONLY SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT NEED ANYTHING NOR ANYONE could be perfect. This means God does not need us, nor our love. But, in many other places in the Bible God does say **He wants our love and obedience. Never think that God needs our love and obedience.** Also, never think that He does not want them. He has commanded us to love and obey Him. Therefore, we must love Him and obey Him because He has commanded us to do so. Furthermore, we should want to love Him because of the love and goodness He has shown to all men. (Look at these additional verses - Matthew 5:44-45 – *44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.;* Psalm 145:9 – *9 The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*).

2. Since the Bible says that all men are sinners, does that include you? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Not sure.

J. GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL AND TRUE

God will always do what He says He will do. He keeps His promises.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

1. What TWO things does this say about God? (Choose **TWO**.)
 - a. He is faithful.
 - b. God does not always do what He says He will do.
 - c. He will do what He says He will do.
 - d. He will only be faithful with those who obey Him.

In Exodus 34:7 (“*keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.*”) the Bible says that God will by no means clear the guilty. In many other verses in the Bible God says that He must punish sin with death. Now if God is faithful and true in things we like to hear about, He also must be faithful and true in things we do not like to hear about. Therefore, when God promises us something, He means it. He must keep His Word. When God promises us eternal life if we believe in His Son and repent (turn away from) our sins, He means it. He also means it when He says He will punish us with everlasting fire if we do not believe in His Son and repent of our sins. Do not forget. God keeps His promises.

2. Which promise of God gives you hope? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Promise of everlasting life for all who believe in Jesus Christ and repent of their sins.
 - b. Promise of everlasting punishment in hell if we reject Jesus or refuse to obey Him.

K. GOD IS LOVE

Many gods that people worship are gods full of hatred. The God of the Bible is the God of Love. He gives His love to His chosen people and then He shows this love to the world through His people and in various other ways. In the Old Testament times His people were the Israelites. Today, His covenant people are Christians. Though many people claim they love, only God can give true love since **He alone IS love**.

1 John 4:8-16

8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1. How did God show His love toward Christians (His New Covenant people)? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. God is love.
 - b. By loving them.
 - c. By giving them life.
 - d. By sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, that they might live through him.
2. Who loved first (**verse 10**)? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Man.
 - b. God.
 - c. the Son
 - d. Angels
3. The word “propitiation” means “to satisfy the anger of God **against us because of sin.**” Who satisfied the anger of God against the sins of Christians (or Christians-to-be)? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. The Father.
 - b. Believers.
 - c. The Son.
 - d. They did.

L. GOD IS TRUTH

Romans 3:4

Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words and may overcome when You are judged.”

1. Is God always true?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Sometime

John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

God is Truth, and the Spirit of Truth comes from Him. He caused the Bible to be written (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is God's Word and is truth (John 17:17). Jesus Christ also came from God and said He is "the truth" — there is no truth apart from God (John 14:6). God is revealed by His Spirit in the Bible and in Jesus Christ — both are "the truth."

2. Where does truth really come from? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. From the Father (God).
 - b. From the university.
 - c. From prophets.
 - d. From scientists.

M. GOD IS A JUDGE**Genesis 18:25**

Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

1. This verse says that God is the Judge over _____. (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. the wicked.
 - b. the righteous.
 - c. all the earth.
2. It also says that as Judge His judgments are always _____. (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. unfair.
 - b. right.
 - c. pretty good.

Psalms 19:9

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

3. This verse says that God's judgments are ____ and _____. (Choose the **ONE** that completes the sentence.)
 - a. True and righteous altogether.
 - b. Sometimes true and often righteous.
 - c. Clean and enduring for ever
 - d. Fearful and just.

God is a perfect Judge, and He is never wrong in His decisions. He is the Judge before whom you will stand one day and explain about all your words, thoughts and against whom you are sinning and rebelling. Can you imagine throwing a rock through someone's window, being taken to court, and then finding out that the window you broke was in the judge's house? Well, that is how it is with God. You have broken His laws, and He is going to be the Judge who makes a decision about you.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?

Revelation 11:18

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.

4. What is God going to do to His saints (believers in Jesus Christ)? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Be angry with them.
 - b. Give them rewards.
 - c. Destroy them.
 - d. Put them in purgatory.

5. What sentence (judgement) is God going to pass on those who do not fear His name (who are not believers in Jesus Christ)? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Reward them.
 - b. Put them in purgatory.
 - c. Give them one more chance.
 - d. Destroy them because they were destroying the earth.

N. GOD IS SPIRIT

God does not have a body and yet He exists. Because He is God, He does not need a body. God is Spirit and has no limits on His power and abilities. A body would limit God.

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

1. What does this verse say God is? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. Spirit.
 - b. A body.
 - c. A man.
 - d. An angel.

2. According to the previous verse how are we to worship God?
 - a. Spiritually on our own.
 - b. In our own way.
 - c. Truthfully at home.
 - d. In spirit and truth.

O. GOD IS A PERSON

The three things that make a person are:

- **MIND** (*the power of knowing things*);
- **EMOTIONS** (*the power of feeling*); and
- **WILL** (*the power of choosing*).

God has these three things and because of this He is a Person. He does not have a body because He is Spirit and needs no body. A person does not have to have a body to be a person. God is both Spirit and Person.

1. God has the power of **KNOWING**. God knows Himself when He called Moses from the burning bush, He said, "**I Am that I Am.**" God could not say He is like anyone else because He is not. He could not say

this any stronger. God is sure of Himself. And remember, He knows all things. (Psalm 147:5 - *Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.*)

2. God has the power of **FEELING**. He feels love, anger, hatred, and pity. (Psalm 5:4, 5 – 4 *For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity;* 1 John 3:16 - *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*)

3. God has the power of **CHOOSING**. **Ephesians 1:4** says God chose some people for eternal salvation (Eph. 1: 4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love*). **Psalm 115:3** says that God does everything He wishes. (Psalm 115: 3 *But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*) (See also Isaiah 46:10 - *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'.*)

P. GOD IS ONE GOD, BUT THREE PERSONS

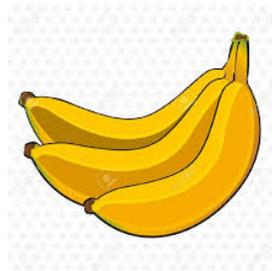
Read this verse very carefully.

1 Corinthian 8:4

Therefore, concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

1 Corinthians 8:4 shows that the Bible teaches there is only One God. But the same Bible that teaches this also teaches that this One God is made up of three Persons. This is hard to understand, but because God teaches us this in the Bible, Christians must believe it.

The illustrations below may help you understand the **ONE** and the **MANY**:



A large group of people (**the MANY**) meeting together is called one group (**the ONE**).

Some bananas (**the MANY**) growing together are one bunch (**the ONE**).

Yet each one of these has more than one thing in it. It is more than one. It is many, yet it is also one. Remember, these are illustrations and are only meant to help you understand a little about how God can be One, but Three (Many). Yet, not one of these illustrations is exactly like God is.

Matthew 3:16-17 shows the three different Persons.

6 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

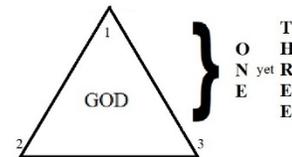
In the following questions choose the correct answer to the person described from the passage in Matthew.

1. Who came out of the water?
 - a. the Father.
 - b. the Son.
 - c. the Holy Spirit.
2. Who descended like a dove?
 - a. the Father.
 - b. the Son.
 - c. the Holy Spirit.
3. Who spoke from heaven?
 - a. the Father.
 - b. the Son.
 - c. the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 also speaks of three different Persons.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

4. Jesus told His followers to baptize disciples in _____. (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. The **name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The names of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
5. Is the word “name” singular or plural? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. One (*single* - ONE).
 - b. More *than* one (plural - MANY).
6. Yet this one name has three Persons (List them based on the illustration using 1, 2 and 3 to identify the Person.).



Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Romans 1:7 says that Christians get peace from “_____.”
 - a. God our Father - This shows that the Father is God.
 - b. the beloved of God
 - c. the Lord Jesus Christ
 - d. all that be in Rome

Hebrews 1:8

But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

8. In Hebrews 1:8, Who is also called God?
 - a. the Son - This shows that the Son is God.
 - b. the throne
 - c. the sceptre of righteousness
 - d. the sceptre of the kingdom

Acts 5:3-4

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

9. In verse 3 of this section, Peter says that Ananias lied to _____.
 - a. the Holy Spirit - This shows that the Holy Spirit is God.
 - b. Peter
 - c. Satan
 - d. himself

10. In verse 4, Peter says that in lying to the Holy Spirit, Ananias was lying not to men, but to _____.
 - a. God - This shows that the Holy Spirit is God
 - b. Peter
 - c. men
 - d. himself

There is much more that can be said about this subject. But, even if it were all said, God is God and we are not (we are men) — we will never be able to understand Him completely. **MAN MUST ACCEPT THIS FACT.**

Let us close our study **ABOUT GOD** by looking at one last verse.

Romans 11:33-36 answer the following questions from verse 36:

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

11. Where do all things come from?
 - a. man
 - b. God
 - c. nowhere
 - d. the angels

12. Through whom do we get all things?
 - a. man
 - b. God
 - c. nobody
 - d. the angels

13. For what purposes are all things created?
 - a. for man
 - b. for God
 - c. for no reason
 - d. for the angels

14. What does this verse say about the purpose for which you were created?
 - a. To glorify yourself.
 - b. No reason.
 - c. To glorify God.
 - d. To please the angels

Conclusion

What a great, great God this God is! He truly deserves your worship, praise, and devotion. He is worthy of your complete attention. Such a marvelous God He is! If you really studied about the different gods of the different religions, you would find no other god in all the religions of the world as great as this God. All other gods are not real gods because man has made them up in his mind to suit his religion, and then passed on these beliefs to his children.

There is some truth about God in many of these religions, *but they all fall far short* of the total truth about Him that He has revealed to man in His Holy Word, the Bible. He is the ONE and ONLY TRUE GOD!

1. What do you think about this God? (There is no correct answer, just say what this study has shown you and what you now think about God.)
2. Do you believe He wants you to know Him even better? Answer either “Yes” or “No”.
3. Will you commit yourself to studying even more about Him? Will you pray that He will show Himself to your heart so that you may worship Him as He both commands and wants? Have you committed yourself and prayed?

GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY

BASIC COURSE, PART 2

About Sin

Introduction

Christianity is named after Jesus Christ, but it is simply another name for what was known as “fearing the God of Israel” in the days before Christ. It is the one true religion that has gone on from man’s first day on earth. So, it is the oldest and only completely true religion. Before sin, there was only one religion when God and man were in complete fellowship and there were no false (man-made) religions. **Jesus Christ came to solve the problem caused by sin.**

Matthew 1:20-21

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The name “**Jesus**” means “**Saviour**.” As you can see, He came to earth to save a particular people called “**His people**.” He came as a teacher to give them peace, happiness, and a good life. But the most important reason for God coming to earth and becoming a man was to save *His people from their sins*.

Before starting, take just a moment and pray to God. Ask Him to help you understand His Holy Bible. Did you pray?

- a. Yes
- b. No

A. WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is anything a person does that goes against the laws of God. Man can sin by **not doing what God says man should do**, or man can sin by **doing something God says not to do**. I John 3:4 puts it this way: “Sin is the transgression (breaking) of the law (of God).”

Many people think of sin as doing bad things like murder and stealing, but there is much more to it than that. Very few people think of their sin as “against God”, but **it is against God**. Why? Because it is God’s laws that we are breaking when we sin. Jesus said that He came to save sinners. Many people do not think of themselves as sinners. But if they are to have the salvation God offers to all men, then they must first see themselves as God sees them — God sees all men as sinners.

Since **SIN** is “**breaking God’s law**,” let us now look at what God’s laws are. If we do not know the laws we have broken, sin will try to fool us into thinking it is not sin.

B. GOD'S LAWS

1. THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT LAWS

The two most important laws of God are found in **Matthew 22:37-40**

37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

1. What is the first law? (choose only ONE)
 - a. To love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
 - b. To love your neighbor as yourself.
 - c. To love everybody.
 - d. To do to others before they do it to you.
2. What is the second law? (choose only ONE)
 - a. To love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
 - b. To love your neighbor as yourself.
 - c. To love everybody.
 - d. To do to others before they do it to you.

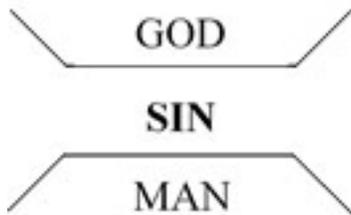
Verse 40 says that on these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets. This means that everything that the Bible speaks about has something to do with these two laws. So when you sin and break God’s laws, you are guilty of not loving in the proper way *To break God’s laws is the same as not loving God*. If your sin is against someone else, then you are guilty of not loving God AND not loving the person that you sinned against.

2. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments were given to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai in written form. Before this time, God’s law had been passed on by word of mouth. In ten simple commandments it says what the entire Bible teaches, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. The Ten Commandments can be divided into two groups. The first four commandments tell you *how to love God* in obedience to the greatest of all the laws that you studied in **Matthew 22:37-40**. The next six commandments tell you *how to love your neighbor* as yourself in obedience to the second of these great laws.

WARNING!! Before you go through the Ten Commandments that will show you more about sin, it is important to make one warning very clear. Some people stop their studies after the Ten Commandments because they have guilty feelings about the many ways in which they have broken them. Some people stop going to church and stop reading the Bible because they do not like this guilt. But this is exactly the purpose the law serves. It is made to show you how bad you really are. *It is also intended to show you the many sins you need to get rid of if you are ever going to please God.*

Sin stands between God and man, and Jesus Christ came to save His people from their sins. Therefore, if you refuse to *see* your sins as sin (and that means you will feel bad about them), then there is no way to be saved from them. Jesus came to save people who *see* their sin. So sin is the problem, and if you are going to solve the problem, you must see it first. Prepare yourself to see your sins and know that there is a solution (a way out) of the sin problem you have. If you feel guilty about your sins as you study through this part



about sin, *then you are feeling the right way.* You will then be getting very close to being able to *see* the Good News of the Gospel.

Exodus 20:1-17

1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

COMMANDMENTS TELLING US HOW TO LOVE GOD

The first four commandments tell us how we can show our love to God in the way that is most pleasing to Him. To try and please Him in any other way will not work and is a violation of His law.

a. The First Commandment

Since there is no other God but the Lord, if you worship any other god but Him, you worship a false God. To worship any other god but Him is to show no love to the God who created man and the world.

Isaiah 43:10.

"You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.

There are many religions that teach the worshiping of idols which stand for false gods. To practice anything like witchcraft, voodoo, obea, or blood sacrifices is worship of Satan and his demons. In fact, to worship Satan, demons, or any other god than the God of the Holy Bible is to be guilty of breaking this commandment.

Isaiah 40:18.

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Romans 1:25.

who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

To have no other god before the Lord means to have nothing that is more important than the Lord. Many people may not be guilty of worshiping the false gods of other religions; but many are guilty of putting money, job, house, family, friends, and other things before the Lord. *To do this is to be guilty of breaking this commandment.*

2 Timothy 3:4.

traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Another common violation of this law is when men look to other men for laws instead of God. Even civil government must run itself according to law if it is to be a just civil government. When men make up their own laws instead of following God's laws, *they put themselves before God. They make themselves into gods by setting aside God's laws and replacing them with their own laws.* Every person, family, business, school, church, organization, institution, and civil government must acknowledge Christ as Lord and Lawmaker. If they do not, they violate the first commandment.

Jeremiah 17:5.

Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord."

Other sins forbidden in the first commandment are:

atheism - denying that God exists or not having a God at all;

Psalm 14:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

idolatry - having or worshiping more gods than one, or any other gods in addition to the true God;

Jeremiah 2:27-28

27 Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' and to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' for they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.' 28 But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah.

not having and confessing the true God as your God;

Psalm 81:11

"But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me."

ignorance, forgetfulness, misunderstanding, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of God;

Hosea 4:1, 6

I Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land... 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."

self-love, self-seeking, and setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things;

Philippians 2:21

For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

3. Which is the **First Commandment**?
 - a. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
 - b. Do not have any other gods before me.
 - c. Do not make unto thee any graven image.
 - d. Do not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Read Romans 1:24-25.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

4. In **verse 25** what did they do with the truth of God? (choose only ONE)
 - a. Disobeyed it.
 - b. Had no respect for it.
 - c. Respected it but did not obey it.
 - d. Changed it into a lie.

People today change God's truth into a lie by **not** enforcing His laws in their lives, their families, their churches, schools, civil governments, and other organizations.

5. What great sin are they guilty of according to **verse 25**? (choose only ONE)
 - a. Dishonoring God.
 - b. Not giving God the blessings due Him.
 - c. Lusting after other gods.
 - d. Worshiping and serving the creature instead of the Creator.
6. Every man has broken this commandment in some way. You have been guilty of breaking this commandment, too. Do **you** agree?
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
7. Be very honest with yourself. How have you broken the first commandment? Write down several things that are on people's minds more than the Lord – things that you or others think are more important than pleasing the God of the Bible. (Answer required)

b. The Second Commandment

Exodus 20:4-6

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The whole purpose of this commandment is that man is not to worship God in images, pictures, and idols. **Man is not to worship God in his own way.** Man is to worship God as He has been revealed to us in the Bible. **John 4:24** says that we are to worship God "in spirit and in truth" and not by our own ways.

Many people who call themselves Christians are guilty of breaking this commandment by using pictures and statues in their places of worship. They often use incense and candles and bow down to these. This commandment shows that those who do these things are disobedient to the Bible whether they are jungle Indians worshipping a stone idol, or Christians bowing down to a statue of Jesus, a saint, Mary, or any other person.

Deuteronomy 7:5

But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

Even the person who may have never worshiped a picture or statue is guilty of breaking this law when he refuses to attend church, pray, and worship God the way God has said. This person will often say, "I will worship God in my own way."

Matthew 15:9

And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

This commandment teaches that worship of the true God is not to be done in any way that man chooses, but in the way the Bible tells us. Therefore, God is not worshiped by burning candles, drinking blood, burning incense, putting flags in the ground, or any of the many other false ways of worship. God is worshiped through public worship with God's people, praise and glorification, prayer, obedience, belief, and trust. He is not worshiped just on certain days, but every moment of every day and night.

Deuteronomy 12:30-32

30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' 31 You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. 32 Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Colossians 2:21-23

21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

8. What does **Exodus 20:4** say should not be made? (Choose the BEST most complete answer)
 - a. any carved image or idol, or any picture (likeness) of things in heaven.
 - b. any carved image or idol, or any picture (likeness) of things in heaven or in earth.
 - c. any carved image or idol, or any picture (likeness) of things in heaven or in earth or under the earth.
 - d. any carved image or idol, or any picture (likeness) of things in heaven or under the earth.
9. What in **Exodus 20:5** does it say should not be done with these images? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Not to burn candles to them.
 - b. Not to look at them.
 - c. Not to bow down to or serve them.
 - d. Not to worship them.

10. Everybody has been guilty of breaking this commandment in many ways. Do you see that you have broken this commandment?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
11. Be very honest and list some of the ways in which you or others break this commandment. (Answer Required.)

c. The Third Commandment

Exodus 20:7

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

To take the Lord's name in vain means to use it in a worthless way or in a way that serves no good purpose. This includes cursing and swearing falsely, but also the many foolish statements where people use God's name without thinking about what they are saying. It even includes thoughts that we have during the day and night.

In many discussions we have about God, people have been guilty of making mock of the Word of God (the Bible) and those who take it seriously. Many people tell jokes and stories about God that make Him appear foolish. These are just a few of the ways that we break this commandment.

12. Which is the Third **Commandment**?
 - a. Do not have any other gods before me.
 - b. Do not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
 - c. Do not make unto thee any graven image.
 - d. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-6.

2 Do not be rash with your mouth and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore, let your words be few... 4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. 6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

13. In what ways does this verse say we anger God? (Choose the BEST and most complete answer)
 - a. Speaking rashly.
 - b. Taking vows that we don't pay.
 - c. Speaking rashly and taking vows we don't pay.
 - d. Nothing angers God.
14. As usual, every man has been guilty of breaking this commandment at some time or another. Do you see that you have broken this commandment?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
15. What things come to mind that you or others do to break this commandment. (Answer Required.)

d. The Fourth Commandment

Exodus 20:8

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:9-11 and **Deuteronomy 5:12-15** explain more about how Israel was to keep the Sabbath.

Exodus 20:9-11

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

12 ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

After Creation, God and man rested on the **first full day** of man’s life. This was to teach man to first rest in God’s work by trusting and obeying him, before doing his own work. **Before sin, resting in God came on the first day of man’s week.**

By listening to the serpent in the Garden of Eden, man no longer put God first. He no longer rested in God but tried to rest and work apart from God. Through sinning, man lost the right to rest on the first day of the week as he had in the beginning with God. He would now have to wait until Jesus Christ came for true rest. Therefore, when God gave the Ten Commandments, He placed the rest day at the end of the week. This meant that Old Testament men must wait for true rest from their works of sin. **After sin, resting in God came at the end of man’s week — the seventh day.**

Once Christ came, the true rest symbolized by the seventh-day Sabbath was no longer in the future. God’s work in Christ brought man a new life of rest from his sinful works. As in the beginning, man was able *first* to rest in God before doing his work. This **new rest** was to be pictured in a **new** “first-day” sabbath. Therefore, after rising from the dead **on the first day**, Christ gathered with His disciples **on the first day**. The Church began meeting **on the first day**. **After Christ’s work, resting in God again came on the first day of man’s week.**

The first day of the week is the New Testament Sabbath day. The day is now commonly called “the Lord’s Day.” It is the one day in seven that is His day because on this day He rose from the dead and rested from His work.

16. Which of these is the fourth commandment? (choose only ONE)
- Do not have any other gods before me.
 - Do not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
 - Do not make unto thee any graven image.
 - Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
17. Why did God command us to rest on the Sabbath (seventh) day? (choose only ONE)
- Because God made the complete creation in six days and rested on the seventh.
 - Because man had sinned and needed to repent of these on a regular basis.
 - To refresh ourselves to be harder workers in the coming week.
 - To remember what Christ would do on the cross.
18. Who was commanded to keep the Sabbath? (choose only ONE)
- Just the people of God.
 - All that were within the gates of the people of God.
 - All of mankind.
 - The people of God and their servants.

Acts 20:7

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

19. How was the Sabbath changed in the New Testament? (choose only ONE)
- It was not officially changed, so we should celebrate the Sabbath on the seventh day still.
 - We should now worship twice, the first and the last day of the week.
 - The disciples began to gather on the first day of the week because Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week.
 - Because Paul spoke to the disciples on the first of the week, the church decided to meet then.

Every Lord's Day prepares us for the daily turning from our own evil works and letting the Lord work in us by His Holy Spirit. In doing this we rest first in God and so begin the eternal Sabbath in this life.

The Fourth Commandment teaches us that one day in seven (**now** Sunday) is to be set apart from the activities of normal work and play to worship God in a way ordinarily not possible during the other six days of the week. The New Testament Sabbath is still a holy day but is kept holy somewhat differently now that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and man is no longer bound by the Old Testament ceremonial laws.

Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

20. What does this verse say that we should not forsake doing? (choose only ONE)
- Assembling together (attending regular worship services and Bible studies).
 - Watching the day approach.
 - Passing out tracts and witnessing to each other.
 - Exhorting one another.

A necessary activity of the Sabbath is regular attendance at a local church (of which a person should be a member) which believes and **follows** the whole Bible and studies it thoroughly and seriously. This day is

also for Bible reading, Bible study, memorizing Bible verses, meeting with other true believers to share praises and to pray. It is a special day for parents to teach their children about the Bible. It is not a day for secular work except when forced to or in an emergency. It is a day to concentrate on the things of the Lord.

(For further study in the proper attitude of the Lord's Day see **Isaiah 58:13-14** - 13 *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, 14 then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken."*)

People often break this commandment by using the Lord's Day (Sunday) as a day for sports, getting drunk, excursions, yard work, or being lazy. Even if people do not work, God is often far from their minds. Even those who go to church often break the Sabbath law when church is over. They think the Sabbath law is obeyed by spending one hour in church Sunday morning. Even during that hour, their minds are often on the things they will be doing after church is over.

21. What are acceptable activities on the Sabbath? (Choose the **BEST** answer)
 - a. Bible reading, memorization and study with family and friends.
 - b. Teaching children about the Bible.
 - c. Regular attendance in Church.
 - d. All of these
22. How do we break this commandment? (choose only ONE)
 - a. Using the day for our own pleasure
 - b. Resting in the afternoon
 - c. Meditating on the Word of God
 - d. Doing works of service
23. Have you ever broken this commandment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
24. What ways can you think of that you or others break this commandment. (Answer Required)

COMMANDMENTS TELLING US HOW TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

e. The Fifth Commandment

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

This commandment means that we are to have respect for our parents' authority. We are to obey them when what they ask us to do is not against the laws of God. The punishment for serious violation of this commandment is death. (see **Exodus 21:17** - *"And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.,* and **Deuteronomy 21:18-21** – 18 *"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, 19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. 20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' 21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear*

and fear.). Of course, most civil governments do not accept God's law as the basis for their law, and so this punishment is rarely, if ever, carried out.

While serious violation of this commandment allows for the use of a death penalty, **any** violation of it is sin, of which all men are guilty. In this commandment, more than obedience to parents is intended. Godly parents teach us to obey teachers, civil authorities, employers, and pastors and elders in our churches.

This commandment then teaches submission to all earthly authority within their proper realm of authority.

1. What does the fifth commandment say? (choose only ONE)
 - a. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.
 - b. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 - c. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
 - d. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
2. Who does the fifth commandment include when it commands us to honour our father and mother? (Choose the BEST answer)
 - a. Just our immediate parents.
 - b. Only those in the church
 - c. Anyone who is older than we are
 - d. All those in authority over us especially our parents
3. What is the promise for keeping this commandment? (choose only ONE)
 - a. That our days will be long
 - b. Wealth and happiness
 - c. Peace and contentment
 - d. Joy and forgiveness
4. Do you agree that you have broken this law?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. In what ways have you or others, broken this commandment? (Answer Required)

f. Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

There are times when killing is proper (when done in obedience to God's laws): such as putting someone to death for:

murder –

Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

adultery –

Leviticus 20:10

The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

homosexuality –

Leviticus 20:13

If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

rape –

Deuteronomy 22:25

But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die.

cursing one's parents –

Exodus 21:17

And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

kidnapping or man-stealing –

Exodus 21:16

He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.

and **others - Leviticus 24:15,16** - *15 Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 16 And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death; and 20:27 - A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.*

In these cases, and with certain conditions, a civil government is required by God's law to put the guilty party to death. This is godly killing and is not a sin.

This commandment is a law against *ungodly killing*, such as murder. Murder is any killing of a human being except for what God commands or allows (such as self-defense). Many people think that murder is the worst of all sins. This would be hard to say since it is number six in the list, and many other laws carry death penalties for serious offenders. But it is certainly a terrible sin.

Some forms of murder today are even legal in some places. In other words, some countries do not punish people for these kinds of murder:

Abortion — Intentionally killing a baby after conception but before it is born is murder. Millions of human beings created in the image of God are killed this way every year, simply because the parents do not want a baby.

Euthanasia — Killing old people or seriously ill people because they will die anyway is murder. This is happening more and more today around the world.

Read Matthew 5:21-22

21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

I John 3:15

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

6. According to these two passages, what kinds of sin are counted as breaking the sixth commandment? (Choose the BEST answer.)
 - a. When you are angry without a just reason.
 - b. Self-defense.
 - c. When you hate your brother (not just related physically, but spiritually as well).
 - d. Both when you are angry and when you hate your brother.

Have you ever been angry with someone to the point of hatred or bitterness? If so, then you have broken this commandment as well. Murder always starts in the heart. So, to think in a hateful way is to be guilty of murder.

7. Have you ever broken this commandment, even in your heart or mind?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
8. How have you or others broken this commandment? (Answer Required)

g. Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:14

You shall not commit adultery.

Adultery means having sex with someone who is married to another. This commandment also includes any kind of sex outside a proper marriage, including such perversions as homosexuality (sex between men), lesbianism (sex between women), and bestiality (sex between a human and an animal). Sexual immorality is a very common thing today, and yet it is one of the ten worst sins that God spoke against. It does not matter whether it is acceptable in your culture and society or not — God says it is sin, and it is so serious that He has allowed civil governments to put convicted adulterers to death (**Leviticus 20:10** - *The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.*). Because ungodly civil governments do not take God's law seriously, we have a growing problem with adultery today. This sin tears families apart and children then grow up in broken homes. God hates this sin.

You may or may not be guilty of the actual act of adultery. If not, you might think that this is a commandment you have kept but read the next passage.

Matthew 5:27-28

27 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

9. What does this verse say is also included in adultery? (Choose only **ONE**)
 - a. To look at a woman (or man)
 - b. To talk to a married woman (or man)

- c. To lust after a woman (or man)
- d. To think about a woman (or man)

You know whether you are guilty of breaking this commandment or not. If you are like many people, you have at some time committed adultery in your mind. If that is true, then you are also guilty of breaking this commandment.

- 10. Do you agree?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.

h. Eighth Commandment

Exodus 20:15

You shall not steal.

This commandment not only includes simple stealing, like taking little things from a shop, a home, from someone's yard or car; but it also includes exploiting or taking unjust advantage of someone, getting something in a dishonest way, and not giving to God what is due Him of your income.

Malachi 3:8-10

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

This passage says that a person who does not tithe ("**tithe**" means "**give a tenth of his increase to the Lord**" this is the same as income today) is guilty of breaking this commandment.

- 11. If we do not tithe (give 10% of our increase, or income) to the Lord then what are we guilty of? (Choose only ONE)
 - a. Cursing ourselves
 - b. Not receiving the blessing
 - c. Robbing God
- 12. Do you agree that you have broken this commandment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 13. Write down a few of the ways in which people break this commandment. (Answer Required)

i. Ninth Commandment

Exodus 20:16

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

This is speaking directly of a law court situation where a person is expected to speak honestly. It also means any kind of lying about another and not keeping our promises.

Read James 5:12

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

14. What does the last part of this verse mean? (choose only ONE)
- It is okay to promise something you do not mean.
 - It is okay to promise something and then go back on your word.
 - Your “yes” can mean “no” if you change your mind.
 - When you say something, you are to do it so that when you say “yes” you mean “yes”, and when you say “no” you mean “no”.
15. To break our word is to break this commandment. Do you see that you have broken this commandment?
- Yes
 - No
16. Tell a few of the ways in which people break this commandment. (Answer Required)

j. The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.

The word “covet” means to want something that does not belong to you and that you should not or cannot have. This commandment especially shows us how sinful our heart is, because we are always wanting things we cannot have. This type of wanting is more than a simple desire. It is a greedy desire that comes from selfishness and discontent.

17. What things that belong to your neighbor should not be coveted? (Choose the BEST and most complete answer.)
- His house
 - His wife
 - His servants
 - His animals
 - None of these should be coveted

Who is your neighbor? The Bible teaches that a neighbor is anyone beside yourself.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

18. What does this verse tell us about contentment? (choose only ONE)
- We should not be content with what we have.
 - We should always be satisfied with what God has given to us.
 - We should give everything we have to the poor.
 - We should not work for a living but trust in God.
19. This commandment is broken very often by most people. Do you agree that this includes you?
- Yes
 - No

20. Think of a few recent ways in which you know people break this commandment and list them.
(Answer Required)

C. THE LAW AND SIN

An important purpose of the law is to show us our sin.

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

1. What happens to someone's mouth when they know the law? (choose only ONE)
 - a. It becomes guilty.
 - b. It is justified.
 - c. It becomes knowledgeable about sin.
 - d. Every mouth is stopped.

This means that we can no longer make excuses about how good we are. Perhaps, by comparison to other people, we are okay; but God does not compare us with other people. So when we see our sin in comparison to the way we should be, our mouths are “**stopped**” (meaning “**silenced**”). We can no longer make excuses for ourselves and think that we are not so bad after all.

2. What happens to the world by knowing God's law? (choose only ONE)
 - a. It becomes guilty before God.
 - b. It is justified.
 - c. It is stopped.
 - d. It becomes guilty before man.

Of course, you are a member of the world. If God is working on you, if God is beginning to do a work in your life and bring you to Himself, then you must feel some real sense of your guilt for breaking God's laws. (Keep in mind, God is not like a man on the police force who may or may not see you breaking the law. God always sees everything. He knows even more about your sinfulness than you do. He knows about every sin you commit.)

3. What knowledge does man gain from the law (**verse 20**)? (choose only ONE)
 - a. The knowledge of his good deeds.
 - b. The knowledge of his sin.
 - c. The knowledge of his justification.
 - d. The knowledge of salvation.

God is glorious and perfect. He created man glorious and perfect. But man sinned and fell short of God's glorious perfection.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

4. What does this verse say about you? Have you come short of God's glory?
 - a. Yes, I have sinned and come short of God's glory and perfection.
 - b. No, I have not sinned and come short of God's glory and perfection.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wages are the earnings a person gets for the work he does. They show what his labour is worth.

5. What are the wages of sin? (choose only ONE)
 - a. Eternal Life.
 - b. Tough times on earth.
 - c. Longer time in Purgatory.
 - d. Death.

Not only the body dies, but the soul as well. The kind of death spoken of here is not what many think it is. You do not just stop breathing and find everything is all over. Many people believe this, but they are wrong. On the other side of life in this world is an existence that is called “everlasting death.” A person is awake and alive in the sense that he knows what is happening, but he finds himself in a lake of fire which burns forever. The suffering and punishment there is worse than anything a person can imagine. God’s grace and mercy are not there; therefore, nothing good is there. Only God’s judgment is there. Each person in hell will be an ever-living, ever-feeling, ever-burning sacrifice to God’s justice, much like the animal sacrifices burned on the altar in Old Testament times.

Matthew 25:30

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 19:20

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

These two verses tell more about this place. This kind of death is the “wages of sin” paid to sinners. That is what their sin is worth to God — everlasting punishment.

Romans 7:23-25

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

6. What happens to a man when sin controls him? (choose only ONE)
 - a. He enjoys himself and is truly free.
 - b. He is brought into captivity by it.
 - c. He has his problems, but life treats him okay.
 - d. Nobody is perfect, so he only feels a little guilty.
7. What kind of man does the writer of Romans call himself in **verse 24**? (choose only ONE)
 - a. A happy man.
 - b. A good man.
 - c. A contented man.
 - d. A wretched (miserable) man.
8. What is the question that he asks? (choose only ONE)
 - a. What can I do?
 - b. Who can get me out of this body of death that controls me?

- c. Why did God get me into this mess?
 - d. Why did the devil make me do it?
9. Who or what can deliver this man? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- a. The church.
 - b. The Law of God.
 - c. Man's good works.
 - d. Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:13

Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

10. The writer said that through the commandments sin became _____. (choose only ONE)
- a. lawful.
 - b. hated.
 - c. known.
 - d. exceedingly sinful.

By this he means that before he knew the law, his conscience told him he was sinful, but he fooled himself into thinking that it was not so bad. However, by getting to know the law, he saw his sin for what it was. He could no longer hide from sin and fool himself as before. Therefore, he said his sin became exceedingly (or very, very) sinful.

D. THE LAW AND THE BAD NEWS

God never intended the keeping of the law to be a way for anyone to gain His approval, or to get his sins forgiven. It was meant to show man his problem of sin against God.

Galatians 3:10-11

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

1. If we try to *gain approval* by doing the works of the law, then we are also ? (Which ONE phrase best completes the sentence?)
 - a. under the curse or penalty of the law.
 - b. justified by the law.
 - c. of the works of the law.
 - d. written in the book of the law.

2. If we try to gain approval from God by keeping the Ten Commandments, what must we do to keep from being cursed? (choose only ONE)
 - a. We must do many works of the law.
 - b. We must do all the things in the Book of the Law after reaching adulthood.
 - c. We must do all the things in the Book of the Law always.
 - d. We must do all the things in the Book of the Law once we decide to follow the Lord.

3. No man is justified (declared to be right before God) by the _____. (choose only ONE)
 - a. sight of God
 - b. law
 - c. evidence

- d. faith
4. Those that are justified live by____.(choose only ONE)
- a. works of the law.
 - b. the law.
 - c. faith.
 - d. good works.

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

5. What happens if we keep all the laws but break one of them just once? (choose only ONE)
 - a. We are guilty of breaking all when we break even one.
 - b. That is okay, we are allowed one mistake.
 - c. Nobody is perfect.
 - d. God will understand we are only human.

We can see from this that the law is not given to make us right before God. Adam (the first man) had a chance to obey God, but he failed. Ever since then, all his children follow in his footsteps.

Have you ever broken any of the Ten Commandments in your life?

If so, then you are guilty of sin, and the punishment is everlasting death.

If you do not think you have ever broken one of the Ten Commandments, you are deceiving yourself because the Bible says in **1 John 1:8**: - *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

To make this even clearer, let us put all this in another way. Let us assume that a person has committed at least one sin a day during his life. Everyone has committed many more in a day, but just to make things easy, let us think of only one per day.

Multiply your age by 365 days per year

That will give you the number of days of your life which equals the number of sins committed since you were born.

Now draw the following chart on a sheet of paper.

Years of Age: |0 |10 |20 |30 |40 |50 |60 |70 |80 |90

On the line **put an "X"** on the place you are at in your life. **To the left** of the mark put down the number of sins you have committed (from your figures above) during your life. **To the right** of the mark put a big zero **"0"**. Suppose you decide that now you were never, ever going to break the laws of God — either in thoughts or actions.

Do you honestly think you could really do that? (**Think about that for a moment.**)

Well, just suppose you could. Ask yourself one question: How would you get rid of the sins to the left of your "X" — the ones you have already done? (THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A WHILE.) If you are honest, you will admit that you have a real problem. *You cannot stop sinning*, and even if you could, there is still the problem of the sins you have already committed.

Well, that is the BAD NEWS. It would be terrible if you had to end your studies right here. Life would be hopeless. But the purpose of the law is not only to show you the problem you have before God, but also to do something else.

Galatians 3:24

Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

6. To Christians, the law is called _____. (choose only ONE)
 - a. a villain or scoundrel (somebody wicked).
 - b. a schoolmaster or person in charge of us (somebody who teaches, guides, or tutors us).
 - c. a deceiver or impostor (somebody to trick us).
 - d. an executioner (somebody to put us to death).

7. To whom is the law supposed to guide man? (choose only ONE)
 - a. the church.
 - b. the Pope.
 - c. a favorite preacher.
 - d. Jesus Christ.

8. How are we justified (declared right before God)? (choose only ONE)
 - a. By going forward at the invitation and asking Jesus to come into our heart.
 - b. By our good works.
 - c. By keeping the law.
 - d. By faith in Jesus Christ.

One major purpose of the law, both in Old Testament and New Testament times, is to show us that we have a real problem with sin. If we see that we have this sin problem, then we will know that we need someone to solve this problem, since we cannot solve it ourselves. This is why Jesus Christ came to earth, “to save His people from their sins.” So the law leads us to see our need for Christ. It shows us the bad news, so that the Good News makes some sense.

E. MAN’S RELATION TO THE LAW – LIFE AND DEATH

It is not unusual for some people to have problems understanding the relationship of the law of God to people today. Some churches do not teach the Ten Commandments because they were given to Israel in the Old Testament. But Jesus said, “If you love me, obey my commandments.” Jesus taught the Ten Commandments; so even though these were given to Israel first, their teachings are also for us today. In breaking what the Ten Commandments teach, we are disobeying the law of Christ.

While it is true that we are to obey the Ten Commandments today, we are not to look to the law of God for our salvation. The law was never intended to be a way of getting saved from our sins, but it has always been the standard by which we measure righteousness. If there were no sin, men would obey God’s will and stay in fellowship with God. But because sin is here, the law can do nothing to bring us forgiveness. Sin is the breaking of God’s law. And once we have broken God’s law, we cannot “unbreak” it. We may try to keep it in every other way after that, but it still cannot save us.

Romans 7:10

And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.

1. What is the intention of the law (commandment)? (choose only ONE)
 - a. to bring life.
 - b. to bring death.
 - c. to give salvation.
 - d. to make life easy.

By keeping the law perfectly, Adam would have lived and so would all mankind that came from him. But Adam, who was everybody’s first human father, chose to disobey the law; he chose death instead of life. Had he chosen to obey God’s law, he would have lived, and mankind would never have needed to be saved

from sin. Since he chose to disobey the same law that led to life, he died and brought death to all mankind. Now men need to be saved from their sins.

2. What did the writer to the Romans say he found this same law to be for him? (See **verse 10** and choose only **ONE**.)
- it brings life.
 - it brings death.
 - it gives salvation.
 - it makes life easy.

In other words, because of man's sin, the law tells us that we are dead men (because the wages of sin is death). The law pronounces a death sentence on all sinners (all men).

3. And that includes you, CORRECT?
- Yes
 - No

Since man has now already broken God's law and is a sinner, there is no hope for him alone. He needs a Saviour. Jesus Christ is that Saviour. He came to earth, kept the law perfectly for His people, and did for them what they could not do for themselves. Jesus Christ kept the law perfectly, yet He died. He took upon Himself the death penalty pronounced upon His people. By doing this, Jesus Christ takes His people from being **lawbreakers under "the law of sin and death"** and makes them into **law-keepers under the "law of the Spirit and life in Christ."**

Romans 8:1-9 (In the King James Version, "carnal" means "sinful.")

1 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. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

4. What is the carnal-minded man's relation with God? (See **verse 7** and choose only ONE)
- No condemnation.
 - Enmity (hostile) against God.
 - Subject to the law of God.
 - Life and peace.
5. To what is this lawbreaker (the carnal man) not subject? (see **verse 7** and choose only ONE)
- The law of sin and death.
 - The law of men.
 - The law of God.
 - The law of the Spirit of life.
6. To what law is this lawbreaker subject? (see **verse 2** and choose only ONE. Hint: it is what the writer is freed from.)
- The law of the Spirit of life.

- b. The law of sin and death.
- c. The law of men.
- d. The law of God.

To recap the CARNAL/SINFUL-MINDED lawbreaker: he is at enmity with God and not subject to the law of God, meaning he does not obey it because he does not want to. This makes him bound to the law of sin and death.

- 7. What is the Christian's (the Spirit-minded man) relation to God? (see verse 1 choose only one)
 - a. Condemned by the law.
 - b. No condemnation.
 - c. According to the flesh.
 - d. Carnally minded.
- 8. From what law is this man *made free*? (see verse 2 and choose one)
 - a. The law of the Spirit of life.
 - b. The law of sin and death.
 - c. The law of men.
 - d. The law of God.
- 9. What law made him free from the law of sin and death? (see verse 2 and choose one)
 - a. The law of sin and death.
 - b. The law of the Spirit of life.
 - c. The law of men.
 - d. The law of God.

To recap the SPIRIT-MINDED law-keeper: he is no longer condemned by the law before God. He is freed from the law of sin and death by the law of the Spirit of life.

The law is one law — the law of God. To the man in prison about to be hanged for murder, *the law is death*. But to the godly man, who obeys the law, the law protects his life and property from criminals and, therefore, *the law is life* to him. Without law, society would collapse into confusion and be run by thieves and murderers. The faithful and full use of the law of God is **death** to the murderer but **life** to the godly. And so it is in spiritual life. To the unbeliever, the law is death and sin. But the same law is life and blessings to the believer.

- 10. The law could not save anybody. Who did what the law could not do? (See verse 3 and choose ONE.)
 - a. Carnal man
 - b. God's Son
 - c. The Spirit
 - d. The flesh
- 11. What did God do by sending His Son? (see verse 3 and choose only ONE)
 - a. Condemned sin in sinful (fleshly) men.
 - b. Sent Him to tell men that they can be *saved* by keeping the law.
 - c. To condemn those who walk after the flesh.
 - d. To allow man to fulfill the law.

12. Why did God send His Son in the likeness of sinful man to condemn sin in sinful men (the flesh)? (see verse 4 and choose only ONE)
- So that sinful men could continue to disobey God's law yet still go to heaven.
 - So that the righteousness of the law could be fulfilled by the Spirit.
 - So that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in Christians
 - So that we can walk according to the flesh.
13. To what law is the Christian to be subject? (See verse 2 and choose only ONE.)
- The law of the Spirit of life.
 - The law of sin and death.
 - His own law.
 - Does not matter as long as it is law.

E. MAN'S RELATION TO THE LAW – REVIEW

In some places the Bible says that **Christians are “dead to the law”** (**Galatians 2:19** - *For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God*; **Romans 7:4** - *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.*). This means that a Christian is no longer under the death penalty of the law because Jesus saved him from death by dying in his place. **He is “dead” to the “death penalty” of the law.**

In **John 14:15** (*If you love me, keep my commandments.*) and **Matthew 28:20** (*teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Amen.) the Bible also tells us that to love Christ is to obey Him and God's laws. In other words, being “dead to the law” does not mean a Christian does not need to obey God's laws. It means that Jesus Christ paid the “death penalty” of the law and now a Christian can obey God's law by the power of the Holy Spirit given to him by Jesus Christ. So when a Christian falls back and disobeys, he can turn to Jesus Christ, look to Him who kept the law perfectly, and seek His forgiveness, **AND THAT IS THE GOOD NEWS.**

Jesus Christ has obeyed the law perfectly for us. He lives in true Christians giving them the desire and power to obey. He has cleansed them from their dead works and enabled them continually to serve the living God (**Hebrews 9:13-14** – *13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*)

F. CONCLUSION

You have now studied about sin and how God's law shows man his sin. You have also seen that you are a lawbreaking sinner who deserves death. **THAT IS THE BAD NEWS.** But you also saw that the Law-keeper came; Jesus Christ died to save His people whom the law condemned to death. He died for them and took their death penalty upon Himself and now makes it possible for them to become law-keepers, because they can now begin to keep God's law. Jesus has saved them, **THAT IS THE GOOD NEWS.**

- Will you commit yourself to studying even more about God?
 - YES.
 - NO.

2. Will you commit yourself to praying that God will show you the way out of the bad relationship you have with Him because of your sin?
 - a. YES.
 - b. NO.

(Before going to the next section and get the answer to the problem man faces, do the Final Quiz over About Sin)

GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY

Basic Course Part 3

About Jesus Christ

You have now studied **About God** in Part 1 and **About Sin** in Part 2. In Part 3 you will study **About Jesus Christ** — His Person and His Work. This is where the Good News really becomes **Good News!**

THE PROBLEM

James 4:12

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

1. Who do you think the One Lawgiver is? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. God.
 - b. Man.
 - c. The majority of the people.
 - d. The civil government.

As the One and only true Lawgiver, when God says something is right, **IT IS RIGHT**. When He says something is wrong, that makes it wrong.

As we saw in Part 1 - **About God**, God is perfect, and He is always right in every judgment He makes. We know also that since God is just and true, He must reward those who do right and punish those who do wrong.

Isaiah 3:10-11

10 Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. 11 Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him

Romans 2:6

who "will render to each one according to his deeds"

2. What do these verses say will happen to the righteous person (the one who is right with God)? (Choose the correct ONE)
 - a. It shall be well with him.
 - b. It shall be ill with him.
 - c. They will not eat the fruit of their doings.
 - d. They will not get the reward of their hands.
3. What do these verses say will happen to the wicked person (the one who is not right with God)? (Choose the correct ONE)
 - a. It shall be well with him.
 - b. It shall be ill with him.
 - c. They will not eat the fruit of their doings.
 - d. They will not get the reward of their hands.

4. What do you think God must do when someone breaks His laws? Must He punish them? (See Romans 2:6) (Choose the correct ONE)
- Yes
 - No

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (only the first part of the verse).

5. Based on this passage what is the punishment for sin? (Choose only ONE.)
- Hell.
 - Imprisonment.
 - Purgatory.
 - Death.

Since death the punishment for sin of any kind, God MUST punish sin with death. God cannot go back on His Word since He is not a liar.

6. If God said sin must be punished by death and then He lets the sinner go free without a death, what would God be? (Choose only ONE.)
- He would be honest (keeps His word).
 - He would be a liar (goes back on His word).
 - He can change his mind about the punishment if he wants to.
 - He is not bound by laws like man is.

Titus 1:2

in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

7. Can God lie?
- YES.
 - NO.

Conclusion of the Problem

There is an age-old question that must be asked at this point: **How can God forgive a sinner without being a liar?** God said He would punish lawbreakers (sinners). So, if He does not punish sinners, He would not be keeping His Law (word) that says He must punish sin. That would make Him a liar, and if He is a liar He would not be perfect. This would mean that God would not be God. How can God remain just (true to His Law (word)), yet still forgive sinners?

THAT IS THE BIG QUESTION.

This is the problem that Jesus Christ came to solve. If we do not see the problem that Jesus Christ came to solve, then we really will not understand the importance of His Person and His Work.

The first two parts of the Good News Bible Study should have shown you **who God is** and **how bad you are compared to God's Law**. The third part will give you the answer to the problem of **how a holy, just, and perfect God can forgive unholy sinners without going against His Word** that says He must punish sin.

A. The Penalty Needs to be Paid

According to **Romans 6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. The penalty for sin is _____. (What fills the blank?)
 - a. Wages
 - b. Eternal life
 - c. Death
 - d. a gift

Question: How does the death of a person take place?

Answer: Someone dies, and that is how death takes place.

Though that is simple, it is very important because for the *death penalty* to be paid, **SOMEONE MUST DIE**. If God is just, then someone must die for their sin *because God said that sin must be punished by death.*

1. Someone must die for sin

There are two ways that this punishment can take place. Either the person who deserves the punishment must be punished, **OR** an innocent person who does not deserve the punishment can replace the one who does. (A “**substitute**” is “**someone who replaces another person.**”) This was shown in the Old Testament through the sacrifice system.

Leviticus 16:15

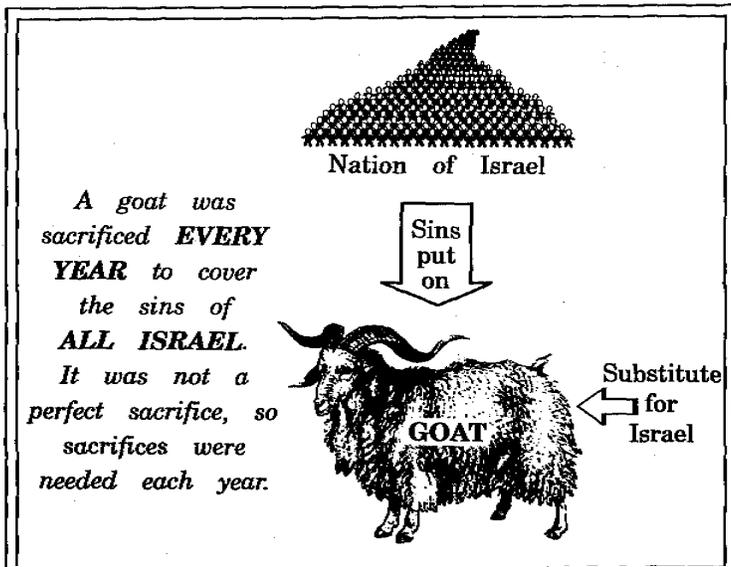
Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

2. *For what kind of offering was the goat?*
 - a. Blood.
 - b. Sin.
 - c. People.
 - d. Sprinkle.

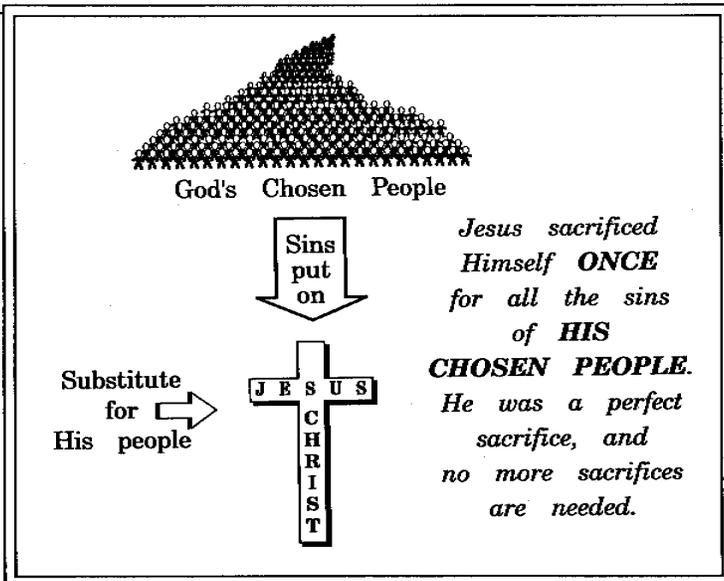
Leviticus 16:16

So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

3. For whose sin was the goat an offering? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. His own.
 - b. The whole world.
 - c. The children of Israel.
 - d. The church.



The picture to the left shows that an innocent goat was offered up as a sacrifice for the people's sin instead of the people of Israel dying. The goat replaced the people. The goat died instead of the people. The goat was a **substitute**. But in those days, a sacrifice was made **every year** that showed that this kind of substitute was not a perfect substitute. Every year they had to sacrifice another goat.



In the New Testament it is shown that a perfect Substitute came — One that was a substitute once and for all time. This Perfect Substitute was the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a substitute for His people (Matthew 1:2 a., just as the goat was a substitute for Israel. But Christ's work as a sacrifice and substitute never needs to be repeated as did the sacrificing of a goat, because **Christ's sacrifice and substitute is perfect**. (See picture to the left.)

John 10:15

As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

4. What did Jesus say He would lay down for His sheep? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. His head.
 - b. His blood.
 - c. His life.
 - d. His Spirit.

Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

5. Who would Jesus save *from their sins*?
 - a. All people.
 - b. His people.
 - c. the nation of Israel.
 - d. The Apostles.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The writer of Romans wrote to those who were already Christians.

6. What did Christ do for Christians according to this verse? (Choose ONE)
- Made them perfect.
 - Gave them the Holy Spirit.
 - Died for them.
 - Commended God's love toward them.

1 Peter 3:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

7. What did Christ do for sins? (Choose ONE)
- Brought them to God.
 - Quickened them.
 - Put them to death.
 - Suffered (died) for them.

When the Bible says, “**the just for the unjust,**” it means “**the innocent for the guilty.**” Christ (the innocent) died for His people (the guilty).

8. Who was the “**just**” person who suffered for the “**unjust?**” (Choose ONE)
- Jesus Christ.
 - The Holy Spirit.
 - God, the Father.
 - The Trinity.
9. Why did Christ suffer for the sins of His people? (Choose ONE)
- So that they could decide for themselves whether to come to God or not.
 - Hoping that after all He did for them, they would believe in Him and be saved.
 - To set an example.
 - To bring His people to God.

We see that Christ died in the place of His people, taking the punishment for their sins on Himself. Since He had no sin, He could be a substitute for sinners. Like the goat, He was innocent. The goat, however, was not a man, so its sacrifice was not perfect. In fact, it symbolized (pictured) that the Perfect Sacrifice, the God-Man, Jesus Christ, would come and give up His life to save His people from their sins.

Who is the “someone” who must die for sin?

Either **YOU** die *as a punishment for your own sins*, OR **CHRIST** died *as the punishment for your sins*. Christ did not die for everybody’s sins, or else everybody would be saved. He died only for His people’s sins. So if He did not die for your sins, you must die for your own sins.

Before this Bible Study series is over, you should be asking yourself this question: *Am I going to die for my own sins and suffer everlasting punishment in the lake of fire called hell? OR has Christ died in my place and is He now my Lord and Saviour?*

THINK ABOUT THAT.

2. Someone must satisfy the Law of God

God made a law, which is written throughout the Bible that says, “If you sin, you must die.” You saw in Part 2 of this Bible study series that you have broken God’s law in many different ways and at many different times. Therefore, **God must punish you, OR your substitute, by death.** His law must be satisfied. God is vexed with sinners. He hates sinners (**Psalm 5:5** - *The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.* **Psalm 11:5** - *The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.* **Proverbs 6:16-19** - *16 These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.*) His anger is great against those who have broken His laws. Someone must satisfy God’s anger against sin.

Who must satisfy God’s anger against sin?

There are two possible answers. Either **YOU** must satisfy God’s anger toward you *by taking the penalty for your sins upon yourself; OR CHRIST* (as your substitute) must satisfy God’s anger toward you *by taking the penalty for your sins upon Himself.*

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),

Being “**hung on a tree**” refers to Christ’s being “**hung on the cross.**” To “**redeem**” means to “**buy back**” something for a price. Christ *paid the price* by using His innocent body and blood to *buy back* the guilty bodies and blood of His people.

10. In Galatians **3:13**, who redeemed those under the curse of the law? (Choose ONE)
 - a. They redeemed themselves.
 - b. Christ redeemed them.
 - c. The law redeemed them.
 - d. A preacher redeemed them.

11. How did he redeem them? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By being made a curse for them.
 - b. By setting a good example for them.
 - c. By preaching to them.
 - d. By doing miracles for them.

So, the solution to the problem discussed at the beginning of this lesson is this: **Christ satisfied the anger of God toward the sins of His people.** The penalty for sin was paid by someone really dying.

Therefore, God could forgive sinners without going back on His Word, which says He must punish sin. God punished sin in Jesus Christ, and because their sins have been paid for, God can show mercy toward those sinners for whom Christ died. God does not hate the sinners for whom Christ died.

Now read **Romans 6:23** one more time

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12. The penalty for sin is _____. (Choose ONE)
- a. eternal life
 - b. death
 - c. wages
 - d. punishment
13. But the gift of God is _____. (Choose ONE)
- a. eternal life
 - b. death
 - c. wages
 - d. punishment
14. We receive the gift through _____. (Choose ONE)
- a. speaking in tongues.
 - b. prayer.
 - c. Jesus Christ.
 - d. taking the Good News Bible Study.

Do you see that since the penalty is paid, a gift is available to sinners? Because of what Christ did as both a *substitute* for His people and a *satisfier* of God's law, God could forgive sinners and still be a just God. The gift of forgiveness of sins is given to all who believe on Him; they are His chosen people.

Romans 3:26

to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

This verse puts together everything that you have studied so far in this part. It says that God is **just** (keeps His laws and is true to His Word) and yet is also the **justifier** (the One who makes things right). You should now be able to see the answer to the problem talked about earlier. ***God remains just and yet is the One who makes sinners right with Himself because of Jesus Christ who died in the place of His people.***

B. Faith in Jesus Christ

Christianity has at its heart ***faith in Jesus Christ***. But today, so many people who call themselves Christians have no idea who Jesus Christ is or what He has done. Some religions say that it does not matter what your faith is in, just as long as you have "faith." But this is not true of true Christianity.

Without knowledge of some important facts about ***who Jesus Christ is*** and ***what He has done***, there can be no salvation — no being saved from the penalty for our sins.

Christianity is not a blind faith in "**someone**" with the name "Jesus Christ." It is an intelligent faith that is simple enough for the most simple-minded and yet deep enough that even the greatest minds in the world cannot understand it fully. It is a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection (raising from the dead) for sinners thereby reconciling them to God.

There are many different teachings about Jesus Christ. Some of these teachings are true and some are false. But if we believe falsehood and put our faith in falsehood, then we are trusting in a lie. That kind of faith cannot save. Yet very many people today are believing falsehood and taking it to be the truth. Maybe even you are doing this. Believing falsehood is very dangerous and very foolish. Over 900 people in a place called Jonestown, near Port Kaituma, Guyana (South America), died in November 1978 by either being

killed or committing suicide. They were followers of a false prophet, Jim Jones, who convinced people to believe his false teachings. Their faith may have been **sincere, but it was wrong.**

If it is studied prayerfully, seriously and with the help of the Holy Spirit of God, the Bible will keep a person from following liars as well as sincere, but false, teachers. It will lead a person to the truth. **You must have the correct facts or your faith is worthless.**

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

This verse says it all very simply.

1. Who is it that should be confessed with our mouth? (Be careful and choose the best **ONE**.)
 - a. Jesus (the Man).
 - b. The Lord (God).
 - c. The Lord Jesus [*Jesus is Lord*] (the God-Man).
 - d. a man named Jesus.

2. What is to be believed in the heart (which includes your mind)? (Choose only ONE)
 - a. That He died and God raised Him from the dead.
 - b. That He died.
 - c. That God spared His Son from death.
 - d. That God would never send His Son to die.

3. What happens if we confess Him (the God-Man) and believe in His work (His death on the cross for sinners)? (Choose only ONE)
 - a. We will be happy.
 - b. God will make us one of the elect.
 - c. We will live a happy life.
 - d. We shall be saved.

This verse shows that we must believe **WHO JESUS CHRIST IS** (that He is both God and Man), and **WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID** (His death for sinners). We must believe in the *true PERSON of Christ* AND the *true WORK of Christ* if we are to be saved from our sins and be right with God.

C. The Person of Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ must be seen as a very unusual Person. He was One of a kind. Why was He One of a kind? Because He was God long before He became a man. Yet, He was also a man. You will now study briefly about the two natures of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus Christ is God

This, more than anything else about Jesus Christ, is a truth people do not want to believe. Most false religions deny that Jesus is God. They accept that He was a great man, even a great prophet, but they deny that He is God. Whether they believe it or not, it is still true. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God in many different ways and places.

Isaiah 9:6, 7

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6, 7 tells of the One for whom all Israel waited. He was their Messiah (the Christ), the Perfect Substitute that all Israel was waiting for.

1. What are the names given to the Son in these verses. (Choose FIVE)
 - a. Messiah.
 - b. Prince of Peace.
 - c. Saviour.
 - d. The mighty God.
 - e. Wonderful.
 - f. Lamb of God.
 - g. Counselor.
 - h. The everlasting Father.

2. Which of the names given to the Son in Isaiah 9:6 clearly say this Son is God? (Choose TWO)
 - a. The mighty God
 - b. the everlasting Father
 - c. Wonderful
 - d. Counselor.
 - e. The Prince of Peace

These verses from John 1 tell us that a Man would be born Who is God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

3. According to this verse what was another name for God, who became flesh (became a man)? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Full of grace and truth.
 - b. The only begotten of (coming from) the Father.
 - c. The Word.
 - d. The Father.

John 1:1, 2

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

4. Who was in the beginning with God? (Choose ONE)
 - a. No one.
 - b. The Word
 - c. The angels.
 - d. Satan

5. According to John 1:1, 2 who was also God Himself? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Satan.
 - b. The angels.

- c. Holy Mary.
- d. The Word.

John 1:15-17.

15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

6. In these verses we now see who the Word is. Who is He? (Choose ONE)
- a. John, the Baptist
 - b. Moses.
 - c. Jesus Christ.
 - d. Saint John.

By using a **“word”** a person reveals his thoughts or ideas about something to someone else. We use **words** to communicate or make our thoughts known to others. That is why Jesus Christ is called **“the Word.”** He *reveals* God to us in His Person. Christ becoming a Man is God’s way of *communicating* to us in a way we can understand. Jesus Christ is **“the Word”** (the communication, the revealing) of God to men.

John 20:26-28.

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas, one of Jesus’ disciples, doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. But once he saw Him and the nail scars (from the cross) in His hands, and the side of Jesus where the spear had pierced Him, he doubted no more.

7. What did Thomas call Jesus? (Choose ONE)
- a. The Word.
 - b. His Lord and his God.
 - c. His personal Saviour.
 - d. A great Prophet.

John 10:30

I and my Father are one.

Jesus also spoke of Himself as one with the Father.

John 5:18

Therefore, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

When Jesus said He was the Son of God, Jesus also was saying that He was equal to God. The Jews even tried to kill Him once for referring to God as His Father, proving that they understood His claim.

There are many more Bible verses that show that the Lord Jesus Christ is one with the Father and is God Himself. Remember from Part 1, you studied that God was one God yet was three Persons. **Jesus Christ is one of the three Persons of the Godhead.** If someone is to be a true Christian and be saved from his

sins, *he must believe that Jesus is God*. Anyone who does not believe that Jesus Christ is God is not a Christian.

So when we call Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we are calling Him our God. Can you believe that the God you sinned against is the same God who came to earth, became a man, and died for sinners? **The Judge of the earth is also the Saviour of sinners**. However, He is not the Saviour of all sinners, only those who believe and trust in Him and willingly turn from their sins.

2. Jesus Christ is a Man

In many different places in the Old Testament Scriptures, the Saviour whom God was to send was spoken of as a Prophet, a great High Priest, and a King from the family of King David (a great Jewish king). For Jesus Christ to be a Prophet, Priest, and King, He had to be a true Man.

Acts 2:22

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

8. In this sermon preached by the Apostle Peter, Jesus Christ was spoken of as _____. (What phrase will fill in the blank?)
- a man attested by God.
 - a spirit from God.
 - a man from Nazareth.
 - a worker of wonders and signs.

1 Timothy 2:5.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

9. Jesus Christ is the Mediator (one who stands between God and man to bring them together) and is called “the ____ Christ Jesus.” (Choose ONE)
- man
 - God
 - Spirit
 - mediator

You learned earlier in this study that someone must die to take the punishment for sinners. You also learned that this was Jesus Christ. Since Jesus Christ was to die, He would have to be a true Man. If He was not a true Man, He could not have died a real death, and the punishment for sin would not have been paid. So Jesus Christ was a true Man, yet a sinless Man, who died a real death to take the penalty for many sinners. Jesus Christ was both the true God and a true Man.

3. The Birth of Jesus Christ was a Miracle

It is impossible for men to understand fully that Jesus Christ could be both Man and God. Yet one thing is essential for us to believe — His miraculous birth. This will also help us better understand how He is both God and man.

Isaiah 7:14 (“Conceive” means “to become pregnant” or “be with child.”)

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

10. What kind of woman was to become pregnant and give birth to a son?
- a. A married woman
 - b. A virgin
 - c. A perfect woman
 - d. A holy woman

Luke 1:26-38.

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Some words in this reading may be difficult to understand. After you read it once, go back and read it again, if necessary, using the following helpful comments.

Verses 26-27 — The angel was sent to **a virgin** (a woman who never had sexual relations with a man) who was **betrothed** (engaged to be married) to Joseph.

Verse 31 — Mary was **to conceive** (become pregnant) in her **womb** (the place in a woman where a baby lives before it is born) a son who was to be named Jesus.

Verse 34 — Mary asked, **"How can this be, since I do not know a man?"** By this she was saying, **"Since I have never had intimate sexual relations with any man, how can I become pregnant?"**

Verse 35 — This verse says simply that God the Holy Spirit would do a miracle and cause Mary to become pregnant while still being a virgin.

Joseph, Mary's fiancé, was not going to marry her once he found out she was pregnant because he thought that she had been intimate with another man while she was engaged to him.

Matthew 1:19-25

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

11. Where did the angel say that the baby in Mary's womb came from? (See **Matt. 1:20**.) (Choose ONE)
 - a. Joseph.
 - b. The Holy Spirit.
 - c. Another man.
 - d. He did not know.

12. What was the name that verse 23 used to refer to Jesus? (In **Isaiah 7:14**, you read this same scripture verse.) (Choose ONE)
 - a. Lord
 - b. Christ.
 - c. Immanuel.
 - d. Saviour.

13. What was the meaning of this name (Immanuel)? (Choose ONE)
 - a. A virgin shall bring forth.
 - b. God with us.
 - c. Saviour.
 - d. Christ

You can see again that the Bible calls Jesus a true Man since He was the Son of a true woman, but He also is referred to as **“God with us”** (Immanuel or Emmanuel).

Verses 24-25 say that Joseph never had intimate sexual relations with Mary even after he married her, until after she had given birth to Jesus.

Sometimes the question is asked, **“Why is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ so important to Christianity?”** It is important because it shows that Jesus Christ, the Savior of sinners, was the God/man. Jesus had two natures: the divine nature and a real human nature both in one person forever. Jesus was God in the flesh because He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus received a true human nature from his mother, Mary. If Jesus received a real human nature from Mary, how was Jesus without sin because the Bible says Jesus was without sin (**Hebrews 4:15** - *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*)? Mary was a sinner just like any other human being, and ordinarily any child coming from her would be sinful. Jesus, even though he was a real man, was different from all other humans ever born. Jesus was the God/man, the rest of the human race is not. The divine nature of Jesus protected the human nature from being sinful.

Because He was sinless, He could offer Himself as a Perfect Substitute for sinners. If Jesus had sinned, He would have to die for His own sins; but since He was sinless, He could die for the sins of another man. Furthermore, being God, His death was of much greater value and could cover the sins of all his people for whom He died. So because of Jesus' virgin birth, many sinners had a sinless Man who took upon Himself the punishment for their sin.

NOTE: Some people say Christianity teaches that God had a wife and that is how Jesus was born. This is NOT what the Bible teaches, and it is NOT what true Christianity teaches. God the Holy Spirit caused Mary to be pregnant by a miracle and not by having sexual relations with her. Mary is not like God and is not the mother of God. She was the mother of the Man Jesus who was always the Son of God before He became Jesus.

D. The Work of Jesus Christ – Part 1

Now that you have studied about who Jesus Christ is, it is also important that you know about the work that He did. In a sermon by the Apostle Peter to the Jews who had killed Jesus Christ, the work that Jesus Christ did was clearly summarized.

Acts 2:22-36

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ 29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

1. In Verse 22 what was God’s opinion of Jesus Christ? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Approved of Him (a man attested by).
 - b. Disapproved of Him.
 - c. Did not care.
2. How did God show His approval of Jesus Christ? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By naming Him Jesus.
 - b. By delivering Him from persecution.
 - c. By doing miracles, wonders and signs among the people.

Verse 23 - The “**determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**” means that God planned the death of Jesus Christ from before the beginning of the world. This means that Jesus’ death was no accident. God planned it.

3. In verse 31 what happened to Jesus Christ that kept Him from seeing corruption (that is, what kept His body from rotting in the grave)? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He died.
 - b. He was embalmed.
 - c. He was resurrected (raised from the dead).
 - d. He was covered with burial spices and linen so that air could not get in.
4. In verse 32 who raised Christ from the dead? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He raised Himself.
 - b. God raised Him.
 - c. No one can say for sure.
 - d. The angels raised Him.

Notice that Peter, the preacher of this sermon, said that he and all those with him saw Jesus Christ after He was raised from the dead.

5. In verse 33 where is Jesus Christ now? (Choose ONE)
 - a. At the Father's right hand.
 - b. At the Father's left hand.
 - c. Waiting to become King.
 - d. Awaiting the resurrection of the dead.
6. In verse 36 what has God made Jesus because of the work He did? (Choose ONE)
 - a. King of Israel.
 - b. Christ and Lord
 - c. God and Saviour.
 - d. Holy Spirit and comforter.

(The word “**Christ**” means “**Messiah**” — this is the King that the Jews were told to expect.)

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Man is separated from God because of man's sin. The work of Jesus Christ is summarized in the word “**reconciliation.**” When God brings man back into agreement with Him after this separation, they are “**reconciled.**” Jesus Christ has brought God and His people back together. He has reconciled His people to God. This is the most important work of Jesus Christ.

7. In **verse 18** what did God do through the work of Jesus Christ for His people? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Offered the gospel to everybody in the world.
 - b. Reconciled everybody in the world to God.
 - c. Reconciled us (His people) to God.
 - d. Reconciled nobody but made it possible for everybody to be reconciled to God.

In verse 19, the world that God reconciles to Himself is not measured in numbers of people, but in the quality of those people. God did not reconcile everybody to Himself, otherwise everybody would be saved. The word “**world**” in this passage refers to “**all the peoples of the earth who are corrupt, under the devil's power, and opposed to God.**” Jesus is the “Saviour of the world” in the sense that all the boundaries of Judaism are broken down. The love of God now goes out to all these people (called Gentiles) as well as Jews, for in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor **freeman, male nor female**” (Galatians 3:28). Salvation has come to the world through the Jews so that **all kinds** of corrupt, sinful men are saved — **not only Jews, and certainly not every individual person.**

8. How did God reconcile sinners to Himself in the work of Christ? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By sending the gospel to all men.
 - b. By not imputing their trespasses to them (that is, by not counting their sins against them.)
 - c. By saving all men.

9. Since **verse 19** tells us that the sins of God's people were not counted (imputed) against them, who did God place those sins on according to **verse 21** *For He (GOD) made Him (CHRIST) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we (TRUE CHRISTIANS) might become the righteousness of God in Him (CHRIST).?* (Choose ONE)
 - a. He who knew sin.
 - b. He who knew no sin.
 - c. Another sinner.
 - d. the righteousness of God.

10. Who is the only One who knew no sin? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Jesus Christ.
 - b. Mary.
 - c. Peter.
 - d. the Pope.

11. In verse 21 what becomes of the sinners when their sins are taken away by Jesus Christ? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Some are made the righteousness of God and some were not.
 - b. Many are made the righteousness of God and a few were not.
 - c. All are made the righteousness of God.
 - d. Most are made the righteousness of God.

D. The Work of Jesus Christ – Part 2

To review the Work of Jesus Christ so far, we can say that Jesus Christ's main work was to **reconcile** (bring back together) **God** (Who is perfect and holy) **and His people** (who are sinners). He took the sins of these sinners upon Himself so that God would not need to count (impute) their sins against them. God made Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for sinners, and His righteousness was given to them.

So Jesus took their sins and gave them **His righteousness**. **A trade was made** — their sins for His righteousness. **When you consider what God did in and through Christ's work, what can a sinner say except, "Praise the Lord, what a Saviour!"**

Romans 5:10

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

12. How did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, do this great work of reconciling God and man? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By healing many people.
 - b. By letting them go their own way.
 - c. By giving men the Holy Spirit.
 - d. By dying.

13. Once these sinners for whom Christ died are reconciled to God, what does Jesus Christ then do for them? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Saves them by His life.
 - b. Lets them go their own way.
 - c. Helps them out occasionally.
 - d. Sits back and relaxes.

In heaven, Jesus Christ continues always to work for these sinners to bring them through life on earth. He helps them to grow in the knowledge of what He has done for them until He finally takes them to heaven

to be with Him. He saves them by His life. He does all this through His Holy Spirit whom He gives to sinners at the time He converts them.

Jesus Christ reconciled sinners to God by taking their sin upon Himself. By doing this, the sinless Jesus Christ then died the death that His people were to die because of their sin. He was the Perfect Sacrifice for their sin. He substituted His death for their deaths.

Hebrews 9:26-28

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

14. What has Christ done once in the end of the world? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He has come to put away sin.
 - b. He has come to try to put away sin.
 - c. He tried to bear the sins of many.
 - d. He has appeared the second time.

15. How did Christ put away sin? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By rising from the dead.
 - b. By His burial.
 - c. By His baptism.
 - d. By His sacrifice.

16. What did Jesus Christ sacrifice that put away sin? (Choose ONE)
 - a. An animal.
 - b. Himself (body and spirit).
 - c. His spirit.
 - d. His body.

Jesus Christ's work was to reconcile God and man by becoming the Perfect Sacrifice Himself for all His people, taking their sin on Himself and giving His righteousness to them. He did this on Calvary's cross.

17. How often did Jesus Christ have to offer Himself as a sacrifice to put away the sins of many? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Once.
 - b. Often, each time the mass is offered.
 - c. Once by a bloody sacrifice, but often by the non-bloody sacrifice of the mass.

E. The Work of Christ Unites Him with His People

To Christians the death of Jesus Christ is a wonderful truth; when the Lord Jesus died, He died for their sin. He paid the penalty for their sin with his death. When He rose again from the dead (**resurrection**), it proved to all man-kind that He paid the death penalty for sin and that God accepted this payment. No one had ever had victory over death except Jesus Christ. (Some were raised from the dead, but later died again.) So when Jesus Christ died, God counted each of His people as dead with Him.

Romans 6:3-10

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Now answer the following questions. (When you see the word **“baptized,”** it means **“united with”** in this passage.) Baptism by water unites us with the visible body of Christ - the Church. To reject baptism is to reject identity with Christ. To refuse to become a member of a true Christian church (one that believes and follows the Bible) is to reject Christ.

1. When a person is united with (**“baptized into”**) Jesus Christ, he is also united with (**“baptized into”**) His _____. (Choose the best word to fill in the blank)
 - a. life.
 - b. church.
 - c. death.
 - d. resurrection.

Because Jesus Christ died for sinners by taking their place, His death became their death. Because sinners for whom Jesus Christ died are united with Him through baptism, their union with Him means their union with His death.

2. A person who is together with Christ in death, will also be together with Christ in His _____. (See verses 4, 5) (Choose ONE)
 - a. life.
 - b. sin
 - c. death.
 - d. resurrection
3. In verse 7 he that is dead is freed from_____. (Choose ONE)
 - a. death.
 - b. sin.
 - c. life.
 - d. resurrection.
4. In verse 8 a person who is dead with Christ, has the hope of_____ with Him since Christ rose from the dead and is alive now and forever. (Choose ONE)
 - a. death
 - b. sin
 - c. life
 - d. resurrection

5. Because Christ died, the penalty for sin was paid. Since He now lives unto God, how should those who are dead with Christ live? (Choose ONE)
 - a. For themselves.
 - b. For their country.
 - c. For God.
 - d. For the devil.

About Jesus Christ - Conclusion

In the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ there is great hope, great love and great victory for those who are in Christ. God loves those He has chosen in a very special way.

John 3:16-18.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1. What happens to a person who believes in Jesus Christ? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Nothing.
 - b. He has everlasting life.
 - c. He will get everlasting life.
 - d. He can earn everlasting life.
2. Who is not condemned? (Choose ONE)
 - a. The one who believes in Jesus Christ.
 - b. The one who does not believe in Jesus Christ.
 - c. The world.
 - d. The people of God.

This is true because Christ took the condemnation (punishment) that was due to the sinner.

3. What happens to a person who does not believe? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He will be condemned.
 - b. He may be condemned.
 - c. He is condemned already.
 - d. He will get another chance on judgement day.

The penalty for sin was not paid by Christ for this person; therefore, he continues under condemnation - he is condemned already. He is judged, and since he refuses to believe in Jesus Christ who is the only way to God, he remains under judgment.

4. The question you must now ask yourself is, **“Which of these people am I?”** Do you find within you true faith and belief in Jesus Christ? Does your life show this newness of life lived unto God in any way? Or are you still hardened in your unbelief? Do you still face sure judgment for your sins? You must ask yourself these questions. Go back, read them again and be honest with yourself. Which one are you?
 - a. I am a true believer in Jesus Christ.
 - b. I am not a true believer in Jesus Christ.

Maybe you say, **“I want to believe but I am not yet able.”** The Lord gives you an answer in the Bible:

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Surely your search for true belief in Jesus Christ will be rewarded. Do not try to **do** anything to get saved from your sin, since you cannot **do** anything to get saved.

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

then verse 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.

Why not take this moment to pray and ask the true and living God to reveal Himself to you. **Ask Him** to show you the way and **to give you** the faith and belief that He requires for you to be saved. **Ask Him** to give you the strength you need to turn from your sins and obey His laws. God is the one who gives you true faith. **Seek after** the faith that only God can give so that you may be spared the judgment for your sins. **Seek after** the strength that only God can give to turn from your sins and follow holiness and obedience to God.

TAKE THIS MOMENT TO PRAY.

GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY

Basic Course Part 4

ABOUT FAITH AND REPENTANCE

In Part 1 of this series you learned about who God is, what He is like and what a great God He is. You learned that many people have wrong ideas about God, and that there is only one, true God. In Part 2, you learned that sin has separated you from God, and because of your sin you have been sentenced to everlasting punishment in hell's fire. You saw the Ten Commandments and how you have broken them. Unless you are a very hard person, you probably were convinced of your sins. You may have felt guilt and shame, over how many of God's laws you have broken. Then in Part 3, the Good News came out by showing how God the Father could forgive you by the work that God the Son did. He reconciled His chosen people through His death on the cross, and then He was resurrected. You learned that He is the only way to be made right with God. He took the sin of many sinners upon Himself and gives them a new life.

A. WHAT IS MAN TO DO?

Now that you know who God is, what a sinner you are, who Jesus Christ is, and what He did for sinners, you should be asking yourself some questions: "What must I do to be saved?" "How can I have forgiveness for these sins that I have done against God?" "Is there any hope for me?"

You can find the answers to these questions in **Acts 20:20-21** (*20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*). In these verses, the Apostle Paul was speaking to the leaders (called elders) of a church in Asia in the town of Ephesus. In **verse 20** he was reminding them what He had taught them earlier when He had been with them.

1. How much teaching that was profitable (that is, things that they really needed to know) did Paul keep back from those in Ephesus? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Very little.
 - b. Quite a bit.
 - c. Nothing.
 - d. Anything they cannot understand.

In **verse 21** Paul then puts into one simple statement everything that he had taught them.

2. With what does Paul say they should turn toward God? (Choose ONE)
 - a. repentance
 - b. faith
 - c. reconciliation
 - d. confession
3. What does Paul say they should have? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Repentance in (toward) the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. Faith in (toward) the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c. Reconciliation in (toward) the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d. Confession in (toward) the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These two things are very important because a person can know about God, know about sin, and know about Jesus Christ; but **without faith and repentance a person will not be a Christian**, will not have his

sins forgiven and will not go to heaven. Instead, he will still be a sinner who has not been forgiven of his sins, he will not be a true Christian, and if he stays that way, he will die and go to hell's fire forever.

B. REPENTANCE

One of the two things required of man is *repentance*. Repentance means that a man "**has a change of mind, heart, and direction.**"

- He *turns* from sin to doing right.
- He *turns* from enjoying sin to hating sin.
- He *turns* from fighting against God to following Him.
- He *turns* from purposely disobeying God to purposely obeying Him.
- He *turns* from trusting in himself to trusting in Jesus Christ.

Repentance means that a man changes his mind in these ways about God.

It is something that does not come naturally to man. Repentance is a part of the gift of God (see **2 Timothy 2:25** - *in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.*).

Now read the following scriptures about repentance.

Psalm 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

1. Who does the Lord heal? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Anyone who wants healing.
 - b. Everyone who believes.
 - c. The proud hearted.
 - d. The broken hearted.

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

2. Who is it that will **not** prosper and receive mercy from the Lord? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He who hides (covers) his sins.
 - b. He who confesses his sins.
 - c. He who speaks in tongues.
 - d. He who has been healed.
3. Who will receive mercy from the Lord? (Choose ONE)
 - a. He who hides (covers) his sins.
 - b. He who confesses his sins.
 - c. He who speaks in tongues.
 - d. He who has been healed.

Ezekiel 18:30-32

30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore, turn and live!"

4. In **Ezekiel 18:30-32**, what is the one basic thing that God is saying that the people of Israel should do? (Choose ONE)
- Repent and turn from their sins.
 - Not have pleasure in the death of the wicked.
 - Ask Jesus Christ to be their personal Saviour.
 - Let iniquity be their ruin.

Luke 5:32

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

5. Who were called to repentance? (Choose ONE)
- The righteous (those who do not see their sin).
 - Sinners (those who see their sinfulness).
 - Everyone who came to see him.
 - The world.
6. What must a person really see himself as before he can be called to repentance? (Choose ONE)
- A tongues speaker.
 - A holy man.
 - A righteous man.
 - A sinner.

Luke 13:3-5

3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Men have rebelled against God in many ways, but God has looked past their rebellion when He could have punished them immediately.

7. What has God **COMMANDED** all men everywhere to do? (Choose ONE)
- repent
 - perish
 - wink at ignorance
 - dwell in Jerusalem

You can see how important God says repentance is from just these few verses; yet there are many more in the Bible. In fact, repentance is so important that God has **“commanded all men everywhere to repent”** — to change from their wicked ways and obey His commands.

Now, ask yourself a question: “Have I repented?” “Have I changed my mind about breaking God’s commands?” If you still do not want to obey God, then you are turning down the **only** way by which God saves sinners — through faith and repentance.

Luke 13:5 warns us *“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”*

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Notice the blessing promised by God to those who repent.

8. What happens to the sins of someone who repents? (Choose ONE)
- They will bring times of refreshing.
 - They are converted to good works.
 - They are blotted out.
 - They remain with him until death.

In other words, without repentance your sins will never be forgiven. Yet, in the Christian church today, there are many people who know nothing at all about repentance. They are much like a group of people that John the Baptist spoke to in Luke 3.

Luke 3:7-14

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" 11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." 12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." 14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

9. How many came out to be baptized by John (see **verse 7**)? (Choose ONE)
- Multitudes (A crowd).
 - A small group.
 - A few religious leaders.
 - Only tax-collectors and soldiers.

There were many who came out to be baptized by John as a sign of their repentance toward sin, while there were others who were more interested in following the crowd than in turning away from their sins.

10. What did John tell them to bring forth (see **verse 8**)? (Choose ONE)
- Fruits as evidence of repentance.
 - Stones like their hard hearts.
 - Children from Abraham.
 - Fruits worthy of rewards.

To "**bring forth fruits worthy of repentance**" means that "**they were to do things that showed that they had a new heart of hatred towards sin inside them.**" They were to show forth in their lives what they were saying with their lips.

11. John compared the people to trees in **verse 9**. What did he say would happen to a tree that did not show forth good fruit? (Choose ONE)
- It would be replanted to get another chance.
 - It would be grafted into a tree that did show good fruit.
 - It would be hewn (cut) down and burned.
 - It would be uprooted and cast away.

Notice in **verse 10** what the people then said (*What shall we do then?*). John answered them in the following verses (*He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do*

likewise.) In **verse 11**, there were some people who had more things than they needed, while others did not have enough. They had been very selfish people.

12. What kind of fruit of repentance did John tell these selfish people they should have (see **verse 11**)? (Choose ONE)
- Give away all they owned.
 - Establish a government welfare department.
 - Support the communists.
 - Share what they had with the truly needy.

Publicans were tax collectors. They also wanted to know how repentance would affect them. In other words, they wanted to know what they should do. Keep in mind that in those days tax collectors often charged more for taxes than they should have. In **verse 13**, John gives his answer.

(“**Exact**” means “**collect**,” and “**that which is appointed you**” means “**what you are required to**.”)

13. How did John say that the publicans (tax-collectors) could show that they had truly repented? (Choose ONE)
- Collect no more than required.
 - Collect as much as they can but give the extra to the poor.
 - Resign from tax collecting.
 - Be gracious to those who pay.

The last group that John talked to about how to show true repentance were the soldiers in **verse 14** (*Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely and be content with your wages.*). They were often guilty of using violence to rob the people. Other times they would say false things about people who refused to give them whatever they demanded. They did this because they were not satisfied with the wages they were paid.

14. How did John say that the soldiers were to act if they were to show that they had truly repented? (Choose the BEST answer)
- Be satisfied with their salary.
 - Do not rob the people.
 - Do not say false things about anyone.
 - All of these were things John said soldiers should do.

The Apostle Paul writes to Christians in the town of Ephesus and tells them that they are to put off or **put away their old ways** and **take on new ways**. If they were truly Christians at heart, their hearts and minds were made alive by the Holy Spirit of God. This would cause real change in their lives.

Ephesians 4:20-32 - Look at the comparisons made between the things that are to be *put off* and *put on*.
*20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, **putting away** lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be **put away** from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

15. If a person has been known for lying, how will true repentance show itself in his life (see Verse 25)? (Choose ONE)
- They will continue lying, but have their fingers crossed.
 - They will stop lying and speak truthfully.
 - They become a member of a local church.
 - They speak falsely, then say they were only joking.
16. If a person has been known as a thief, how will he show he has had a change of mind about stealing? (See Verse 28) (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
- Uses his hands to do honest work.
 - Joins a labour union.
 - Stops stealing.
 - Works so he can give to the truly needy.
17. If a person has normally used bad or corrupt language or has been a gossip, how will true repentance show itself in his life? The word “**edifying**” means “**instructing and improving.**” (See Verse 29) (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
- He becomes a church minister.
 - Builds edifices (buildings).
 - He stops speaking corruptly.
 - Speaks in a good and helpful way.
18. Check the things in **verse 31** that will slowly, but surely, be *put away* (get rid of) by the person who is truly repenting. (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
- Tenderhearted (compassionate)
 - Forgiveness
 - Kindness
 - Redemption
 - Bitterness
 - Wrath (rage)
 - Anger
 - Clamour (quarreling)
 - Evil speaking (slander)
 - Tongues speaking
19. Check the things in **verse 32** that will be slowly and surely replacing the things listed in **verse 31** in a person who is truly repenting. (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
- Tenderhearted (compassionate)
 - Forgiveness
 - Kindness
 - Redemption
 - Bitterness
 - Wrath (rage)
 - Anger
 - Clamour (quarreling)
 - Evil speaking (slander)
 - Tongues speaking

You might be asking yourself by now whether you have truly repented. This is a very important question. It is a matter of everlasting life or everlasting death. In the next lesson are four signs of true repentance for you to think about.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

20. What works repentance that brings salvation? (Choose ONE)
- Sorrow.
 - Salvation.
 - Repentance.
 - Godly sorrow.

C. SIGNS OF TRUE REPENTANCE

The first sign of true repentance is an inward and true sorrow for your sins. This sorrow is different from the feeling that comes when a person is caught doing something wrong. That kind of sorrow is sorrow over getting caught. True sorrow that God works in a believer is sorrow because what they have done is wrong and grieves God.

1. Do you have true sorrow about your sins and how they have separated you from God? (Be honest.)
- Yes.
 - No.
 - Not sure.

Ezekiel 36:31

Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.

(“**Loathe**” means “**to regard with disgust.**”) This verse says that a true Christian today will see his own evil ways and sins.

2. How will a true Christian feel about himself because of his sins (iniquities) and because of the wicked things he has done? (Choose ONE)
- Will blame Adam and Eve.
 - Embarrassed.
 - Disgusted.
 - Proud.

The second sign of true repentance is disgust with your sins and evil ways.

3. Do you truly hate your sinful ways because of how they offend God?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure

Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

4. Where is a person who has truly repented supposed to return? (Choose ONE)
- To the Lord God.
 - To the Church.
 - To school.
 - To the police.

Ezekiel 18:30

"Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin."

5. What does God say a person must do if he is truly repenting and does not want his sins to bring him to ruin? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Turn from themselves.
 - b. Turn from all their transgressions (sins).
 - c. Say the Lord's Prayer ten times.
 - d. Do good works.

The third sign of true repentance is a constant turning away from sin with the help of God. A person then has the attitude of mind that he will fight against sin from now on, rather than give in to it anymore.

6. Do you find this attitude of mind in yourself?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Not sure.
7. What will the Lord do to the person who does turn away from their sins? (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
 - a. Forsakes him.
 - b. Have mercy upon him.
 - c. Gives him unrighteous thoughts.
 - d. Pardons him completely.

The fourth sign of true repentance is a turning away *from* trusting in himself, in false gods, in false **religions**, and men's traditions, *to* trusting in the true and living God of the Holy Bible — the God of true Christianity who is not the god of any other religion. The only way to turn to Him is through God the Son, Jesus Christ.

8. Have you truly turned from trusting in yourself or false gods, to trusting in the God you have been studying about who sent His Son, Jesus Christ?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Not sure.

Perhaps you are having some shame in confessing this (in both words and actions), especially if someone else is with you. If that is the case, then **read**

Matthew 10:32-33

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

9. Do you feel shame in confessing Christ as your Lord and Saviour?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
10. If you continue to feel shame about confessing Christ as your Lord and Saviour, what does the Bible say Jesus will do with you to God the Father? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Confess you before the Father.
 - b. Forgive you anyway because He loves you.
 - c. Deny you before the Father.
 - d. Feel sorry for you.

Perhaps you have said “yes” you have truly turned from your sin, but in your heart you know you are telling a lie; or maybe even worse, you are deceived. You think you have truly turned to Christ, but you have fooled yourself.

Matthew 7:21-27

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ 24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

11. What does Matthew 7:21-23 say about people who say Jesus is Lord, but do not obey Him? (Choose ONE)
 - a. They are forgiven.
 - b. God loves them and has a wonderful plan for their lives.
 - c. He gives them a second chance.
 - d. They are told to go away because Jesus never knew them.

12. What happens to those who build a house on the wrong kind of ground? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Nothing.
 - b. Suffer a great fall.
 - c. They remain firm.
 - d. The house sinks and cracks.

Perhaps you have claimed to be a Christian for years and believed you could be saved without forsaking your sins, and without hating your sins. You should now see that you have been wrong. You have trusted not in the Word of God, but in the ideas of men.

Below is a Special Assignment. It is not a graded assignment, but it is encouraged that you work through the activities to get the full benefit of this section.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

This is a special assignment that will not be graded.

Read Psalm 139:1-4

1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

and 23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; 24 and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Take an extra sheet of paper, get alone by yourself, and do the following things:

- a. Pray to God that He would give you a really good look at your sins and how truly evil and wicked they are in His sight.

- b. Prayerfully write down all the sins that you can think of. (You may add to it later as you think of more.) If your mind goes blank after writing down a few, turn to Exodus 20 and read over the Ten Commandments. Read over your answers to the questions in Part 2 of this series - About Sin. Also just sit quietly and pray to God to show you more. Think of sins against the warnings of God; against others (friends or enemies); against those who have tried to correct you; broken promises both to God, yourself and others; any involvement you have had with the occult, witchcraft, obea, voodoo, ouija boards, or other demonic practices; worship of and sacrifices to false gods; evil thoughts; evil actions; and so on.
- c. Read your list at least twice. Stop and carefully think about each of your sins. Confess that they are sins to God and to yourself.
- d. Go over the list another time and say to yourself after each, "God says I am guilty."
- e. Meditate on this list of sins until you begin to feel true shame, guilt, or fear over how terribly wicked you are in the sight of the one, true and holy God.
- f. Then think upon what you have learned about Jesus Christ - how He died to save sinners like you from sins like those you have written down.
- g. Ask God to change you from a wicked sinner to a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to give you true repentance from your sins.
- h. Go over the list of sins again. After each sin write down the kind of behaviour that should replace it - what you should "**put on**" in place of the sin you must "**put off**." (If you have worshipped false gods you must now reject them. If you have practiced anything that is demonic, occult, obea, voodoo, or witchcraft, you must also reject these practices.)
- i. Once you have done this, then go over the list confessing each sin to God and saying, "With your help God, I put off this sin and ask you to help me put on this new behaviour in its place."

Read 1 John 1:8, 9

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

and Ephesians 4:20-32

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- j. If you have sinned against others, list their names.

k. Then go and confess your sins to the individuals listed in j and ask them to forgive you. (Do not only say, “I am sorry.” That is too easy, and many people will not think you are serious.) If you have stolen from others, go to them, confess it and work out an agreeable plan to pay them back for the value of what you took, plus 20% (**Leviticus 6:1-6** - *1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “If a person sins and commits a trespass against the Lord by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, 3 or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely—in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: 4 then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, 5 or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering. 6 And he shall bring his trespass offering to the Lord, a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering, to the priest; Numbers 5:5-9* - *5 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 6 “Speak to the children of Israel: ‘When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the Lord, and that person is guilty, 7 then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged. 8 But if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for the wrong must go to the Lord for the priest, in addition to the ram of the atonement with which atonement is made for him. 9 Every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring to the priest, shall be his.)* even if it takes a long time. If the people are living far away, then write a letter or phone them. If you have questions about what to do in special cases, then talk to the pastor of your church. If you do not belong to a church, then the church that sponsored you in this course.

Unless you have experienced something like what has been suggested in the special assignment, then you may not have experienced true, saving repentance. If you think this is all too much trouble, then remember Jesus’ words, **“Unless you repent, you also will all perish.”** (Luke 13:3)

You should do this special assignment before continuing in this study; however, since it may take some time to complete ‘k’, you may continue this study if you are not yet finished with that section. Promise yourself and God that you will complete it, by God’s grace.

This assignment is also provided as a separate document you can download and print out as you work through it.

1. Did you do steps ‘a’ through ‘j’ in the special assignment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. Has it helped you to know whether you have experienced true repentance?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
3. If it has helped you to know you have experienced true repentance, you can use this space to explain how it has helped, or to ask questions you still have about the assignment.

D. FAITH

1. Introduction:

You cannot separate faith and repentance. There is no real faith without repentance, and there is no true repentance without faith. The two go together like breathing in and out — or like two sides of one coin. Both must be there.

There is a story about a church in a communist country that had a visit from some soldiers during the middle of one of their services. They threatened to kill all the Christians but gave those who would deny their faith a chance to get out first. Part of the church attenders left, and the rest stayed seated. After they had closed the door and those who left were out of sight, the soldiers turned to those still seated and said, “We are Christians, too. We have come to fellowship with you, but we first had to get rid of the hypocrites.” This story shows us the kind of faith required to be counted as a true Christian.

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1. What happens to one who believes and shows evidence of his belief by following the command of the Lord to be baptized? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Is healed of all illnesses.
 - b. Shall be saved.
 - c. Speaks in tongues.
 - d. Shall live a happy life.

2. What happens to him who does not believe? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Shall be condemned.
 - b. Goes to purgatory.
 - c. Gets another chance.
 - d. Shall go to heaven anyway because Jesus died for him.

Suppose you were sitting at a friend’s house and someone came to you and said, “Your house is on fire.” If you **believed** him, you would get up and run to your house to see what could be saved. In other words, **YOUR BELIEF MADE YOU ACT.**

Suppose you went to the doctor and found out that you had a disease that a particular tablet would cure. If you **believed** him, you would go out and buy the tablet and take it. In other words, **YOUR BELIEF MADE YOU ACT.**

If someone told you that your house was on fire and you did nothing about it, then you did not really believe what they told you. The same would go for the disease. If you did not take the tablet, it is because you probably did not **believe** what the doctor said was true.

So, it is with many so-called Christians today. They say they believe many even go to church - but the way they live, and act shows they are either lying or fooling themselves. But this is NOT the kind of faith the Bible speaks of.

2. True Faith – A Work of God, not Man

True faith is a work that **God does** in our heart **that changes the whole person.** True faith is a result of God’s grace at work in you. He gives you true faith, and only then do you have it.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

3. What happens if a person is “in Christ?” (Choose ONE)
 - a. Everything is new, every old thing is passed away and he is a new creature (creation).
 - b. He speaks in tongues and performs miracles.
 - c. Nothing really changes, but he feels forgiven.

In other words, when a person truly believes, he is a different person. His life is changed. He becomes a new person. He turns from walking in the way of sin and now walks in the way of doing right, obeying God.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

This verse means that our faith is not a saving faith if it does not have obedience to God, does not do good works, and does not produce a change from old evil ways to new righteous ways. Faith without these lacks proof of being true faith. It has no guarantee of being a faith that saves.

4. What is **the result of** (or what comes from) real live faith? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Good works.
 - b. Grace.
 - c. The law.
 - d. Healing all diseases.

To escape the anger and curse of God due to all men for their sin, God requires of them faith in Jesus Christ (accompanied by repentance). You must have this faith in Jesus Christ if you are to be saved from everlasting punishment in the pits of hell.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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

5. What does the grace of God work through so that a person may be saved? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Good works.
 - b. Prayer.
 - c. Faith.
 - d. An altar call.
6. The act of being saved by grace through faith is something that comes from _____. (Choose ONE)
 - a. both God and man working together.
 - b. inside man.
 - c. God alone.
 - d. man doing good works.
7. What would happen if being saved was based on the works of man? (Choose ONE)
 - a. God would be glorified.
 - b. Man would boast.
 - c. There would not be so many arguments.
 - d. Man would be happier.

Acts 20:21

testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. Who are you to have faith in if you are to be saved? (Choose ONE)
- Mankind.
 - Yourself.
 - God.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-18.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

9. What happens to them who believe (**verse 16**)? (Choose the correct TWO)
- Have had eternal life.
 - Will not perish.
 - Have eternal life.
 - Will perish.
10. What has happened to them who do not believe (**verse 18**)? (Choose ONE)
- Will be condemned.
 - Ought to be condemned.
 - Are condemned already.
 - Nobody really knows.

Man fools himself into thinking he is better than God says he is. So, the Holy Spirit of God shows a person how real and how wicked his sins are. Next, God shows a person that there is nothing he can do to get himself out of his sins.

11. Has God shown you how truly sinful you are?
- Yes
 - No
12. After studying this far, what do you think you can do BY YOURSELF (without any work on God's part) to get yourself out of your problem of sin? (Choose the BEST answer(s))
- Believe in Jesus Christ.
 - Repent and believe in Jesus Christ.
 - Get saved.
 - Nothing.

Once you see your sins and see that there is nothing you can do to save yourself from them, then true faith will turn you to God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

False faith will make you believe a lie. It will turn your thoughts to another person (maybe even one who is called a prophet). It may turn you to another god, or any other faith. But, **true faith** will not turn your thoughts to any other person, any other god, or any other faith. True faith will bring you to complete trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone as the One who can save you from your sins.

Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

13. Jesus came to save His people from their _____. (Choose ONE)
- guilt
 - sins
 - doubts
 - false faith

To have true faith means that you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin, as Lord of your life, as a Prophet to teach you, as your Priest before God the Father, and as your King to rule over you. To accept a “Jesus Christ” who is any less than Saviour, Lord, Prophet, Priest and King is to accept a different “Jesus Christ” than the Jesus Christ of the Bible.

John 1:11-12.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Jesus came first to the Jews, but most of the Jews did not accept Him as their King. They did not receive Him. They rejected Him.

14. Though His own (the Jews) did not receive Him, what happens to those who do receive Him? (Choose ONE)
- They have power of themselves to become Sons of God.
 - Jesus gives them the power (grace through faith) to become sons of God.
 - They might become the sons of God if they work hard.
 - They become the sons of God when they have paid the penalty for their sins.

Philippians 3:7-9.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

15. (Verse 9) Whose righteousness (that is, works that are acceptable to God) was the writer of Philippians trusting in? (Choose ONE)
- His own.
 - The Philippians’.
 - That which is of God in Jesus Christ.
 - That which is of the law.

True faith looks at the **Person** of the Lord Jesus Christ and His **work** for sinners. As a true man, yet as God, He took upon Himself the sins of His people and died the death due to them as punishment for their sins. True faith accepts Jesus Christ, receives Him, and trusts **completely in Him alone**. Only with this kind of faith can we be sure of forgiveness of sins, being made right with God, having victory over sin in this life, and having everlasting life in Heaven.

3. True Faith Believes the Word of God in the Bible

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectually works in you who believe.

16. Though the Thessalonian believers heard men preaching, from whom did they really believe their words came? (Choose ONE)
- The preachers.
 - God.
 - Men.
 - Satan.

The phrase “**effectually works**” in the New King James Version means “**working powerfully.**”

17. According to verse 13, when the Word of God is spoken to a group of people, which people does the Word powerfully work in? (Choose ONE)
- Unbelievers.
 - Believers.
 - Anybody.
 - Spirit-filled Christians.

Acts 24:14

But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

In this passage, the Apostle Paul is speaking.

18. The Old Testament was called “the Law and Prophets” and was the Apostle Paul’s Bible. How many things written in the Law and Prophets did Paul believe? (Choose ONE)
- All, except the heresy.
 - All, without exception.
 - Most of it.
 - Some of it.

True faith causes a believer to believe as truth whatever he reads in the Bible. He believes that these words are from God Himself. True faith not only believes the Bible, but it causes the believer *to do what it says*. True faith obeys the commands of God. True faith fears the threats of God. True faith trusts completely in the promises of God both for this life and the life to come.

1 John 5:10

He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

19. Where does God give us the witness of the truth of His Word? (Choose ONE)
- On earth.
 - In ourselves.
 - In the gift of tongues.
 - Through miracles.

Some people have taught that God did all He could do by sending Jesus to die on the cross, leaving man on *his own* to supply true faith and repentance. They say God has done His part, but man must do the rest to *get* himself saved. But the Bible teaches that salvation is ***all of the Lord***

Jonah 2:9

But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

This Bible passage was written to Timothy, an evangelist and pastor trained by Paul. Paul was telling him how to deal with people who opposed the truth of God.

20. In **verse 25**, who is it that gives repentance? (Choose ONE)
- a. God.
 - b. Angels.
 - c. The spirit of man.
 - d. The servant of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

21. Who begins and completes true faith? (Choose ONE)
- a. Man.
 - b. The Holy Mary.
 - c. Jesus Christ.
 - d. The priest or minister.

It can easily be seen from these passages that once a person is saved, he learns that even the hands of faith that received the gift of God in Jesus Christ were given to him by God. When a person finds that he is truly repenting, he cannot look to himself and say, “Well, you are doing a good job,” because true repentance is also from God. This is a mystery, but it is true.

The problem of unbelief is your problem. The Bible says that all men are “dead in trespasses and sin” (**Ephesians 2:1**). Jesus said, “You have eyes, but you see not.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

22. From whom is the gospel hidden (**verse 3**)? (Choose ONE)
- a. Believers.
 - b. Unbelievers (those that are perishing).
 - c. Doubters.

23. What has the god of this age (Satan) done to the minds of them that believe not (see Verse 4)? (Choose ONE)
- Enlightened them.
 - Blinded them.
 - Shined on them.
 - Revealed the truth.

So, if you are not yet a believer, it is because Satan himself has blinded you. It is because of **your** sin that you are dead spiritually and **cannot** do what God commands you to do. God commands you to believe and repent. “But how can I believe if I am spiritually dead? How can I see the Kingdom of God if I am blind?” These are very good questions, and again the Bible has the answers.

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.”

24. What must happen before a man can SEE the Kingdom of God? (Choose ONE)
- He must believe and repent.
 - He must be born again.
 - He must ask Jesus to come into his heart.
 - He must do good works.

CONCLUSION

Is a baby responsible for its birth? Certainly not. The mother (with perhaps the help of a doctor or midwife) is the one who gives birth to the baby. Likewise, you cannot give yourself new birth. You cannot make yourself be born again. You cannot start it, help it along, or finish it. **Being born again is totally, completely God’s work.** Salvation (new birth) is of the Lord. It is an act of God, the Holy Spirit, giving to those whom God, the Father, has chosen, the fruits of the work of Jesus Christ (God, the Son). God does this. You do not. You may seek after it, desire it, pray for it, plead for it, but God must do it. And when He does it you will know it because you will find within yourself the **true faith** and **true repentance** you have been studying about in this lesson. It will not be perfect faith or perfect repentance, but it will become more perfect as life goes on.

John 9:39-41

39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore, your sin remains.

Some church leaders in Jesus’ day thought they could see very well.

- To whom did Jesus say He would give sight? (Choose ONE)
 - Everyone.
 - Those who do not see.
 - Those who see.
 - Nobody.
- Who did Jesus say He would make blind? (Choose ONE)
 - Everybody.
 - Those who do not see.
 - Those who see.

- d. Nobody.

Notice in **verse 40**, the Pharisees who thought they could see asked, “Are we blind also?” In other words, they were disagreeing with Jesus. They thought they could see spiritual things clearly, but they were very blind. They were blind and did not know it.

3. What did Jesus say would happen if these Pharisees did not admit to being blind? (Choose ONE)
- Their sin would remain.
 - They would see.
 - They will have no sin.
 - Nothing.
4. But because they refused to realize that they were blind, what did Jesus say to them? (Choose ONE)
- You will become blind.
 - Your sins shall remain on you.
 - God still loves you.
 - You have no sin.

In **Matthew 6:23**, Jesus said, “*If the light that is in you is really darkness, how great is that darkness. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

5. How about you? Can you **honestly** say you have been born again?
- Yes.
 - No.
 - Not sure.

Do you think you can see? OR, do you admit you are blind? Jesus said He came that the blind could see.

Faith and repentance come by the Spirit of God at work in your heart. Yet many cannot believe and will not believe because their hearts are so hardened by sin. But the Bible says to look unto Jesus. Look unto Him who knew no sin and died in the place of many sinners.

6. Do you find within yourself this **true faith** in Jesus Christ?
- Yes.
 - No.
 - Not sure.
7. Do you find within yourself **true repentance** toward God?
- Yes.
 - No.
 - Not sure.

Look at the list below and ask yourself which of the statements below are true about you that are **Bible-based evidences of true faith and true repentance**? This will help you know if you are fooling yourself about being a true Christian.

- a. I asked Jesus to come into my heart.
 - b. I went forward at an altar call.
 - c. I raised my hand when a preacher asked.
 - d. I speak in tongues.
 - e. I have witnessed a miracle.
 - f. I have been healed or am healing people.
 - g. I pray to Mary.
 - h. I sing in the choir.
 - i. I do not sin anymore.
 - j. I take communion.
 - k. I do not drink alcoholic beverages.
 - l. I have preached the gospel.
 - m. I do not smoke tobacco.
 - n. I am putting off particular sins and doing righteous things in their place.
 - o. I believe in Jesus Christ's person (both God and man) and work (to reconcile sinners to God).
 - p. I believe the Bible.
 - q. I have seen my sin and am truly disgusted with it.
 - r. I should be a member of a local true Christian church.
 - s. When I do sin I confess them and forsake them.
 - t. I am very sorry deep inside that my sins have separated me from God.
 - u. I believe that Jesus died for me.
 - v. I trust in Jesus Christ alone for my salvation and not anything I have done or will do.
 - w. I try to obey the Ten Commandments (all of them).
8. How many of these statements between 'a' – 'm' would you say were true about you? (*Answer is required*)
- a. None of them are about me because I know there is nothing I can do that will save me.
 - b. I have done some of them and believe that is the reason I have been saved.
 - c. I have only done one of them but do believe that is the reason I am saved.
9. How many of these statements between 'n' – 'w' would you say were true about you? (*Answer is required*)
- a. I don't think I need to do any of these because Jesus is all I need.
 - b. I am trying to do many of these with God's help.
 - c. I have done some of them and believe that is the reason I have been saved.

If you believe your faith and repentance is true because of the statements you checked between letters 'n' through 'w' in question 8, then you are right. Letters 'n' through 'w' **ARE Bible-based evidences of true faith and repentance**.

But, if you think you have true faith and true repentance because of the statements that you checked between letters 'a' through 'm', you are wrong. Letters 'a' through 'm' are **NOT Bible-based evidences of true faith and repentance**. Many of these are good things; some are bad (for example, 'g' and 'i'). But not one of them ('a' through 'm') is a solid biblical reason for believing you are truly saved.

To be sure of your faith and repentance, it must be based on what the Bible alone says.

When you trust only in God's Word for salvation, you have a good, solidly based faith. However, when you trust in things that the Word of God does not clearly teach as evidences of true faith and repentance, you are building your house on sand. Part 5 - About Obedience and Holiness will discuss this in more detail.

If you do not find true faith and repentance within yourself yet, but you want to have it; remember it is a gift from God. Go after it. Ask Him to give it to you.

10. Have you prayed, and do you keep on praying, that God will open your eyes and cause you to see the light of Jesus Christ? Have you asked God to make you His child (if you are not already), to give you new birth, to change your heart, to give you true faith and repentance?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Part 5 - **ABOUT HOLINESS AND OBEDIENCE** - is the next and last part of this series. You have almost finished this series, so why not commit yourself to going to the very end. God will bless you for your long search after truth from Him.

The Bible says, "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*" (**Matthew 7:7**).

GOOD NEWS BIBLE STUDY

Basic Course Part 5

ABOUT OBEDIENCE AND HOLINESS

In Part 1 of this course you saw who God is, what He is like, and how great a God He really is. You saw that many people have wrong ideas about God. In Part 2 you saw that your sin has separated you from God, and that the punishment that you deserve for your disobedience to Him is everlasting death in hell. You studied the Ten Commandments and how you have broken them. You probably were convicted of many sins. You may feel some real guilt and shame over having broken so many of God's laws. Next, in Part 3 you studied the Good News that God the Father sent God the Son to die the death that sinners deserve so that He could save a people for Himself out of the fallen race of mankind. Jesus Christ died to save His people from their sins and to reconcile them to God. You studied that Jesus Christ was both true God and true man, and that He is the only way to God. Then in Part 4 you began to see what God requires from man. The two things you studied were faith and repentance. Repentance means that a person changes from his sinful life to a life of obedience to God. Faith puts all its trust in Jesus Christ and trusts in Him completely for the forgiveness of sins and for everlasting life.

A. INTRODUCTION – PART 1

There is one final and very important part of this Good News Bible Study Basic Course — obedience and holiness. If a person, by the grace of God, has true repentance and true faith, these will show themselves in obedience to God's laws and holiness in one's life. Without repentance and faith, there is no true obedience or holiness. But without obedience and holiness, a person's faith and repentance are shown to be false. In other words, *obedience and holiness show that your faith and repentance are true*. Though sin will always continue with us, if you have true faith and repentance, you will become increasingly obedient and holy.

How are we saved? By works, or faith, or both? Before we begin this study on holiness and obedience, it is very important that you understand that a person IS NOT SAVED by obedience or holiness.

A person becomes obedient and holy because he is saved.

I Corinthians 1:27-31.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

(For your information, “righteousness” means “right with God”; “sanctification” means “set apart for God”; and “redemption” means “the price paid to buy His people out of their slavery to sin.”)

1. What has Jesus Christ been made or what did He become for Christians (**verse 30**)? (There are **FOUR** correct answers.)
 - a. No flesh should glory.
 - b. Wisdom.
 - c. A weak thing.
 - d. Redemption.
 - e. Righteousness.
 - f. Sanctification (holiness).
 - g. Despised.
 - h. Chosen.

2. Whose work makes us acceptable before God? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Jesus Christ's
 - b. Our own
 - c. Our Pastor's
 - d. Mother Nature's

3. Did any other man's work have to be added to the work of Jesus Christ?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes

4. In **verse 31**, who should receive all the glory? (Choose ONE)
 - a. We should.
 - b. Our Church should.
 - c. The Lord should.
 - d. The civil government should.

5. If man had added his work to the work of Jesus Christ, would Christ receive ALL the glory?
 - a. YES
 - b. NO.

Titus 3:5

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6. What does the phrase "not by works of righteousness which we have done" tell you about how someone is saved? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. We are not saved by doing good works.
 - b. We are not saved by Christ's righteousness.
 - c. We are not saved by faith.
 - d. Nothing can save us.

7. If we are not saved by works, then what does **Titus 3:5** say about how we are saved? (Choose ONE)
 - a. By works of righteousness.
 - b. By the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. By the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. By inviting Jesus into our hearts.

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were

dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

If you are using a King James Version Bible, remember that the word “quicken” means “made alive.”

8. What kind of people does **verse 5** say are quickened (or made alive) with Christ? (Choose ONE)
- Those who are dead in sins.
 - Those who speak in tongues.
 - Those who don't drink or smoke.

When the Bible says a person is dead in this way, it means they are spiritually dead to God. Now, answer some very simple questions from your experience:

Have you ever seen a person who died?

Have you ever seen a dead person get up, move around, and go back to his job?

Dead people cannot do anything because they are dead. So if a dead person is going to do something, he must first be given life again before he can do anything.

What is true in the physical world, is also true in the spiritual world. The Bible says in **Ephesians 2:1, 5** that **all men are dead**. How is it possible for spiritually dead men to do good spiritual works? **It is impossible** — it cannot be done. So, if a person tries to get saved by doing works, can he do the right kind of spiritual works? No work he does will be good in God's sight.

9. If a person cannot be saved by works, then how is he saved (See **Ephesians 2:8**)? (Choose ONE)
- By doing good works.
 - By grace.
 - By faith.
 - By grace through faith.

(Note: “Grace” means “a gift that is given from God that a person does not deserve.”)

10. How is the grace given? (Choose ONE)
- When we accept Jesus Christ into our lives.
 - When God's gift of grace comes to us through faith.
 - When we pray.
 - Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
11. Where does the grace and the faith from? (Choose ONE)
- God
 - ourselves
 - a preacher
 - my prayers

12. What does **Ephesians 2:9** say a man would do if he were saved by any kind of works? (Choose ONE)
- Not work
 - Boast (feel proud)
 - Wish he was dead.
 - Feel bad.
13. What does **Ephesians 2:10** say a man saved by grace through faith has been saved (or created) to do? (Choose ONE)
- To sit back and wait for the Lord to come.
 - To do good works.
 - To give altar calls.
 - To do anything he wants to.
14. Whose workmanship are Christians (**Ephesians 2:10**)? (Choose ONE)
- Their own.
 - Work of nature.
 - God's.
 - Partly theirs and partly God's.
15. If we were saved by any of our own works, whose workmanship would we be? (Choose ONE)
- The Holy Spirit's.
 - Our own.
 - God's.
 - The Devil's.

God's grace saves people by giving them faith, and the **result** of this gift from God to men is that **they will do good works**.

So, God must first give life to men who are dead in trespasses and sin before they can believe or do good works. Therefore, **it is the work of God that saves**. Everything else comes because of the work of God. **Our faith and decision to follow Christ come from the grace of God**. Good works come from the grace of God. Obedience and holiness come from the grace of God. Everything good a Christian has, comes from the grace of God.

16. Is a man saved by keeping the Ten Commandments?
- Yes
 - No
17. Which of the following Scripture verses from the first four parts of this course proves your answer to this question?
- Galatians 3:10-11** - *10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."*
 - I Corinthians 1:27-31** - *27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."*

- c. **Philippians 2:12-13** - *12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- d. **James 2:14-26** - *14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Some people say that verses like Philippians 2:12-13 and James 2:14-26 teach that man is saved by doing good works. But these verses teach that anyone **saved by grace through faith will do good works**. The **good works** are NOT the **REASON for salvation**: they are the **RESULT of salvation**: **Good works come from salvation**: they do not bring it to pass. **Obedience** and **holiness** are the **works** of a person who **has been saved** by God.

INTRODUCTION – PART 2

The same Holy Bible that teaches us that men are not saved by works, also teaches that if a man's faith is real, it will produce a loving obedience to Jesus Christ through living a holy life.

1 Corinthians 16:22.

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

18. Who does this verse *say* will be cursed? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- All non-baptized Christians.
 - All those who have not asked Jesus into their hearts.
 - All those who do not love the Lord.
 - The passage does not answer the question.

We can see that love for the Lord Jesus Christ is very important.

John 14:21.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

19. How does true love for the Lord Jesus Christ show itself? (Choose ONE)
- By loving Jesus.
 - By speaking in tongues.
 - By keeping the laws of God.
 - By praying to various saints.

20. How would a person who says He believes and loves the Lord Jesus Christ show himself to be one who has a **false love**? (Choose ONE)
- By sinning.
 - By not speaking in tongues.
 - By not obeying the Lord.
 - By being baptized again.

To talk of believing or loving Jesus Christ, as so many do today, **without obeying Him** is foolishness. Belief and love are worthless where there is NO obedience.

John 14:15

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Jesus said that obedience to Him is the proof of our love.

21. What did **1 Corinthians 16:22** say would be the end of those who do not love (that is, do not obey) the Lord Jesus Christ?
- Anathema (Cursed)
 - Maranath (come, O Lord)

Have you been depending upon **some experience** like a dream, a vision, or speaking in tongues?

Have you been depending upon **something you did** like asking Jesus into your heart, signing a card, or raising your hand during a revival or crusade meeting?

If you have depended on one of these, as many do, **you are depending on the wrong thing**. If you do not have the kind of love for Jesus Christ that brings obedience to His Word, then you are lost and unsaved. If you do not wake up, you will join the devil in the lake of everlasting fire.

B. THE NEW COVENANT TELLS US WE MUST BE OBEDIENT AND HOLY

A “**covenant**” is a “**statement**,” an “**agreement**” or a “**testament**” between two or more people. In the Bible, we read of both the *old covenant* and *new covenant*. These are one *covenant of grace* with two parts. This one *covenant* centers around Christ’s death/resurrection. The *old* part looks forward to His death while the *new* part looks back at it.

Looking forward, the *old covenant* was made by God with mankind through the nation of Israel. The laws, ceremonies, and sacrifices in Old Testament times looked forward to Christ’s death. Once Christ came and died, the ceremonies and sacrifices of the *old covenant* were fulfilled and replaced by the *new covenant* sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The new part of the *covenant* looks back at Christ’s death. It is still God’s *covenant* with mankind but is now through the *new* nation of Israel — the Church.

In the *old covenant*, a person was a member of the nation of Israel. In the new covenant, a person should be a member of the new nation of God — the Church. (Today, we should become a member of a true local Christian church to be in covenant with God.)

The establishing of the *new covenant* was a very important part of Christ’s purpose in coming to earth. Since it is of great importance to God, it should be very important to His people.

Luke 22:19-20

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

The Lord Jesus was speaking to His twelve disciples at the Last Supper they had together before His death. He spoke of the bread as a symbol of His body.

1. What did Jesus say the cup was a reference to? (Choose ONE)
 - a. His blood.
 - b. The new covenant in His blood.
 - c. The wine.
 - d. His body.

You can see how important the *new covenant* was to Christ. It was so important that He died and shed His blood to bring in the *new covenant*.

Now that you have seen how important the *new covenant* (testament) is, you will learn what blessings came with it. Christ died and spilled His blood to bring certain blessings to His people — these are *new covenant* blessings.

Hebrews 10:16-17

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

2. What are the two things that the Lord said He would do in the *new covenant*? (Choose only **TWO**.)
 - a. Place His laws in our hearts.
 - b. Forget our sins.
 - c. Remember our sins no more.
 - d. Write down our names.
 - e. Convince us that since we are under grace, we do not need to worry about His laws.
3. When God takes the work of Jesus Christ, which brings with it the *new covenant*, and applies it to a sinner, what *new covenant blessings* are given to the sinner? (Choose only **ONE**.)
 - a. He places His laws in our hearts, but we do not need to keep them because we are under grace.
 - b. He forgets our sins so we can go ahead and sin all we want.
 - c. He places His laws in our heart so we will want to keep them, and He remembers our sins no more so that we are not burdened by the guilt of past sins.
 - d. He makes us obey the law so we can be saved.

Because Jesus Christ died and brought with His death the blessings of the *new covenant*, all those for whom He died receive these blessings.

Whenever a person is saved, God the Holy Spirit applies these "**new covenant blessings**" to him. **They are part of a person's salvation.** The **FIRST** blessing he receives is *the laws of God written in his heart and mind (Hebrews 10:16)*. The **SECOND** blessing is that *his sins are all forgiven by God (Hebrews 10:17)*. This could be said another way: When God applies Jesus' death to a sinner, the sinner has a *new* record in Heaven and a *new* heart on earth. The sinner is changed from a rebellious person to a servant. He is changed from a person who hates to do God's will to one who loves to do it.

Psalm 40:8

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.

4. Why does the Psalm writer delight to do God's will? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- It is nice to obey God.
 - God's laws are written on his heart.
 - It is easier to obey God than disobey Him.
 - He has been forgiven for breaking God's laws.

Hebrews 12:22-24.

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

One of the things the Hebrew Christians had come to was “. . . to Jesus, the Mediator of the *new covenant*.” As Mediator He stands between God and man.

5. Of how much of the *new covenant* was Jesus the mediator? (Choose ONE)
- One quarter of the new covenant.
 - Three quarters of the new covenant.
 - One half of the new covenant.
 - All of the new covenant.

Many preachers today say that a person can be saved by Jesus and have forgiveness of his sins; that obedience is not necessary. If this were true, it would mean that the sinner only received **one-half** of the *new covenant* blessings. But this is not what the Bible says. **Either a person receives ALL the blessings, or he receives NONE.**

Holiness and obedience are not optional for a Christian. Either he has received pardon for all his sins and has the laws of God in his heart (so that he will obey), **OR** he has no forgiveness at all. Either Jesus is both Lord and Saviour of his life, **OR** He is neither. He cannot accept Christ as Saviour and deny Him as Lord. Jesus cannot be divided up in that way.

6. The blood of the *new covenant* brought what **TWO things**? (Choose the **BEST TWO**.)
- God's laws are written in our hearts.
 - Baptism.
 - God no longer remembers our sins.
 - Accepting Jesus into our hearts.

Either BOTH blessings are given to a sinner or NONE. If the sinner is pardoned, then God gets a servant. If God does not get a servant, then the sinner has not received a pardon.

7. If you claim to be a Christian, does God have a servant? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- YES.
 - NO.
 - Only occasionally.

C. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TELLS US WE MUST BE OBEDIENT AND HOLY

Christ knew best that man could not save himself. If man could save himself by doing good works, then Jesus would not have had to suffer the terrible death on the cross to save sinners. Christ knew that man

could not save himself by obedience. However, Jesus said that **obedience** to His Word is a necessary **result** of **true faith** and **true repentance**. *Without both OBEDIENCE and HOLINESS, no one can get to Heaven.*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the characteristics of the members of His Kingdom. This sermon **IS NOT** telling people what they must do to get saved. It **IS** a sermon on **how those who are saved will want to act**.

Matthew 5:3-10.

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. Who are the “blessed” in **verse 3?** (Choose ONE)
 - a. Those who **WERE** poor in spirit.
 - b. Those who **ARE** poor in spirit.
 - c. Those who **WILL BE** poor in spirit.
 - d. Those who **MIGHT BE** poor in spirit.
2. When will theirs be the Kingdom of Heaven? (Choose ONE)
 - a. **WAS**, in the past.
 - b. **IS**, in the present.
 - c. **WILL BE**, in the future.
 - d. Never.

To be “**poor in spirit**” means that a person realizes he is nothing in the eyes of God and can do nothing good in the eyes of God. In other words, **verse 3** says that those who **are presently being** poor in spirit **are in** the Kingdom of Heaven. This verse does not talk about those who **once WERE** poor in spirit, but those who **presently ARE** poor in spirit. Do you see the difference? *A saved person is one who has an ever-present attitude of knowing that by himself he is nothing in the eyes of God.*

3. Who are the “blessed” in **Matthew 5:4?** (Choose ONE)
 - a. Those who have mourned (were sorry) once in the past over their sin.
 - b. Those who presently do mourn (are sorry) for their sin.
 - c. Those who regularly give testimony about how wicked they have been.
 - d. Those who will be mourning (will be sorry) their sins when they die.
4. Who are the “blessed” in **Matthew 5:6?** (Choose ONE)
 - a. Those who presently do hunger after righteousness.
 - b. Those who have hungered after righteousness.
 - c. Those who may yet hunger after righteousness.
 - d. Those who will be hungering after righteousness.

Repentance from sin is not a one-time act but is an always-present attitude. Repentance (turning away from) sin goes on and on in a true Christian’s life because sin clings to us, even though it has lost its total control over us.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

5. In **verse 21**, who shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven? (Choose ONE)
- Those who prophesy.
 - Those who cast out demons.
 - Those who are presently doing God's will.
 - Those who used to do God's will.
 - Those who speak in tongues.
 - Those who have done many wonderful things.

Notice that those who are saved are those who are doing the will of the Father. Many people say, "I have accepted Christ as my Saviour, but I am not quite ready to do all that He wants me to do." **They still want to enjoy sin without suffering for it later.** But **Matthew 7:21-23** says in another way, "**Strive for holiness, or burn!**" Holiness is not an option. We must go after holiness, no matter how many times we fail. This is not a salvation *BY WORKS*, but a salvation that *DOES WORKS*. Though we will not be perfectly holy in this life, we must strive for it. If obedience and holiness are not important to you, then Christ may say to you one day, "**Depart from me, you that work iniquity.**"

John 8:30-31

30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

6. What happened after Jesus finished speaking? (Choose ONE)
- Many believed on Him.
 - Everyone raised their hands.
 - They sat and prayed.
 - They came forward and asked Jesus to come into their hearts.

Notice that Jesus did NOT say "OK, now that you say you believe, you are saved." He did not tell them to "sign a card and remember that moment." He did not tell them such foolishness like we hear so often today from some Christian preachers.

7. What did Jesus tell those who said they believed on Him? (Choose only **ONE**.)
- Now that you have accepted me, **you are saved**, do not doubt it.
 - Bow your head and **pray** this prayer after me.
 - Wait until you receive **power** from the Holy Spirit.
 - If you continue in my word, **then** you are my disciples indeed.

Jesus told them how they could KNOW whether they had true belief or false belief. He told them that if they **continued** in the things He told them to do, **THEN** they were **true** disciples.

8. What was the proof that would show them that they were **true disciples**? (Choose ONE)
- Speaking in tongues.
 - Getting a certain feeling inside.
 - Praying to a favorite saint.
 - Continuing to know, believe, and obey His Word.

John 10:27-28

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

9. To whom does Christ say He gives eternal life? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Those who ask Jesus into their heart.
 - b. Those who pray to His mother Mary.
 - c. Those who follow Him like sheep.
 - d. Those who speak in tongues.

10. What two things are they known to do (**John 10:27**)? (Choose TWO)
 - a. Hear His voice.
 - b. Preach the Bible.
 - c. Complete the Good News Bible Study.
 - d. Obey Him when they feel like it.
 - e. Listen to preachers on radio and TV.
 - f. Follow Him.

A person who is truly a believer will *hear* the voice of Christ and *follow* Him. Only those who *hear* Him and *follow* Him are saved. In verse 27, Christ says that He “**knows**” them. This means that He is “**intimately joined to them in a spiritual way.**” In verse 29, you see the reason - “**My Father gave them to me.**” These are the sheep for whom He would die. These are the ones of whom Jesus spoke in **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.*” In other words, when someone comes to Christ, that person is kept safe by God. He keeps the person moving toward obedience and holiness. If God is not moving you toward obedience and holiness, then God may not be in you at all. One wise preacher once said, “If you are not hearing and following Jesus Christ, but you call yourself a Christian, then you are a goat with a ‘SHEEP’ sign around your neck.” ***A Christian who is not increasingly obeying and following Christ may find he is not a true Christian.***

D. THE TESTIMONY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS TELLS US WE MUST BE BOTH OBEDIENT AND HOLY

You have seen that holiness and obedience are commanded by Jesus Christ and are part of the *new covenant* blessings that are given to all true believers. Now you will learn what some apostles taught about them.

Acts 26:19-20

19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

(The word “**befitting**” means “**worthy of**” or “**as proof of.**”) In these verses, the Apostle Paul was summarizing all he had ever preached to King Agrippa.

1. What did Paul say he had preached in many different places, both to Jews and Gentiles? (Choose TWO)
 - a. That all who believe in Jesus Christ should pray the sinner’s prayer.
 - b. That all who believe in Jesus Christ should repent.
 - c. That all who believe in Jesus Christ do the kind of works that prove that their repentance is true.
 - c. That all who believe in Jesus Christ must now wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul is saying here that true repentance will prove itself by the doing of good works. By **“do works meet for repentance”** Paul is saying, **“prove your repentance by your deeds.”** He is NOT saying, “Do works to get saved,” but **“Do works to show that you ARE saved.”**

Read **Ephesians 2:8-10** again.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2. Which is correct? (Choose ONE)
- For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus if we do good works.
 - For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus when we do good works.
 - For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
 - For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus by doing good works.

Again, you can see that good works are the result of true faith. The same God who puts within a Christian true faith, also **puts within him the power to do good works.**

Hebrews 5:8-9 (“Author” here means **“Source, the One who begins.”**)

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

3. For whom is Jesus the Author of salvation? (Choose ONE)
- Those who are baptized.
 - Those who speak in tongues.
 - Those who go to church.
 - Those who obey Him.

From this we learn that a person who does not continue to grow in his obedience to Christ must either repent or stop calling himself a true Christian.

James 2:17

Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

4. If faith does not prove itself to be true faith by doing good works of holiness and obedience, what kind of faith is it according to James? (Choose ONE)
- True faith.
 - Dead faith.
 - Backslidden faith.
 - Weak faith.

If you have ever seen a chicken killed, you know that even after its head is cut off, there is movement for a while. A chicken can even run around with its head cut off. So, it is with dead faith; it may say much and even do much, but it is really dead.

1 John 2:3-4

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5. How does a person know that he really knows Jesus Christ in the true way that brings salvation? (Choose ONE)
 - a. When he sees an angel or has a vision.
 - b. When he bows his head and asks Jesus to come in and save him.
 - c. When he is baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 - d. When he keeps His commandments.

6. What kind of person says he knows Christ but does not obey Him? (Choose ALL the correct ONES)
 - a. Obedient.
 - b. A liar.
 - c. Honest.
 - d. One without truth in him.

7. Who says, "A person can be saved whether he obeys or not?" (Choose ONE)
 - a. A liar.
 - b. A preacher.
 - c. A witness.
 - d. A believer.

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

8. What does this verse say about holiness? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Holiness is optional.
 - b. Holiness is wise.
 - c. Holiness is necessary.
 - d. Holiness is helpful.

9. How necessary is holiness in the life of a true believer? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Absolutely necessary.
 - b. Necessary on occasion.
 - c. Necessary when you are around other Christians.
 - d. Necessary just before you die.

Romans 8:13-14 ("Flesh" means "sin nature")

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

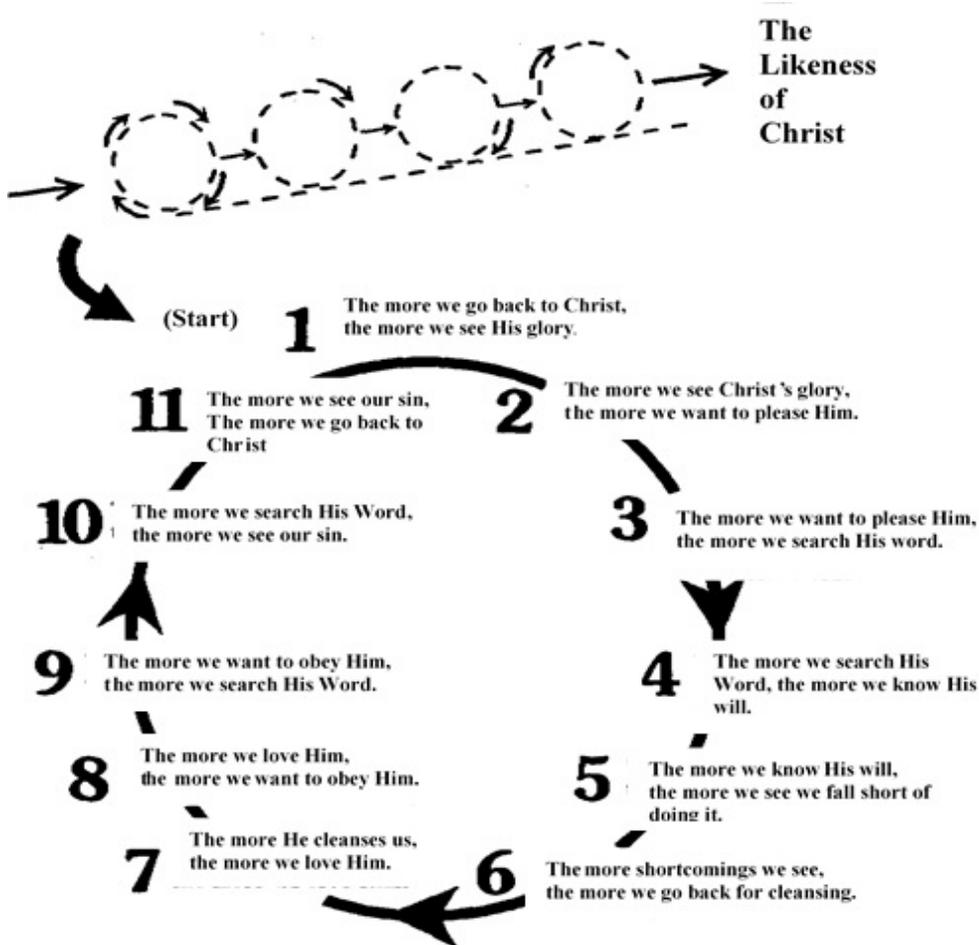
10. What happens if you follow your sinful nature? (Choose ONE)
 - a. You will live.
 - b. You will backslide.
 - c. You will die.
 - d. You will be out of fellowship.

11. What will you do, by the power of the Holy Spirit, if you have been born again and the Spirit dwells in you? (Choose ONE)
 - a. Live according to the flesh.
 - b. Put to death the deeds of the body.
 - c. Speak in tongues.
 - d. Live at peace with your conscience.

12. What will be the result of putting to death sin? (Choose ONE)
- You will live.
 - All your problems will be solved.
 - Happy feelings will fill you.
 - You will fellowship with the believers.
13. Why will you put to death sin (**Romans 8:14**)? (Choose ONE)
- Because you are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Because you want to.
 - Because it comes naturally.
 - Because your pastor told you to do it.

E. CONCLUSION

The circle below is an idea of what the Christian life is all about and how it works. STUDY IT CAREFULLY.



As we go around the circle, it is like rolling a ball uphill. The more we go around the circle, the higher we climb and the closer we get to Christ. Any time we stop going around the circle, then we start to roll backward. There is no way to stand in one place.

You have now studied the final part of this course which shows that **obedience and holiness are NECESSARY RESULTS of being a true believer**. But sin will continue to cling to you and always try to take you back. Your confidence must be knowing that Christ is in you. He defeated sin and his power

alone will grant you increasing obedience and holiness. True obedience and holiness is always a work of Christ in you, not a work of yourself.

Let us now put this Bible course (Parts 1 through 5) together. Below is a gospel tree — we will call it the **Good News Tree**. You will notice that the **ROOT** of the tree is knowledge **About God** (Part 1) and knowledge **About Sin** (Part 2). Without the root a tree cannot come into being. Therefore, anyone who is to become a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ must have a certain basic knowledge of the one true God of the Bible. Next he must have a personal knowledge of his own sinfulness in the eyes of this pure and holy God.

Once a person truly knows how holy God is and how sinful he is, then that person is ready to hear the Good News **About Jesus Christ** (Part 3) that involves two parts — *Who He Is* (His Person), and *What He Did* (His Work). This is the central or main part of the gospel, like the **TRUNK** of a tree is the main part of a tree.

The final parts of any true tree are **LEAVES** and **FRUIT**. Once a true believer knows who God is, how sinful he is, who Jesus Christ is and what He did, then he must know **About Faith and Repentance** (Part 4) and **About Obedience and Holiness** (Part 5) just as a tree must have leaves and fruit. Without faith *and* repentance, a person is not a true believer. Without obedience *and* holiness, a person is not a true believer.



CONGRATULATIONS: You have come to the end of this course. Before taking the test for Part 5 and the Final Test over the entire course, please answer some questions.

1. Write out any questions you may have about the things you have studied in Part 5. This is not graded but required.
2. Do you believe you are a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ now? (**Answer required.**)
 - a. Yes, I was a true believer before I began this Bible course.
 - b. I believe I have become a true believer while taking this course.
 - c. I am not sure, but I want to be a true believer.
 - d. I am not sure, and I do not really care.
 - e. I know I am not a true believer, but I want to be one.

If you checked 'a' or 'b' or 'c' in #2 above, then answer these questions:

3. What evidence is there that you have true faith? **(Answer required.)**
4. What evidence is there in your life that you have true repentance? **(Answer required.)**
5. In what ways do you see true obedience in your life? **(Answer required.)**
6. In what ways are you becoming more holy? **(Answer required.)**
7. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are **passing away, and all things are becoming new.**”* Write down some old things that are passing away in your life and what things are replacing them making you into a new person? **(Answer required.)**

OLD (Putting Off)

NEW (Putting On)

8. What is your opinion about this Good News Bible Study Basic Course? **(Answer required.)**

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Throughout this Bible course, we have emphasized the importance of knowing who God is and who Jesus Christ is. We have also told you what is necessary to know if you are a true believer — someone who has true faith and repentance, as well as true obedience and holiness. We have only hinted at the importance of belonging to a local church, and now will take what little space is left to discuss this briefly.

It was the members of the church that were first called Christians in Acts 11:26. In fact, most historic Christian doctrinal statements use the word “Christian” only for someone who is a member of a local church. The Church is the Body of Christ on earth and unless we identify with Christ by belonging to a local church we cannot be considered “true Christians.” We may be true believers, but our true belief is going to bring us to the point of joining a local church. Then we can call ourselves “true Christians.”

In 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 12:12-13, it is the church in the town of Corinth that was spoken of as those “that are sanctified in Christ Jesus.” Those in Corinth were just one local body of believers who were part of the Body of Christ around the world composed of all those who belong to other true churches.

Acts 2:47 reminds us that the Lord adds to His Church everyone who is saved. If you are a true believer or have become a true believer, you must become a member of a local church if you wish to be a Christian. In fact, whenever a person is excommunicated or leaves a church and does not transfer to another true church, the Scriptures say he is to be considered a heathen (Matthew 18:17).

When a person is baptized, he becomes a member of a local church. This is true of children (for those who practice the baptism of children) and adults. If you are baptized, but away from the church you were baptized in, you should join a true church in your local area.

God gave to His churches the responsibility of perfecting His people by the faithful preaching and teaching of His Word and the proper administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Table. God uses His churches to grow us up in the faith, provide the necessary support for staying faithful to Him and give us opportunity and authority for ministry. Therefore, it is important that we not only belong to a church, but that we are regular and active in attendance and in using the gifts God has given us to serve others.

Every church is more or less pure according to its teachings and practices, which should be according to the Bible in every way. Even the purest churches will have both error and believers who are only so outwardly (Matthew 3:12; 13:24-30, 47-58). But some churches err so greatly that they cannot be called true churches, but synagogues of Satan (Revelation 18:2; Romans 11:18-22).

The test in all things is faithfulness to the teachings of the whole Bible.

If you have any difficulty in locating a church, have questions about right practices or teachings, feel free to write us. If there is no church in your area, perhaps we can assist you in gathering together a group of true believers who wish to start a church. Write such requests separately to the address below or send a private message to the teacher of this course.

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