

“Biblical Words / Biblical Concepts”

A sermon series preached at Grace Baptist Church by Pastor Dave Lueloff

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Heaven

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Heaven or Heavens - 716 times in Bible / Heaven - 56 times in Book of Revelation

Paul got a glimpse of heaven – unexplainable, words un-utterable, indescribable, not even sure if he was in the body or out of the body!

The Holy Spirit actually gives us a glimpse of heaven – 1 Cor. 2:9-10 Things that are not seen, heard, explained – are revealed unto us...yea even the deep things of God.

The indwelling Holy Ghost – is God, the Holy Ghost – and He gives you heavenly comfort, heavenly peace, heavenly joy – joy of the Holy Ghost – the same joy we will experience in heaven.

What the Bible teaches about heaven.

Why heaven?

Some ask why did God... all wise...

Why is there a hell? Why eternal damnation? Why did God allow the devil? Why did God allow Adam & Eve to sin? Free will – you too have free will...

Why am I born? Why is there a heaven?

Psalms 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Why heaven? God decided that – He is all wise

The wisdom of God is displayed in preaching – that saves a soul

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

I cannot explain the wisdom of God – I just trust it – and God has chosen to have a place called HEAVEN.

Who will be there?

Holy angels -- billions of them

Cherubim

Psalms 80:1 ... thou that dwellest *between* the cherubims, shine forth.

Psalms 99:1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth *between* the cherubims...

Seraphim

Isaiah 6:2-3 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

Saints of all ages – Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James, John, Paul – Spurgeon, Pastor Aterburn...

Trinity

God, the Father – will not be able to look at –

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Jesus Christ –

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

MY SAVIOUR

Holy Spirit – One Who gave me the new birth

What is there?

Peace, Righteousness, Praise, Singing... but most important:

Blood on the Mercy Seat

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Where is heaven?

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Psalms 75:6 For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

such an one caught up to the third heaven –

1st heaven – birds / 2nd heaven stars / 3rd heaven – my home

How to get there?

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

When will we get there?

Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Or death

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Will I see you there? Are you living for heaven? Are you longing for heaven?

Heaven – the eternal home of all the saved

INV

INV

INV

Heaven for the Saved

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

There are 2 views on this world – God created the heavens and the earth & All evolved in evolution

- God is the Creator – which means that all humans are accountable to Him.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...

Daniel 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

- **Saved people are stewards**

Steward is: One who manages things for an owner and gives an account of that which he manages.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

What about our sin? For the saved

- **Our Sin(s) – they are under the blood**

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

➤ **Righteousness is put on our account**

Romans 4:5-7 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

➤ **Rewards will be given**

Greek: Bema Seat – in light of Paul’s many references to athletic competition in the New Testament, he was likely using the term as it applied to Greek sports. If the winner of a particular contest had followed the rules of competition and won, he was honored at the bema. There he was crowned with a laurel wreath.

Not to determine if you are saved. Your salvation is the foundation – and you are building upon that foundation – 1 Cor. 3:11-12

What will be brought up? What you have done... Not what you wanted to do, wished to do – done whether good or bad.

Wood, Hay, Stubble – no need for gas – this is highly flammable

Selfish life	Highly Flammable
Willful Life	“ “
Not obey the Lord	“ “
Not yield to the Lord	“ “

Not going to get raked over the coals – just watch what you lived for get burned up.

However that which will last – your rewards are Gold, Silver, Precious Stones

➤ **This is your true worth – your true worth is the gold, silver and precious stones after the J.S.C.**

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Harold Wilmington says, “We *will* regret having spent time on foolish priorities and worthless deeds. Our hearts will break when we realize we’ve squandered our lives after all our Savior did for us. We will lament that we have so little to offer Him in return for His supreme sacrifice at the cross and faithfulness to us throughout our lives.”

It is the job of the preacher to forewarn you of what will really happen after death. We spend so much time warning the lost of the dangers of an eternal hell, that the accountability of the saved is often ignored.

It is easy to think – I am saved, nothing really matters.

➤ **There are rewards for all eternity**

Fruit / Crowns

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I **desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a **corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fadeth not away.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life.**

Harold Wilmington:

What will be examined at the J.S.C.

How we treat other believers:

Hebrews 6:10, Matthew 10:41-42

How we exercise our authority over others:

Hebrews 13:17, James 3:1

How we employ our God-given abilities:

1 Corinthians 12:4, 12:12, 12:2, 2 Timothy 1:6, 1 Peter 4:10

How we use our money:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

How we spend our time:

Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5, 1 Peter 1:17

How much we suffer for Jesus:

Matthew 5:11-12, Mark 10:29-30, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Peter 4:12-13

How we run the particular race God has chosen for us:

1 Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 2:16, 3:13-14, Hebrews 12:1

How effectively we control the old nature:

1 Corinthians 9:25-27, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Corinthians 16:3, Philippians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:4

How many souls we witness to and win to Christ:

Proverbs 11:30, Daniel 12:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

How we react to temptation:

James 1:2-3, Revelation 3:10

How much the doctrine of the rapture means to us:

2 Timothy 4:8

How faithful we are to the Word of God and the flock of God:

Acts 20:26-28, 2 Timothy 4:1-2, 1 Peter 5:2-4

- **Your Position in Eternity is determined by what you do on this earth**

Revelation 2:25-26 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him **will I give power over the nations:**

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and **we shall reign on the earth.**

Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

- **Heaven for saved** Here is what the future holds for you –

At the Rapture, you will get a new body

Then your will be transported to the throne of God and stand at the J.S.C. and be rewarded

Near the end of the Tribulation Period, you will celebrate the M.S.L.

At the close of the Tribulation Period, you will return with Jesus Christ to Rule & Reign with Him

Then at the end of the Millennial Reign, you will begin your eternal reign with Him.

Your position of ruling and reigning in eternity will be determined by what you do on earth.

Let us walk by faith – Obey what God wants you to do

The Church

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ekklesia – called out assembly / The Moose Club is an ekklesia. (Ek- out of; Kaleo – call)

Who is the church? Most authors that you have read will state that all the saved are the church. They are wrong on this subject. Here is the historical background on this word.

- The Catholic Church – catholic = universal / hence the Universal “Visible” Church
- During the Reformation – a knee-jerk reaction was a doctrine that the “True Church” was all the saved / hence the Universal “Invisible” Church = all the saved are the church. This is wrong.

We must look at the Bible – in the O.T. Israel was the key / in the N.T. the Church is the key. This Church is not all the saved, but rather a local church – a church that was what we think of as a church. GBC is a church – local; visible; assembly. The Rapture – all the saved (family of God) will be called out.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know **how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God**, which is the **church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions...

Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem...

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers...

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Rom. 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Church – several of them... If one says today, “I hate the church” – he is speaking of several of them...

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (Several of them – but they were local churches – their members)

The Church is referred to as the Body

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of **the body, the church**: who is the beginning...

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for **his body's sake, which is the church**:

Ephesians 1:22-23 ...gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to **the church, Which is his body**...

1 Cor. 12 the body is a local church – the following cannot occur with all the saved!

1 Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

Hence, this is water baptism:

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all **baptized into one body**, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

The word *church* or *churches* is found 114 times in the N.T.. 95% + times, it is extremely obvious that the Bible refers to a local church like GBC. There are a few vague verses:

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (He did via baptism – I believe still a local church)

The Bride: is Eph. 5:23-32 the church – local or called out assembly of all the saved?

The importance of a local church cannot be overstated. The church has authority to baptize; authority of the ordinances and the authority to exercise church discipline. When church discipline is exercised...

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The local church has authority. To be placed outside the church is to leave the protection from Satan. This authority came from God via John and the authority is passed down via Baptism.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but **he that sent me to baptize with water**, the same said unto me...

Heb. 12:23 Acts 7:38 (These 2 do not refer to local churches)

The word *church* in the N.T. assumes concrete shape and form. It is the form of a local, organized, visible, independent, complete assembly.

All the saved are the family of God; not the church.

Ephesians 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

One may say, I am a member of the universal invisible church. That sounds really pious.

What impact does the universal invisible church have; when does it meet; how much offerings; how many missionaries does it support...

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

This is a local church. What happens with the universal invisible church in the Detroit metro area? Not much. What happens with a local visible Baptist church of 50 people? Mail out 8 million tracts; give out ½ million tracts to ½ million homes; support Bible Institutes that train nationals...

The church is a supernatural institution that transcends people and time. GBC was started in 1937. All those members are dead, but the church is still at work. Those charter members started a “work of God.” Pastors come and go; members come and go...but the work of the Church of God carries on – now for some 80 years.

Where does this matters the most? On the missions’ field.

One can ‘add to the kingdom’ 10,000 people; but if a local church is not planted, those people will not do much. One can start a church and have great impact on the world because the church is a supernatural institution.

We must support missionaries that are starting churches – or that are training people that will start churches. That is what Paul did. Technically, Paul was an Evangelist – church planter. Dan Freeman has emphasized church planting. Now that persecution is rampant in China, the supernatural work of the church is what will withstand.

Satan cannot snuff out the church. Jesus promised that (Matt. 16:18). The true church thrived and survived the Dark Ages. Oh, Satan can kill one church – the church at Jerusalem is no longer – but it started the church of Antioch which started the churches of Asia Minor...church planting is always one step ahead of any type of defeat that demons can afflict.

You need to put your efforts in a church – a local church. We are not here to build the kingdom. We are here to preach the gospel to our area and plant churches in this world.

You can change an individual via the new birth. You can change a city via a church and you can change a nation via church planting. Bible Institutes training nationals can change a nation.

Disciple of Jesus Christ Luke 14:26-33

Disciple – definition of:

1. A learner; a scholar; one who receives or professes to receive instruction from another
2. A follower; an adherent to the doctrines of another. Hence the constant attendants of Christ were called his disciples

Jesus' call to "**Follow Me...**"

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

See also Matt. 8:22, Matt. 9:9, Matt. 16:24, Mk. 2:14, 8:34, Lk. 5:27, 9:23, 9:59, John 12:26)

Station of life in the life of a believer:

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Following is required for salvation & a sign of salvation

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Excuses can be made – Luke 14:16-24

Commitment is necessary – Luke 9:51, 9:53 / Luke 9:57-62

If you cease being the salt of the earth – Luke 14:34-35 – not fit for dunghill!

Forsake All = Disciple of Jesus

Luke 14:26-27 / Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Count the cost. Jesus did not present an easy-believism way to God. It is simple to be saved, not complicated – pathway is simple – Follow Christ – when you follow Him, you have left all behind. When you turn to Christ, you have turned from...

1 Thessalonians 1:9 ...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Note Luke 14:25 & Luke 15:1-4 Wow!

Grace of God

Some say: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Some say it is unmerited favor. The Greek language described it as an "underlying idea of a bestowal of help by an act of one's free generosity." Aristotle said it was "helpfulness toward someone in need not in return for anything."

Grace: "Gracious favor and help of God (1) to save and then (2) to live the Christian life."

Jesus Christ

John 1:14 And the Word was made 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.

Saved by Grace

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Value of that Saving Grace

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

It is Freely Given – No Work on our Behalf

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

It is Greater than our Sin

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Grace Teaches us to Sin Less, not to be Sinless

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world... (SEE Jude 1:4)

There are Many Aspects to the Grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God**.

You are Given a Measure of Grace

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Given for You to Live the Christian Life

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Grace Given for Call to Preach

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Grace Given to the Humble

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Grace Given When We are Weak Thru Difficulties

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Grace Given to Give Money to Missions (Grace of Giving)

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. (SEE 2 Cor. 8:6-9)

Grace for Help in Time of Need

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Get Grace from the Throne of Grace – Approach Humbly

Inheritance

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Focus on an inheritance that you “can take with you.”

1 Timothy 6:6-9 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, **and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Psalms 62:10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart *upon them*.

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

ILL Grandpa make like a frog. Daddy says when you croak, we will be rich.

When I croak or when Jesus comes back, I will be rich. No – it is just then that I will realize all that I have in Christ Jesus.

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust **the true riches?**

True Wealth: “What money cannot buy and death cannot take from you.”

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Salvation – to give all to God as you trust the Blood of Christ

Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?

Give your all / all your heart / all your will / seek Him with all your being / to the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a **rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luke 10:26-27 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luke 18:22-23 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

Salvation Brings an Inheritance

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Colossians 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

One Flesh = Heirs Together

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

What Jesus Will Inherit

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Joint-Heir With Jesus

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

We will Need a New Body

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Heaven Forever – Eternal Inheritance

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the **promise of eternal inheritance**.

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Surety of the Inheritance – Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

God Owns It All

Psalms 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fulness thereof.

What Does God Inherit?

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Two Groups – Saved are “Overcomers”

Rev. 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev. 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

What makes the Difference? The Blood of Jesus Christ Applied!

Two Ways to Heaven

TEXT 1 The. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:50-55

Last 2 weeks – heaven for the saved. Today, the last in this series – heaven for the saved. There is only one way to be saved

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

You say – I have been saved – only 1 way to be saved – but there are 2 ways to get to heaven –

- 1) Death OR
- 2) Rapture occurring

Death & Rapture are unexpected: Thus it is a hope...

The word *hope* in the Bible is not like 'I hope to win the lottery' – it is a sure hope – but a hope in that we are waiting for it to occur. I hope to get to heaven – not hoping to making – I am waiting for it with patience – a reserved place in heaven and with patience I wait for it as a hope.

Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Hope of heaven

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Without hope

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Job had the hope of the resurrection of the body:

Job 19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

The saved will get to heaven in one of two ways

1) Death

It will be no time – you will be middle age / it will be no time you will be old / it will be no time – you will be dead. Why I can say that:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

God's view

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

It is the job of the pastor – for you to WAKE UP – life is short / death is sure / hell is forever / heaven is forever / live for the next life / prepare for death /

You are not ready to live until you are ready to die.

Death is *asleep* – for the Christian – God calls death asleep:

Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of his saints.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Death is to move the soul from one location to another

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

You know why he was carried by the angels – he did not have a glorified body. In heaven the souls of people are **waiting for their body to re-unite**

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the **trumpet shall sound**, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**. For this **corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality**.

You are one step away from heaven – by death or by rapture

Lotto – what are the odds – the hope taught in the Bible is not IF it will happen – but WHEN

Sadness in this life – casket at end of funeral - If the dead are saved – there is hope:

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

2) Rapture

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

New body is received at Rapture – for those in heaven and for those on earth: Bible tells of Rapture:

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of

God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The Rapture – Who, what, when, where, why and how...

Who

The Lord Himself – Jesus is coming back

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

What

With a shout – it will be a victorious shout – heaven forever

The voice of the archangel; the trump of God...

How

Dead in Christ – all saved whose bodies are in the grave – will arise – a new body; a glorified body

We alive – caught up – a new body... a saved, glorified body

...for the **trumpet shall sound**, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**. For this **corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality**.

Where

Meet the Lord in the air – Chinese, Bhutanese, Nepalese, Vietnamese, Americans – Missions missions missions missions – souls that will live forever

You will meet your financial investment – your true worth.

So shall we ever be with the Lord

When

Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

It will be soon

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Occupy – stay busy

Why

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Days of Lot – God delivered Lot before the wrath of God – the saved – whom the Holy Ghost indwells

Days of Noah – God delivered Noah thru the wrath of God – Israel

Do You Have This Hope?

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

For the Saved

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

For the Lost

Need to worry of 2 death you need the have a 2nd birth – make sure you are born again

INV

INV

INV

Jerusalem

- **Original inhabitants of Jerusalem**

Joshua 15:63 As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

1 Chronicles 11:4-5 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which *is* Jebus; where the Jebusites *were*, the inhabitants of the land. And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which *is* the city of David.

Isaiah 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: **he shall build my city**, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

1 Kings 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me **in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there**.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The church of Jesus Christ – it is His church.

- **What makes Jerusalem so special?**

1 Kings 3:1 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt...until he had made an end of building his own house, and **the house of the LORD**, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.

“The house of the Lord” is found 213 times in O.T. / “Jerusalem” is found 670 times in O.T.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth**.

- **It Was a Place of Sacrifice**

1 Kings 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem...

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*.

- **Place of the Glory of God**

1 Kings 8:10-11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The glory of the Lord came down in Exo. 40 with Tabernacle; in 1 Kings 8 with the Temple and in Acts 2 with the church. The glory will depart in 2 The. 2:6-8 at the Rapture.

- **Place of the Word of God**

2 Chronicles 34:15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.

2 Chronicles 34:30 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

- **His Name there For ever**

2 Chronicles 33:4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, **In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.**

Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

Church, the house of God is a place for the Word of God and the glory of God to speak to you.

A Rebuilt Temple (Tribulation Temple) will be only where the former Temple was

Ezra 5:15 And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in his place.

- **A Literal Future Fulfillment (Mill Temple in Eze. 40-48 & then Temple in Eternity??)**

Zechariah 6:12-15 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* **The BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build **the temple of the LORD**; and he shall bear **the glory**, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. And the crowns shall...for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. And they *that are* far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And *this* shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Ezekiel 48:35 *It was* round about eighteen thousand *measures*: and the **name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.**

Baptism

➤ Believers, not Babies

Acts 8:36-38 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; **what doth hinder me to be baptized?** And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.** And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and **he baptized him.**

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 9:17-18 And Ananias...putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me... and he...arose, and was baptized.

➤ Symbol, not a Sacrament

Sacrament = an act of grace / Symbol = outward sign of inward work

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **Therefore** we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Salvation & Baptism go together like coffee and cream...

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Prepositions are extremely vague in interpretation. *For* means *because of* – because you are saved.... It is not necessary to get baptized to be saved. I.E. He that gets saved & goes to church shall be saved...

It is assumed that one that get saved will get baptized.

Luke 7:29 And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

➤ Plunging under, not Pouring over

Etymology of *Baptize*. The word means ‘to immerse.’ The N.T. uses the word for different aspects – it even uses *baptize* to describe hand washing (Mark 7:4) and the washing of dishes. The Holy Spirit places a believer (baptizes) into a local body (church):

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Baptism is a picture of death, burial & resurrection Rom. 6:3-5

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

ILL Bob Stewart – to sprinkle little dirt over dead body – stinks. It stinks if baptize by sprinkling...

➤ **Immediate after salvation, not dragged out**

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:36-38; 9:6-18 – see above verses

Acts 16:30-33 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their stripes*; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

➤ **Authority to Baptize – the N.T. Church**

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but **he that sent me to baptize** with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and **keep the ordinances**, as I delivered *them* to you.

Ordinances = ‘passed down’ assumed with authority. Apostles = ‘sent ones’ assumed with authority. There are only 12 apostles with authority (Rev. 21:14); and there are only 2 ordinances with authority – Baptism and Lord’s Supper.

Baptism – an ordinance given to the Church:

Matthew 28:16 Then the **eleven disciples** went away into Galilee, into a mountain...

1 Corinthians 12:28 And **God hath set some in the church, first apostles...**

Matthew 28:19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and...

My People

God cares about His people

Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

He wants to be in the midst of His people

Leviticus 26:11-12 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Revelation 1:12-13 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

God deals with His people – the lost are children of the devil

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Hebrews 12:5-6 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*;

God's heart is broken when His people rebel

Psalms 81:13 Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, *and* Israel had walked in my ways!

Jeremiah 14:17 Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

God wants His people to serve Him

Exodus 8:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

God's heart rejoices to be in fellowship with His people

Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jeremiah 11:4 Which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God:

Jeremiah 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

God will deal harshly with His people

Lamentations 4:6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

God & His People – His Plan for Now & Eternity – Israel in the O.T.

Jeremiah 30:22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 11:20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Jeremiah 32:37-38 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

Hosea 2:23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

Amos 9:15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Ezekiel 37:23-24 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David

my servant *shall be* king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

Ezekiel 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:1 At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26-28 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

God & His People – His Plan for Now & Eternity – The Saved in the N.T.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Hebrews 12:22-23 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Jesus & Israel – the People of God

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is to be ruler in Israel*; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting. (PROPHECY GIVEN 700 B.C.)

Matthew 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, **that shall rule my people Israel.**

(PROPHECY PARTIALLY FULFILLED 30 A.D.)

Luke 1:33 And **he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever**; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

(UNFULFILLED PROPHECY)

When God's People Rebel

Exodus 32:1-4 And when the **people** saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the **people** gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, **Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters**, and bring *them* unto me. And all the **people** brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and **brought them unto Aaron**. And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after **he had made it a molten calf**: and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.**

Thy People – Not My People (Neither Moses nor the Lord wants to claim them)

Exodus 32:7 And the **LORD said unto Moses**, Go, get thee down; **for thy people**, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:

Exo. 32:9 ...the **LORD said unto Moses**, I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiffnecked people

Exodus 32:11-12 And **Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD**, why doth thy wrath wax hot against **thy people**, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against **thy people**.

Exodus 32:21-22 And **Moses said unto Aaron**, What did **this people** unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? And **Aaron said**, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: **thou knowest the people**, that they *are set* on mischief.

Exodus 32:31 And **Moses returned unto the LORD**, and said, **Oh, this people** have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

Exodus 33:1 And the **LORD said unto Moses**, Depart, *and* go up hence, thou and the **people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt**, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham...

Exodus 33:12-13 And **Moses said unto the LORD**, See, **thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people**: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and **consider that this nation is thy people**.

Preserved

Satan's attacks against the Word of God

1) Question the Word of God

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

2) Offer an Alternative Authority

The devil, "Bible" scholars, carnal leaders and the depraved nature are behind the efforts to push the NIV, RSV, NASV, ESV...

Who decides which Bible?

Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, And give thanks unto thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

We do not ask what a human wants in the Word of God. We ask – which words are the very words of God? What does God say? Don't mess with Bible Deut 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18

Preserved – By God

Psalms 12:6-7 The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Both the church and the Bible have been promised to continue on in spite of opposition.

"Scholars" will believe that the church and the Bible were both lost for 1000 years. Then miraculously, the church came back to life via Martin Luther and the Bible was found in the Vatican and a wastebasket. As unbelievable as this sounds, this is truly what they believe.

Baptists Were there Baptist churches from 500 – 1500 A.D.?

Cardinal Hosius (Catholic) President of Council of Trent (1545-1564 A.D.) said: "Were it not for the fact that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1200 years, they would swarm greater than all the reformers.... If the truth of religion was to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which a man or any sect shows in suffering, then opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer and surer than those of the Anabaptists, since there have been none for the 1200 years past that have been more generally punished or that have been more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and have offered themselves to the most cruel sort of punishment than these people."

Alexander Campbell (founder of Disciples of Christ) He rigorously opposed Baptist during the 1800's. He said: "The sentiments of Baptist and their practice of baptism from the apostolic age to the present, have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced."

Mosheim (Lutheran) An outstanding Lutheran historian said: "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe, persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptist...the origin of Baptist is lost in the remote depth of antiquity...the first century was a history of Baptists."

John Clark Redpath (Methodist) He is considered to be doubtlessly one of the greatest historians that the world has ever produced. He said: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as 100 A.D., although without a doubt there were Baptist churches then, as all Christians were then Baptists." *(The History of the KJV & People Called Baptist, William R. Byers p. 146-147)*

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The Bibles of 500 – 1500 A.D. Historically, Christians were persecuted and Bibles were burned. This same persecution occurs today in China. Leaders are imprisoned and all Bibles & song books are taken.

Did they have Bibles?

They sat down and by longhand wrote out the Word of God and kept it, treasured it and passed it on to their own children. Their churches made sure that other churches had it and kept it.

Psalms 12:7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

ILL Samuel Lamb – prison – copying Bible with every spare minute....

In 1456 A.D., the Bible was printed on the first printing press and soon Bibles were more prevalent than ever.

Source of Translation

The KJV is translated from the Textus Receptus – 47 men translated it in 7 years. The KJV is 85% from the Tyndale Bible.

All other versions (except NKJV) come directly from the Wescott & Hort text which was compiled near 1880 A.D. using a corrupt Bible found in the Vatican and another corrupt Bible found by Tischendorf in a wastebasket. Baptists have never considered these texts until the Laodicean Church Age.

Translation: One word can make a huge difference

ASV Matthew 5:22 but I say unto you, that **every one who is angry with his brother** shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire.

KJV Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

An apostrophe: father's (God's sake) or fathers' (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob's sake)

Romans 11:28 As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, ***they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.**

All modern version Bibles come from the Wescott & Hort text.

The NKJV --- Just Another Corrupt Bible

The NKJV was to be an updated version from the Textus Receptus. It has many flaws. One must ask, "Why did the KJV need to be updated." Born again believers should have no problem as the Holy Spirit speaks to them via the KJV. Here are some flaws:

- Titus 2:4 Sober is removed from ASV & NKJV. (Sober is a main theme of Titus Ch. 2)

Note: Wescott & Hort and the Textus Receptus are the exact same.

Yet they are different in English. *Sober* is left out. The NKJV follows the corrupt English texts.

ESV Titus 2:4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

NASV Titus 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

RSV Titus 2:4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

NIV Titus 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

NKJV Titus 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

KJV Titus 2:4 That they may **teach** the young women **to be sober**, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Strong's Greek Dictionary – You can figure this out without knowing Greek:

4994. sophronizo

from 4998; to make of sound mind, i.e. (figuratively) to discipline or correct:--teach to be sober.

4998. sophron

safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion):--**discreet, sober, temperate.**

[Fri] strictly *bring someone to be self-controlled, be sensible*; hence *train, teach, advise*

- Did all come out?

NKJV Heb. 3:16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

KJV Hebrews 3:16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

- Is the way narrow or difficult?

NKJV Matt 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

KJV Matthew 7:14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- Speaks of our current state – not a continued state?

NKJV Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

KJV Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

- A New Medical Diagnosis?

NKJV Matt 4:24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

KJV Matthew 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

- Proverbs examples

1) NKJV Prov 18:8 The words of a talebearer *are* like tasty trifles,^[a] And they go down into the inmost body.

Footnotes of NKJV: *Proverbs 18:8 A Jewish tradition reads wounds.*

KJV Proverbs 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

2) **NKJV** Prov. 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.^[a]

Footnotes: *Proverbs 19:18 Literally to put him to death; a Jewish tradition reads on his crying.*

KJV Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

“Why does the ©1982 **NKJV still contain difficult words:**

Alighting; Allays; Armlets; Befalls; Belial; Bleat; Bray; Buffet; Burnished; Caldron; Carrion; Chalkstones; Circumspect; Citron; Dainties; Dandled; Daubed; Dappled; Enmity; Entrails; Fallow; Festal; Fowlers; Fuller; Furlongs; Jackdaw; Mammon; Matrix; Paramours; Parapet; Pilfering; Pinions; plaited; Potentate; Potsherd; Poultrice; Prattler; Prow; Pyre; Quadrans; Raze; Retinue; Rivulets; Rogue; Satiare; Shards; Sistrums; Skiff; Supplanted; Tamarisk; Terebinth; Timbrel; Tresses; Verdure; Verity; Waifs; Wane; Wend; and Woof.

What’s interesting about the ©1982 NKJV is the **strange coincidence that some of the replacement words the committee chose turn out to be the same ones that were used in the Revised Version of 1881/1885, the American Standard Version of 1901, and other modern versions like the NASB, NIV, and RSV.**”
<http://av1611.com/kjbp/articles/mcelroy-nkjv.html>

What Difference Does All This Make?

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, *even the word* of God, ye accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe.

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation;

Purpose

What is your purpose or how to have purpose / Some say it is “to glorify God.” That sounds good; sounds spiritual and I am sure it is a truism, but what does the Bible teach to make my life count and have purpose?

In O.T. Israel was God’s people / God-called Leaders – Prophet, Priest, King

N.T. Church is House of God / God-called Leaders – Evangelist (Church Planter), Pastor-Teacher

Members – saved are to become a member of a church and serve God there:

- **Pastor**

1 Corinthians 9:7-10 Who **goeth a warfare any time** at his own charges? who **planteth a vineyard**, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who **feedeth a flock**, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written: that **he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.**

- **People**

2 Timothy 2:4-5 No **man that warreth** entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a **man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.**

Titles of Pastor

We will find his “job” by looking at the three Biblical words that describe his position.

Pastor / Shepherd

Poimaino

Feed Bible & Protect Flock

Elder

presbuteros

Older & Representative

Bishop / Overseer

episkopeo

Leader, Vision Caster, “CEO”

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Peter 5:1-2 The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Feed the flock** of God which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

The Pastor is made overseer – by the Holy Ghost!

- **Shepherd the Flock**

Ephesians 4:14-15 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

- **Overseer**

Primarily to lead the church in obeying the Great Commission. The greatest task on earth and the most primary task on earth is for the local N.T. church to fulfill the command of Jesus Christ as laid out in the Great Commission.

Job of Member

How to make my life count as a member?

1) Holy Spirit will lead you – which church, what niche within that church

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

ILL Jeff Jones – some think what happened to me is what happened to Paul. To be on the Sanhedrin, you had to be married. I asked, was Paul's wife (employment)....

You need to ask yourself – can I follow the pastor? If not – leave. Simple as that. If some complain about the pastor – either work to get rid of pastor or work to get rid of that complainer.

2) Unite with vision of Pastor

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Pastor is God-called leader. Need God-called followers (#1 & 2). Never underestimate your value to the church. The church is a Body with many Members. A human body missing a member is called *handicapped*.

3) Rewarded for your "Own Labor"

1 Corinthians 3:8-9 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

4) Fruit Abound to your Account – Work of Church

Philippians 4:16-18 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire **fruit that may abound to your account**. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

The word "fruit" is often used in the Scriptures, as elsewhere, to denote *results*, or that which is produced. Thus we speak of punishment as the fruit of sin, poverty as the fruit of idleness, and happiness as the fruit of a virtuous life. The language is taken from the fact, that a man reaps or gathers the fruit or result of that which he plants.

Fruit continues on via new life.

ILL Supreme Court decision of 1972 by 5-4 decision – fruit is 50 million deaths. Society hardened by killing of babies. Young women given choice to terminate pregnancy.

ILL Bob Stewart in TX pastored – sent out Bill West – I went into ministry. Bob Stewart is dead, but me, his fruit, is still planting.

ILL Bible Institutes from \$\$ of GBC – fruit that is still working – will continue until Jesus comes.

ILL Church can have local fruit – and it will / but most reproduction of fruit will always come from missions' program

All the church does – missions / Tract Mail Center / Tract Ministry / Lighthouse in this area... all because you help – help pay utilities, salaries, fill a pew = Fruit to Your Account

How do I have purpose? How can I make my life count? What will last past this life?

Give your life purpose by finding your niche within this N.T. plan of God for the Church.

The Holy Spirit will give you wisdom as you seek for wisdom.

When you have found purpose, you have found that which is worth living for and worth dying for.

Proverbs 4:7 *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

Purpose

Text: Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 4:12-13

What is your purpose or how to have purpose / Some say it is “to glorify God.” That sounds good; sounds spiritual and I am sure it is a truism, but what does the Bible teach to make my life count and have purpose? Last sermon on this involved the Big Picture and you making your life count thru your church membership. Tonight, we will look at a more personal level – you and your personal relationship with the Lord by the Word of God.

How does the True and Living God reveal Himself to human beings?

Creation – we know there is a Creator

Conscience – we know we are guilty

Witnessed to by a Christian – The Holy Spirit uses this

Word of God – as one reads it, the Holy Spirit speaks to one; as it is preached, the Holy Spirit speaks

Your relationship with the Word of God will parallel your relationship to the True & Living God

The Bible is the True and Living Book

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

It is alive / It pierces deeply / It discerns your heart / It exposes you – naked before God; God sees and know all about you

For the Believer – how to have purpose - - - hinges on our relationship with the Word of God

- 1) Trust the Bible as the very Word of God

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew **thysself** approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- 2) Believe it to be personal – for you Read Ps. 119:1-8

Vs. 1-3 They Vs. 4 Us Vs. 5-8 My, I

Do you truly believe that you hold in your hands the very Words of God? Is it for you? Yes.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

3) Allow it to change you – this is the rub

Psalms 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We read and study the Bible – good; very good – but that is not the end – we must go further. We must meditate upon it. Ponder it

Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Luke 12:27-28 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

Meditate upon this – put away TV, Radio, Facebook, Internet – look up to God’s creation and meditate

4) Obey it --- “to do...all”

End result if you use the Word of God correctly:

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that **thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein**: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We must yield to the Sovereign God and obey Him. Yield our will to His will!

Same result you want from your child.

End result of “doing all” = prosperous / good success

Do you not want to be prosperous? Do you not want good success? Only one pathway to this according to the Bible. There is more – if you do this, your relationship with the Father & the Son will change.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

119:9 Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I laid up in my heart, That I might not sin against thee.

Your faith will be shaken if you do not trust your Bible.

The KJV IS the Preserved Word of God for the English speaking people.



Regeneration

Definition: *παλιγγενεσια* palig / genesis *pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah* Literally: Again Birth

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration**, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

➤ **Divine Side – By Birth**

▪ **A Birth = Life in Spirit**

1 John 2:29 ...ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is **born of God** doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is **born of God**..

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God**: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is **born of God** overcometh the world: and this is the victory...

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is **born of God** sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God...

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

▪ **Begotten by the Word of God**

1 Peter 1:23 Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

James 1:18 Of his own will **begat he us with the word of truth**...

▪ **Begotten by the Holy Spirit**

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.

▪ **Begotten by God**

John 1:13 Which **were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy **hath begotten us again** unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

▪ **Imparting of Divine Nature**

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

- **A Work of Creation**

Ephesians 4:24 ...ye put on the new man, which after God is **created** in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- **That New Life is Eternal**

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

- **God Become Legitimate Father**

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

- **Divine Sonship – heirs of God & joint-heirs with Christ**

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

- **New Citizenship**

Ephesians 2:19 ...ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints...

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Hebrews 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

- **Human side – By Faith**

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The fall of man – earth was cursed and humans were cursed. The curse of the earth will be lifted when Jesus comes back and the curse of humans will be lifted at the end of the Millennial.

- **Regeneration: when the earth ‘gets saved’ at the 2nd coming of Christ Rom. 8:19-23**

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, **in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory**, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rightly Dividing

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Corinthians 7:27-28 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou **loosed from a wife?** seek not a wife. But and **if thou marry, thou hast not sinned...**

1 Timothy 3:2 A **bishop** then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife...**

God has given us a book. Humans are deceitful and liars by nature. Hermeneutics is a Bible College course taught regarding correct interpretation of Scriptures. How we view the Bible is paramount. This process of rightly dividing the word of truth is of utmost importance. Here are some guidelines to help us properly *understand* the very Word of God.

- The Bible is the Authority

It does not matter what Dr. So and So, a biblical scholar, a pastor, you or I think it means. What does the Bible mean to tell us – it is the authority; the final authority.

The Textus Receptus was the language of inspiration. The KJV in the English is the preservation of Scripture. We must have a proper foundation. Sometimes it can be difficult to translate the correct meaning of something from one language to another.

- The Holy Spirit is the Author

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

The indwelling Holy Spirit will help the believer as He, the Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

- Literal Interpretation elevates the Bible as the authority

To leave literal interpretation leaves the reader as the authority as to “what the Bible means.” We must allow the Bible to say what it says.

Isaiah chapter 53 is a prophecy that was fulfilled literally, Hence, Isaiah chapter 2, a future prophecy will also be fulfilled literally. Here are some unusual events in eternity that I believe are literal.

Exodus 31:16-17 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Exodus 12:11-14 *it is* the LORD'S passover...And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to...the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe *the feast of* unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

Numbers 10:8 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations.

➤ Major Fulfillments of Prophecy have a Literal, Complete Fulfillment

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Matthew 11:13-14 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive *it*, this is Elias, which was for to come. (See also Matt. 17:11-12)

Literal fulfillment will be in Rev. 11:3-14 when Elijah will be one of two witnesses - a literal, major fulfilment.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore...

Deuteronomy 1:10-11 The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye *are* this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye *are*, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)

Genesis 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou *art* our sister, be thou *the mother* of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

Jeremiah 33:22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

If Israel will be as many as the stars in a literal fulfillment, then there will be 100's of billions (galaxies) times 100-200 billion (# of stars per galaxy) Israelites.

➤ Interpret Scripture Dispensationally

For simplicity, the main dispensations are the O.T., the N.T., the tribulation, the millennium and eternity. We must ask – which dispensation is the writing intended for. There is only one correct interpretation.

The Sabbath was a covenant between God and Israel. Hence the keeping of the Sabbath is not for the church age. The tribulation is a time 'of Jacob's trouble' and the Sabbath will again be implemented.

Exodus 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant.

➤ Interpreting Doctrine

Doctrine is important. One must major on the majors and minor on the minors. The word *doctrine* is found 17 times in the pastoral epistles – 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Ephesians 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

➤ Interpret as to the Meaning of the Writer

What did the author of Scripture intend to say? We must consider the culture of its day that he was addressing and the language that it was written in.

- Word in the Greek

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The word *destroyed* is a Greek word meaning *to cause to be useless*. We do not have an English word to describe this.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Of course, saved people commit sin; the tense of the verb in the Greek was a continual process of which there is no English counterpart. We must ask – what did the writer intend to convey?

- Dress

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Was this to tell us in USA that women are not to wear pants? Dress is a cultural thing and this was not intended to address our wardrobe for today.

Modesty is the N.T. word used.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array...

- Deacons

Does the church need deacons? It did not have deacons until Acts chapter 6 when the church at Jerusalem had perhaps 20,000 to 60,000 members.

- Husband of One Wife

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

“At this time, polygamy was not uncommon, to say that a man should "have but *one wife*" would be naturally understood as prohibiting polygamy.” BARNES

What about divorced and remarried pastors. We are living in the last days and this was so rare until these end times.

Was the phrase *husband of one wife* intended for the USA and remarried pastors or was it for the time of its writing concerning polygamy (O.T. King David, Solomon...)? Polygamy is so rare in USA that this interpretation is usually thought of as a remarriage. If you lived in Utah in the 1800's, you may have a different interpretation of the meaning. The intent of the author, not the culture should determine proper interpretation.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

I have never in my life taught on what ‘the husband of one wife’ means. This is a first. The complexities of this issue are such that you will be able to find someone that believes whatever you want to believe.

Rightly Dividing Part 2

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Bible has many difficulties and problem passages. Some say the Bible is filled with error. Some have given their life and shed their blood defending the Bible.

I personally believe that one will find what he/she is looking for. If you truly seek the true and living God, you will find salvation. If you are seeking errors and contradictions, you will supposedly find that also. God will not force anyone to believe. He gives each a free will and each can choose for himself.

Why are there difficulties in the Bible?

- Bible is Word of God – if you could figure it out – it would be the word of man

2 Peter 3:15-16 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

The end result of inspiration is the very Word of God. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:16-21

- Culture and events have changed in the thousands of years since it was written

Discussed last week – what was the intent of the author at the time of his writing? Remember that the Bible was written by 40 + authors over 1,500 years on 3 continents and yet it dovetails into one Book!

- What was the intent of the book within the context of the whole Bible

Matthew – Acts = History, not Doctrine / Romans – Jude = Doctrine / Revelation = Prophecy
Job – Song of Solomon = Poetry / Daniel = Prophecy

You will find the foundation for doctrine in doctrinal books; prophecy in prophetic books....

- God intended some things to be hidden – we must seek to find

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Matthew 13:13-14 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

- Spiritual discernment is required – it is a spiritual book (John 3:3)

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

- Study must be applied – it takes work to understand the Bible correctly

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Matthew 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old.

1 Timothy 4:12-16 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

- To understand the Bible, we need salvation, diligence, humility, patience, obedience, and good teachers.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened...

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

Ephesians 4:11-14 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry...That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

- Meditate upon a difficult text: Heb. 6:1-6

Heb 6:1 ¶ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Heb 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Heb 6:3 And this will we do, if God permit.

Heb 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For *it is* impossible for those
 who were once enlightened, and
 have tasted of the heavenly gift, and
 were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And
 have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,
If they shall fall away,
 to renew them again unto repentance;
 seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Hebrews – the over-riding theme is: Christ, the one sacrifice for sins forever.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

Hebrews 6:17-19 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Hebrews 7:25-26 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Salvation

We are starting a new series – will be a fairly short series. Words / Biblical Words

This will address areas of controversy; mis-understanding; doctrine and Biblical words with simplified meaning.

Series should be about 6-8 weeks... today cover Salvation.

Bible salvation – what could be more important of a doctrine? Sounds simple – yet many Baptists have differing views on this subject. We will try to teach just the Biblical view – as that is always what is most important - - eternal life; eternity; heaven for ever; hell for ever; what can be of more importance.

- **Lordship Salvation**

Rom. 10:13 tells us one must call upon the Lord. Some will say – if you are back into sin, you are not back-slidden; you just never got saved. They will say if Jesus is not Lord, then you do not possess salvation.

Lot – saved; Judas – lost

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

These are lost people!

Matthew 7:21-22 Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Luke 13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

- **Easy-believism**

1,2,3 repeat after me... / talk someone into saying the “sinner’s prayer” = no born again experience.

Everyone has people they have “led to the Lord” – some get it; some do not. But to try to talk someone into saying a prayer – and then thinking they got saved, is a misnomer. A man persuaded against his own will is of the same opinion still.

ILL Hal Lindsey – went forward 3 times at invitation; yet did not get saved until later on. He was sincere, yet did not get born again.

- **Repentance**

Some do not think one needs to repent to be saved.

Jesus discussed this

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus gave us a picture illustration of this. – Prodigal Son Luke 15

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Faith**

The emphasis is always on “believe” – 69 times in John is *believe or believeth*.

See John 3:14-18, 3:36, 5:24

Repentance & Faith are two sides of the same coin. Faith is the major player / faith is the major emphasis in salvation – but one **TURNS** to Christ **ALSO** turns from...

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

- **True Bible Salvation Verses**

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Hebrews 12:6-8 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

True Bible Salvation

- **Simple – not Difficult**

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The difficult part is the will of man – it is not easy for one to give of their own will to another. This is why salvation is of the Lord; as only God can work to prepare one to be saved.

It is easier to experience salvation than to explain it. I got saved – I was seeking; God made it plain; I prayed and got saved.

- **Life**

Grace not works / Life of Spirit

Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Life (Seed) grows / Life from Holy Spirit inside you.

Ephesians 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

5 times the expression “born of God” is found in 1 John.

- **Our Job**

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Tell / Invite / Persuade with passion

Our responsibility is great.

2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Discern – let them speak as you ask / Prayer if they say they are ready

- **Their Job** – seek the Lord / Ask the Holy Spirit if they are saved / See if God the Father chastens

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Substitution

Although the word *substitution* is not found in the Bible, it is taught.
Christ died for us. I deserved to die in my sins, but He died for me; for my sins.

- **Every animal sacrifice offered in the O.T. times substituted for the offender.**

1 Corinthians 5:7 ...For even **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**

1 Thessalonians 5:10 **Who died for us**, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together...

Galatians 3:13 **Christ hath redeemed us** from the curse of the law, **being made a curse for us:** for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

- **Jesus was offered as a substitute for us**

Titus 2:14 **Who gave himself for us**, that he might **redeem us** from all iniquity, and purify unto himself...

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because **he laid down his life for us...**

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once **suffered for sins, the just for the unjust...**

- **He became sin / We get His righteousness imputed on our account**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath **made him *to be* sin for us**, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

➤ **Abraham – Isaac Example of Substitution in the O.T.**

Genesis 22:13-14 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh...

- **Take thy son, thine only son Gen. 22:2**

John 1:18 ...the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

Mt. Moriah “Mr. Mann conjectures that it was upon this mount Abraham offered up Isaac, which is well known to be the same mount on which our blessed Lord was crucified.” CLARKE (2 Chr. 3:1)

- **It was on the third day that Isaac was “raised from the dead”**

Genesis 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

- **The Father & Son**

Genesis 22:7-8 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

The feelings of the patriarch throughout this transaction are simply inconceivable. The heart of God must have been broken:

Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

- **The Son willingly lays down his life:**

Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

- **Isaac – supernatural birth**

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

- **Isaac was the child of promise**

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:22-23 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- **Isaac was condemned to die**

After all the sacrifices and offerings of the O.T.

Hebrews 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

We must ask – Where is the Lamb?

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

- **Abraham had faith that God would work it out**

Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and **I and the lad will** go yonder and worship, and **come again to you**.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

- **Ram is our substitute**

God has provided a substitute

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

God wants your *Isaac*:

Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. (Fulfilled prophecy of Gen. 22:8)

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

➤ **Barabbas – Example of Substitution in the N.T.**

Matthew 27:20 ...persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

Matthew 27:26 ...released he **Barabbas** unto them: and...**scourged Jesus**... delivered *him* **to be crucified**.

Mark 15:15 ...Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus...

Luke 23:18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this *man*, and release unto us Barabbas...

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Bar / Abbas = Son of the Father -- **Romans 8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father**.

The Son of God died for us to become a son of the Father

" Barabbas" was set free = Bar (son) Abbas (of Father)

Thanksgiving

There are several holidays – Christmas, Easter – Christian holidays / April Fool’s Day – Atheist Day
Day before Halloween – Devil’s Night / Memorial Day – Honoring Soldiers
Day of the Dead in Hispanic countries

I believe the greatest holidays – Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ & Thanksgiving should hold the most sentiment to the Christian.

Our salvation has its foundation in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our life ought to be rooted in thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Unspeakable – Indescribable / inexpressible / beyond words / never fully grasp all that it entails.

The opposite of being thankful is unthankful – unappreciative / an ingrate

Numbers 11:1 And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp.

Numbers 21:5-6 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *there is* no bread, neither *is there any* water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

2 Timothy 3:1-2 This know also, that in **the last days perilous times shall come**. For **men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...**

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts...

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Downward spiral of a society – ends in the judgment of God

Romans 1:29-30 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Started with:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

All should be thankful – but if anyone on earth has cause to be thankful, it is the saved.

Wealth – thankful for the wealth you have

Health – thankful for the health you have

Unthankful people look at what they do not have. Thankfulness focuses on what you do have – grateful for what you have – not what you do not have.

You may have heard it – pity the guy with no shoes until met a man with no feet.

Thankful – Brain? Hands? Ears? Eyes? Brain? Feet? Back? Knees?

Family - thankful for the family you have – typically no one will love you like your family.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Thankful for:

- **Salvation**

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

- **Eternal security**

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

- **Clear conscience**

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

- **Forgiveness of sins** – cannot put a price on that

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I remember the days when I was bent low in the burden of sin & strife;
then Jesus came in and he rescued me & he gave me a brand new life.

And now as I thank him day after day for washing my sins away,
It seems I can almost hear the voice of my Blessed Savior say,

What sins are you talking about, I don't remember them anymore.
From the book of life, they've all been torn out, I don't remember them anymore.

When my flesh becomes weak, it's then I can speak to the Saviour who's with me each day,
O' Father, forgive me, hear my plea, and He washes my sins away.

Each time that I bow to give him thanks for removing my guilt and shame,
He cannot recall what I'm talking about, for his answer is always the same....

What sins are you talking about, I don't remember them anymore.
From the book of life, they've all been torn out, I don't remember them anymore.

➤ **Comforter** -- dwells within

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Cannot put a price on love, joy, peace

Ephesians 3:19 And to **know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Philippians 4:7 And the **peace of God, which passeth all understanding**, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1:8 **Whom having not seen, ye love;** in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye **rejoice with joy unspeakable** and full of glory:

These all come from the indwelling Holy Ghost - - how you know you are saved

Romans 8:15-16 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

➤ **Word of God** – in English

Psalms 12:6-7 The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for **doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

➤ **Home in heaven**

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

➤ **Church – Home on Earth**

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Jesus met 10 lepers:

Luke 17:12-14 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Luke 17:15-16 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Luke 17:17-18 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Conclusion

Luke 22:17-19 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves:

For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Jesus gave thanks – for the price of your sins – by His own Blood

As we go thru this week – and the month to come and the year to come and the years to come – be ye thankful

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

World's Greatest Father

Text: 1 John 3:1 / Col. 1:12-14

1 Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly **our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.** (Family of God)

1 Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 Jn 4:9-10 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world**, that we might live through him. **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** (Appease His wrath)

1 Jn. 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the **Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

1 Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the **Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost:** and these three are one.

What have you done to deserve any of this (above)

Who are you that you should be called a child of God? **The World's Greatest Father – God.**

- **He sent His only begotten Son – to die for sinners**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- **The Translation / Transaction that Occurs with a Sinner**

Colossians 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be **partakers of the inheritance of the saints** in light: Who hath **delivered us from the power of darkness**, and hath translated **us into the kingdom of his dear Son:** In whom we have **redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:** **WOW Look at 5 things in this passage!**

1) Inheritance

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

2) **Delivered from power of darkness** – Satanic power was over me – **delivered out of**

3) **Translated into kingdom of his dear Son**

Sinner	to	Saved Sinner
Dead in Sins	to	New Life in Christ
Sin Nature (100%)	to	Divine Nature (100%)
Child of Devil (John 8:44)	to	Son of God / Daughter of God (1 John 3:1)
Headed for Hell	to	Heaven is my Home

4) **Redemption through his blood**

Redemption is finalized with a glorified body in heaven!

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Has the Blood been applied?

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Passover blood only worked when it was applied to the doorposts of the house

5) **Forgiveness of sins**

What sins are you talking about – God forgives and forgets

- **His Unconditional Love – He is Father to a Born Again Child**

When you first get saved – 2 distinct things occur

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

Abba – Father

Abba – the cry of a raven / the natural croak of a creature for its Father

Baby – first words – either mama or dada – that child does not know what those words mean in totality, but they do know – dada and they do know mama. Natural. ABBA

You do not need to convince one that is born again to pray to God as Father – He already knows that.

- **His Promise to Provide**

Matthew 6:25-32 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

God promises to provide for His children – even if they are not living for the Lord

1 Corinthians 10:2-5 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Many of them God was not well pleased – yet all of them He provided for!

They rebelled against God – but still His children:

Deuteronomy 8:4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Nehemiah 9:21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, *so that* they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

- **He Hears Your Prayers**

Matthew 6:9-10 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

- **His Close Relationship**

Jesus had a close relationship with His Father – you should too:

Luke 22:42 Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.**

I propose to you that God is the World's Greatest Father

He had 2 sons

1 Jn. 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the **Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

Luke 3:38 Which was *the son* of Enos, which was *the son* of Seth, which was *the son* of **Adam, which was *the son of God.***

One Son:

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

One Son:

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, **as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

You have the nature of Adam – you inherited that by birth

Do you have the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ? – you inherit it by a new birth

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

You can be saved today – turn to Christ – His blood was shed to forgive your sins. Give your heart to Jesus Christ today

Be sure Be saved

Workings of “You”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have previously taught on this subject, but this is a new approach. Your soul & spirit are two distinct separate parts of you.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Saved & Unsaved:

God desires to save the soul and at salvation, He dwells in the spirit. The soul does not cease at death. Death strips one of his material body, but the soul continues to see, feel, thirst, talk and remember. Perhaps remembering is the worst of all these as one in hell will eternally remember opportunities to be saved.

Luke 16:23-25 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things...

On earth, each person is a leader. You are a leader – of yourself. You choose – (stewardship) what you do with your mind, eyes, ears, heart, affections, time and money. You decide who you will become. You have influence and your **mind and will** work together to make all your choices in life! YOU CHOOSE.

Choices in life are a result of the heart.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

You can choose to walk with God or allow the lusts of the flesh or pride or greed control your life. You can choose to seek the Lord and be saved or you choose to stay lost. There is a natural man (unsaved), a carnal man (saved but fleshly) and a spiritual man (led by the Holy Spirit).

1 Cor. 2:14 But the **natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Cor. 3:3 For **ye are yet carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1 Cor. 3:1 ...could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

The 5 senses of the body can vex the soul of the saved person.

2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

Eyes – gate to imagination
Smell – detect good & evil = conscience
Hearing – memory (songs can be remembered)
Taste – compare facts as taste compares food = reason of man
Touch – affections of the body

The Spirit of Man

The spirit of man is a death chamber to the unsaved. No fellowship with God / Blood of Jesus Christ has not been applied. God is Creator. The Blood applied makes one a son of God & He becomes your Father.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Marks of Maturity

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we **walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Hebrews 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when **ye received the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but **as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

Psalms 1:2 But his **delight is in the law of the LORD**; and **in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but **the greatest of these is charity.**

Psalms 55:17 **Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray**, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation **he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**

Genesis 5:22 And Enoch **walked with God** after he begat Methuselah...

Psalms 145:2 Every day **will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name** for ever and ever.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;**

The Holy Spirit lives inside us – how do we allow Him to life thru us?

What is the key to allow one to be Spirit-filled?

- The will of man must surrender to God / a yielded life

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- The will of man then must be broken

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

A Spirit-filled life is marked by

Ephesians 5:19-21 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart** to the Lord; **Giving thanks always for all things** unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Submitting yourselves one to another** in the fear of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance**: against such there is no law.

End Result

From: Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

To: Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This message is within your reach. These are whosoever verses:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful....

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Jesus & Discussions

Luke 11:53-54 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge *him* vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Jesus quoted the Bible when tempted of the devil

Matthew 4:3-4 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Jesus Loved Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-22 ...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Jesus Loved Sinners Luke 7:36-48; 8:43-48

Luke 5:30-32 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus Emphasized Eternal Life

Matthew 16:13-15 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mark 10:23-24 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Jesus Focused on Blessings & Rewards Luke 9:57-62; 10:40-42

Matthew 19:27-29 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or

brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Jesus Used Wisdom to Avoid Argument

Matthew 22:15-21 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in *his* talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any *man*: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose *is* this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Jesus Allowed His Words to Convict of Sin

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

John 8:9 And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Jesus Did Not Justify Himself John 7:15-29; 7:37-43; 9:35-38

John 8:22-24 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

Jesus Let Results Speak to Justify His Work Mark 2:6-12

Matthew 11:2-6 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Jesus Encouraged to Stay as Close to Lord rather than How Close to the Edge Can One Get

Matthew 19:3-6 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Jesus Used Common Sense – but Was Still Hated – Enemies will not Change (Demonic in Origin)

Matthew 12:10-12 And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

Matthew 12:13-14 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

Jesus Explained the ‘Big Picture’ of the Bible Matt. `12:1-8

Matthew 22:35-40 Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Sometimes He Rebuked People Luke 11:45-52, John 19:10-11

Matthew 12:38-40 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Sometimes He Answered Back Sternly

Matthew 15:1-3 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Sometimes He Answered a Question with a Question Matt. 27:11; John 18:19-21

Matthew 21:23-25 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

Depression Ps. 42 - 43

This last week, I have had 3 people ask me about depression. Then I saw an ad on Facebook for counseling concerning depression and also an article of a pastor (of 35 years) in Harrison, Wisconsin that committed suicide while battling depression. I have heard that Christmas season is the second highest timeframe for suicides, with April being the highest.

Psalms 42:5-6 *Why art thou cast down, O my soul?* and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

No one is above depression. It can be a mystical event that comes and goes. Sometimes it comes and rests upon a person like a terrible disease. It can be debilitating. There can be no exhaustive study to overcome depression, but here are some thoughts concerning it.

Great men have been depressed. **Spurgeon** had bouts of depression as did **David** (Ps 42 & 43):

1 Samuel 27:1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

Elijah

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

John the Baptist – a seemingly depressed state to ask this:

Luke 7:19 And John calling *unto him* two of his disciples sent *them* to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Paul

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

2 Corinthians 4:8 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

“Just snap out of it” sound reasonable, but a depressed person does not know how or what to do to overcome it.

We can be more susceptible when tired in body (Elijah); with difficult circumstances in soul (John in prison); or sad in the spirit (cast down).

THE OPPOSITE OF DEPRESSION IS NOT HAPPINESS BUT VITALITY

Physical Life

Get enough sleep – can use melatonin to regulate

Exercise – do something that makes you sweat – exercise can release endorphins

Walk 10 minutes a day, 3 times a day

Take B vitamins & fish oil

Get sunlight

Mental Life

Spend time with a pet

Music – sing / listen to upbeat music / youtube – Mountain View Baptist Church, Cowpens, SC

Laughter – comedy – watch good shows that make you laugh

Address negative thinking

Ask forgiveness from God & people. Then, accept that forgiveness.

Social Life

Force yourself to continue the things that you need to do

Force yourself to continue in things that count for eternity

Step outside your bounds and do not hibernate / Do not isolate yourself

Spiritual Life

Move Forward - these 3 things are technically only 1 thing:

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but ***this one thing I do***,

1) forgetting those things which are behind, and 2) reaching forth unto those things which are before,

3) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Invest in that which gives your life purpose.

Music – reaches to the soul of man:

1 Sam. 16:23 And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Know that it will “come to pass.”

Depression from Jay Adams:

- You must know God personally
- You must not put alleviation of depression as the goal, but rather the desire to please God by doing what He says.
- You must do *exactly* as He says regardless of how you feel.

Make sure you are born again. Then discipline yourself to DO what you need to do – carry out your responsibilities whether you feel like it or not.

Giving up and to stop doing what you need to do only compounds depression. We must live our life by duty rather than feelings. Depression is often compounded via sin, guilt, neglect and laziness.

You must not live by your feelings.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Against your feelings, force yourself to do the necessary things on your ‘to do list.’ Do what you need to do and a change of feelings will take place, as a by-product, in time. This is the secret to turning back the tide of depression.

Do what God wants you to do, and He will bless this and strengthen you and eventually change your feelings.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that **thou mayest observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, **according to that he hath done**, whether *it be* good or bad.

Set a schedule for your life and then allow that schedule to control your life.

- 1) Confess your sin of failing to do your responsibilities along with other sins.
- 2) Begin to do whatever God wants you to do regardless of whether you feel like it or not.
- 3) Avoid pity parties and complaining.
- 4) Follow your schedule, not your feelings.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Types in the Bible

παραβολη **parabole** *par-ab-ol-ay'*

(English word – *Parable*)

Comparison; figure; parable; proverb

Heb. 11:19; Heb. 9:9

αντιτυπος **antitupos** *an-teet'-oo-pon*

(English word – *Antitype*)

"antitype" - a representative; counterpart:--(like) figure (whereunto) 1 Pet. 3:21; Heb 9:24

τυπος **tupos** *too'-pos*

(English word – *Type*)

a die; resemblance; a sampler ("type"); figure; pattern

Rom. 5:14, 1 Cor. 10:6 & 10:11

God uses simplicity for us to understand great truths.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ.**

Supernatural Birth of Jesus Christ Pictured

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not **his own body now dead**, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the **deadness of Sara's womb:**

Sinless Adam is Picture of the Sinless Life of Jesus Christ

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of **Adam's** transgression, **who is the figure of him that was to come.**

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made a living soul; the **last Adam** was made a quickening spirit.

Resurrection from the Dead Pictured

Matthew 12:40 For as **Jonas was three days and three nights** in the whale's belly; **so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

Hebrews 11:18-19 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Blood on Mercy Seat in O.T. is Picture of Jesus' Blood Placed on Mercy Seat in Heaven

Hebrews 9:8-9 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place**, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*

Hebrews 9:24 For **Christ** is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; **but into heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Salvation Via Applied Blood Pictured

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover** is sacrificed for us:

Simplicity of Faith Pictured

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, **when he beheld** the serpent of brass, he lived.

John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Baptism is a Picture of Salvation

1 Peter 3:21 The **like figure** whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Resurrection of Our Body – Pictured By Seeds Planted in Dirt Phil. 3:20-21; Rom. 8:11; 1 John 3:2

1 Corinthians 15:35-38 But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But **God giveth it a body** as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Joshua & Melchizedek Picture Jesus as King-Priest

Hebrews 7:1-2 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, **priest of the most high God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation **King of righteousness**, and after that also **King of Salem, which is, King of peace**;

Zechariah 6:11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set *them* upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;

Hebrews 5:6 As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a **priest for ever** after the order of Melchisedec.

Luke 1:32-33 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall **reign over the house of Jacob for ever**; and of his **kingdom there shall be no end**.

Jesus is found in the O.T.

Heb. 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things...

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.**

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, **of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth,** the son of Joseph.

John 5:46-47 For had ye believed **Moses,** ye would have believed me: **for he wrote of me.** But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Luke 24:27 And beginning at **Moses and all the prophets,** he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the **things concerning himself.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were **written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

John 5:39 Search the **scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me. (Scriptures in Jesus' day was the O.T.)**

Rejecting of O.T. = Rejecting of God & His Word

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

John 5:46-47 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Acts 17:2-3 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

The “Begats” in the Line of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:16-17 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Matthew is the connecting book from the O.T. to the N.T.. It is written to show that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and King to the Jews. In Luke chapter three, his genealogy is given from Jesus back to Adam. Adam is the head of the human race.

The genealogy of Jesus Christ shows us His “family tree.” Some study their family tree to find out who to blame. Remember, every tree has some sap in it!

Matthew 1:2 – 1:16 show us that God’s grace can flow through very crooked human channels. It also will show that the sin of humanity taints the best of races and the best of people. Barriers are broken in this line of Christ.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

This verse shows us that Jesus is Jewish (son of Abraham) and in the Kingly line (David).

The Barrier of Men & Women is Broken

Five women are mentioned in this line. Typically, women were never listed in a genealogy line.

Matthew 1:3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of **Thamar**; and Phares begat Esrom...

Matthew 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of **Rahab**; and Booz begat Obed of **Ruth**; and Obed begat Jesse;

Matthew 1:6 ...and David the king begat Solomon **of her that had been the wife of Urias**;

Matthew 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of **Mary**...

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

The Barrier of Jew & Gentile is Broken

Tamar, Rahab and Ruth were all Gentiles. Rahab was a Canaanite and Ruth was a Moabite. Moabites were ancestors of the incest of Lot and his daughters – unclean!

Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

The Barrier Between Saint & Sinner is Broken

A) Tamar (vs. 3)

Tamar was the wife of Judah's son. Her husband died before they had children, so she tricked her father-in-law, Judah, into sleeping with her. (Genesis chapter 38)

Note – It was not necessary to include Tamar – the **Bible could have written,**

“Judah begat Phares and Phares begat Esrom” – and skip over Tamar – but God included her.
“And Judah begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom...” (Matthew 1:3)

This dysfunctional family is in the line of Jesus Christ!

B) Rahab (vs. 5)

Rahab was a harlot used to help in the defeat of Jericho. Her life was spared and she later married an Israelite – Salmon, and Boaz was born. Boaz became the husband of Ruth, the Moabite.

C) Bathsheba (vs. 6)

Bathsheba is not mentioned by name, but rather as “the wife of Uriah.” This reminds us of the sin of David, the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Uriah was a great man, an honorable man, a loyal man, and a man of character. David had Uriah put to death via the front lines in war.

Hence, this line of Jesus Christ has moral outsiders, adulterers, adulteresses, incestuous relationships, harlots, cultural outsiders, racial outsiders, and gender outsiders. Yet they are all publically acknowledged. Jesus Christ will personally acknowledge you if you are born again:

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Never throw away anyone. Jephthah was rejected, but then asked to come back and lead:

Judges 11:1-2 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he *was* the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah. And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou *art* the son of a strange woman.

Judges 11:6-7 And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon. And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?

People excluded by respectable society, by culture, and by the law of Moses can be brought into the family of God.

Whosoever means *whosoever*.

Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a **friend of publicans and sinners!**

Matthew 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

The birth of Jesus Christ was not tainted by humanity. If you come to Christ, it will not affect Him; He will affect you. The lowest of human beings can be born again. This song describes the love of God:

The drunk on the street / the rich in their palaces / the poor & unlearned / the men of degree
They all have a soul in need of salvation / They all have to come by Calvary
I am so glad God saves old sinners / I'm thrilled and amazed how He sets them free
But the greatest surprise in redeeming old sinners / Is that He would save an sinner like me

The *Begats* of Matthew 1

There are 39 *begats* in these verses. In the midst of all these *begats*, flows the grace and mercy of God.

If you are unsaved, there is no sin too great. Come to Christ and be forgiven.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

If you are saved, come to the Lord and ask for forgiveness.

He wants you to find grace for your daily life.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The throne of grace has enough grace for you – enough mercy for your sin and enough grace for your need.

The blood of Jesus Christ on the mercy seat turns the throne of judgment in to a throne of grace!

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.