

SALVATION

SALVATION

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.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Justified, saved, forgiven, trusted Christ, converted, born again, received Christ: it all means the same thing. It does not matter what you call it – just so you know that you have been saved and are headed for heaven. Here are some definitions of Bible words:

SAVED

Salvaged, forgiven, spared, or saved from sin and hell. Ephesians 2:8-9 says: “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.”

CONVICTION

To convince of sin - it is the job of the Holy Spirit to convict you of your sin. A person must become lost in order to be saved. Acts 7:54 “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart...” 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.”

REPENTANCE

To change one’s mind or purpose – to turn from sin to God – A soldier describes it as an ‘about face.’ Repentance and faith are the two ingredients necessary for salvation. The emphasis is always on faith – but repentance is needed. Acts 20:21 “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Luke 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

GRACE

Grace is unmerited favor. Why does God choose to save sinners like us? One cannot explain it apart from grace. It has been described as **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**.

FAITH

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.”

Faith is to rest upon what God has said in His Word. Faith must have a basis – for the Christian, the basis is the will of God - found either in the Word of God, or the leading of the Holy Spirit.

FAITH IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Romans 3:25 “Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God...”

BELIEVE

To trust – To believe does not mean just to acknowledge or believe in, but to put full trust in Him as Savior to save your soul. Blondini pushed a wheelbarrow across a tightrope over the Niagara Falls. The crowd all believed that he could do it. When asked to ‘get inside the wheelbarrow,’ only one volunteered. This is the difference between believing in your head and believing from your heart.

A KNOW-SO SALVATION

1 John 5:11-13 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. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye **may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

There are only two beliefs in the world on Salvation:

Works (Do) or Christ (Done)

Works - you must do something to be saved

Christ – He has paid for your sins – Jesus alone saves. “*It is finished.*” (Jn. 19:30)

God uses two things to save a soul

Word of God – gives facts of salvation; proves guilt

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.”

Holy Spirit – convicts of sin; draws to be saved

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

The moment you got saved, you were born into the family of God. God became your heavenly Father and you are His child. Your relationship to your Heavenly Father may be strained when you sin, BUT YOU CANNOT BE UNBORN OUT OF THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Eternal life is given NOW:

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.”

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.”

You possess at this time – you HAVE eternal, everlasting life!

You are a triune being – as God is a triune God. You have a body, a soul and a spirit. There are three distinct parts to you – yet you are only one person. Your body separates from your soul and spirit at death, but it will re-unite into one body. Likewise, God has three distinct personalities – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each are separate, distinct entities, yet there is only one God. Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD.” The LORD (Jehovah – One God) our God (Elohim – plural word) *is* one LORD (Jehovah).

JUSTIFICATION

The day you got saved, your **spirit** became alive. Justification deals with your record in heaven – a clean slate. This stops the penalty of sin – hell. Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

SANTIFICATION

Your **soul** is in a growth process.

This is the process of growing and changing as the Word of God makes us more like Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Sanctification means *to set apart*. We need to change and grow.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

GLORIFICATION

Your **body** will be saved.

Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 8:23 “And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.”

BAPTISM

Baptism is not a part of salvation. Baptism will not get one to heaven.

Who should be baptized? Baptism is for the saved individual.

Acts 8:36-37 "...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."

Why get baptized? It is the first step of obedience to the Lord after salvation.

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized."

How should one be baptized? Baptism is a transliterated word. *Baptizo* means to bury or submerge. To picture a burial, one must be submerged under the water.

Acts 8:38 "...They went down both into the water...and he baptized him."

Romans 6:4-5 "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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection."

Who should do the baptizing? Baptism must have authority from God. John the Baptist was given the authority from God. Hence, the Baptist church has authority to baptize.

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

Luke 20:2-4 "And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority? And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?"

When should one get baptized? Immediately!

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.

Are you saved? Are you sure? Make sure!

Have you been baptized? Obey the Lord!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

THE BIBLE

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119. Its theme is the Bible. Almost every verse in that chapter makes mention of God's Word. God has given to us His Word to reveal Himself to us so we can know Him and what He expects of us.

Job 23:12: "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*." The Bible was so important to Job that he would have chosen the Bible over eating.

The Bible is called seed, milk, meat, a mirror, water, law, light, a hammer, and a sword.

Where did the Bible come from?

God's Word has always been:

Psalm 119:89 LAMED. "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

How did we get the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God" (God-breathed!)

2 Peter 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost."

The Bible was written by men, but inspired by God so that the end result was Word for Word, the very words of God!

Are there any mistakes in the Bible?

Psalm 19:7 "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple."

Which version should I use?

There is only one Bible in the English language that is pure. It is the King James Version. God has promised to preserve His Word.

Psalm 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.

Why read it?

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."

Studying God's Word helps us to grow!

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.”

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

God’s Word is profitable for (II Tim. 3:16):

- Doctrine – teaches us what is right to believe
- Reproof – points out error in our life
- Correction – how to correct what is wrong in our life
- Instruction in Righteousness – teaches how to stay right

Where to begin

It is best to have several places to read. A good start is:

- 1 chapter in Psalms – for sweetness
- 1 chapter in Proverbs – for wisdom
- 1 chapter in Mark (N.T.)
- 1 chapter in Genesis (O.T.)

When to read

It is best to start each day with the Lord. Let God speak to your heart.

How to read

Read with your heart. The goal should be to read through the Bible once in a year. It is essential that we not only read the Bible, but also to meditate upon what was read.

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.”

Psalm 1:1-3 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. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

PRAYER

Why pray?

It is commanded: Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

It gives us peace: Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

It gives joy: John 16:24 “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

What to pray for?

Church members / Your pastor / Church services / Church prayer list / Your family / Unsaved people you are witnessing to / Wisdom / Grace for your problems / Leaders / Basic needs / Power of Holy Spirit /

Hindrances to prayer

Unconfessed sin Psalm 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.”

Selfish motives James 4:3 “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.”

Unforgiveness Mark 11:24-25 “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Marital problems 1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife...that your prayers be not hindered.”

How to get started

Private time for prayer – a definite place

Matthew 6:6 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Start tomorrow with a plan for daily Bible reading and prayer. It will transform your life!

Get a prayer list of church members and pray for them daily.

OVERCOMING THE ENEMY

The Christian life is a battle. You are involved in a war.

2 Timothy 2:3 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.⁴ 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.”

Ephesians 6:10-13 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

You have three enemies:

1. **The Devil**
2. **The World** (system of evil that the majority follow)
3. **The Flesh** (the unsaved, old sinful nature)

God has given us a tremendous promise (no matter who our enemy is):

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.”

The Devil

Jesus was tempted by the devil. Jesus used Scripture to overcome him. Notice the names of the devil.

Matthew 4:1-11 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the **devil**.² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.³ And when **the tempter** came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.⁴ 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.⁵ Then the **devil** taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.⁸ Again, the **devil** taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, **Satan**: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.¹¹ Then the **devil** leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

Satan was created as an anointed cherub (Eze. 28:11-19). He fell into sin through pride and rebellion against God (Isa. 14:12-17).

He is the prince of the power of the air:

Ephesians 2:2 “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

The schemes of the devil:

Genesis 3:1-4 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...”

He tried to get Eve to question God and His words. He tried to cause her to doubt the promise of God. Today, the devil has attacked the Bible and has tried to discredit the KJV. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Ps. 11:3)

What can he do?

1 Thessalonians 3:5 “For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you...”

1 Thessalonians 2:18 “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.”

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

We are not to talk back to the devil.

Jude 1:9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”

Our job is to stay close to the Lord and talk to Him. The devil must get permission from God before he can afflict a child of God. (Job 1-2).

How do we overcome the devil?

1. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7
2. “Neither give place to the devil. (sins opens the door)” Ephesians 4:27
3. Quote and apply Scripture to your situation (like Jesus did in Matt. 4).

If you have trouble overcoming the sin of drinking. Use Rom. 6:1-2 and say:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in drinking, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to drunkenness, live any longer therein?”

If you are having trouble with forgiving someone, use Eph. 4:32: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Then tell God that you will forgive like this verse commands us to. When the unforgiveness comes to mind, quote this verse and again tell God that you will obey what the Bible says.

4. Put on the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10-18)

The World

1 John 5:19 “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”

1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

John 15:18 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.”

A Christian will not fit into this world. As we live godly, we will separate ourselves from certain places, people, and events.... Ask God for wisdom – we are to be separated, not isolated. We must not let the world drag us away from Christ. We need to love Christ above all. We are one flesh with Him (Eph. 5:30-32).

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

How do we overcome the world?

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

The Flesh

When you got saved, the old sinful nature you had did not get saved. You are a *saved being inside an unsaved* body. The Christian battles with the flesh. Paul was a mature Christian as he wrote Romans 7:14-25. Note:

Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Read the works of the flesh in Gal. 5:19-21. The flesh is the flesh because it is born that way:

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

There is nothing good about the flesh. Your heart is deceitful. Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

This is why you must ask God to “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

The flesh is weakest when you are tired, hungry, or out of a routine. How do we conquer the flesh?

Die to the Flesh

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.”

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.”

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 “*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Romans 13:14 “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts *thereof*.”

The greatest battles one faces are the ones with the flesh. Frederick the Great of Prussia was walking on the outskirts of Berlin when he encountered a very old man proceeding in the opposite direction.

“Who are you?” asked Frederick.

“I am a king,” replied the old man.

“A king!” laughed Frederick. “Over what kingdom do you reign?”

“Over myself,” was the proud reply.

The Battlefield is the Mind

Entrance into your mind comes mainly from the eyes and ears.

2 Peter 2:7-8 “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)”

Ask God for help – Spirit-filled power to control thoughts:

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

The Holy Spirit can give you victory to overcome sin.

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.”

Review

We overcome the devil by quoting Scripture, resisting him and putting on the whole armour of God.

We overcome the world by faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17).

We overcome the flesh by crucifying it and walking in the Spirit.

This week:

Memorize 2 Cor. 10:5 and Eph. 4:22-24 by writing them on 3"x 5" cards and reading them 5 times each day.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Who He Is

The Holy Spirit is God. The Trinity is a tri-unity.

Acts 5:3-4 “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”

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

He is a person – with personality.

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.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all.

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity. You can talk to him and be receptive to His voice in your spirit. He will guide you into correct doctrine. He will lead your life to serve God. He will never lead you contrary to the Word of God.

What He Has Done

He was active in creation (See Gen. 1:2).

He is the Author of Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:21 “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Conception of Christ.

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.

Resurrection of Christ.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

What He Does

He convicts of sin (See John 16:8-11).

At salvation, we are born of the Spirit.

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

He seals the believer (We cannot lose our salvation)

Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”

He indwells the believer (See Rom 8:11 above)

Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

John 14:17 “*Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

He indwells the believer – forever!

John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”

One of the most miserable persons on the face of the earth is a Christian who is not ‘sure’ that he/she is saved. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to assure you that you are saved:

He assures us of our salvation.

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 Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

He teaches us the Word of God.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.”

Pastors are given as a gift to the church. It is their job to teach doctrine and preach the Bible.

Believers have the Holy Spirit living within them to help them discern truth.

In every doctrine, there is only one truth. His job is to help you discern truth from error.

He calls us into service

Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

The Holy Spirit will call people into the ministry as a pastor or as a missionary.

What We Are To Do

Be filled with the Spirit – This is commanded

Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit.”

At salvation, you let Jesus ‘into your house.’ The filling of the Holy Spirit is when you ‘give Him the keys to all the doors of the house.’

Confess all known sin. Die to self. Yield to the Holy Spirit. Ask to be filled.

Ask for His power (to witness)

Luke 11:13 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

God wants to use you to witness boldly for Christ. This power is evidenced as He speaks to a person inwardly while you speak to them outwardly. Only God and His power can save a soul! We need His power. Jesus told us to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Not quench the Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Quench not the Spirit.”

To quench is to throw cold water on His work within us – to stifle what He wants to do in and through us.

Not grieve the Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

We grieve the Holy Spirit by disobedience. To disobey is rebellion. God wants us to obey and grow in the Lord.

Yield to the Holy Spirit in your life.

Read Romans chapters 6-8 everyday for 2 weeks.

Daily:

- **Confess Known Sin**
- **Die To Self**
- **Ask God to Fill You with the Holy Spirit**
- **Walk With God**

THE ETERNAL DESTINATION OF THE SOUL

Where will our souls spend eternity? Do we have a choice? What are our choices for a final resting place? These are questions often asked by sincere people looking for the truth. The Bible tells us that there are only two options. This lesson will examine both options: heaven and hell.

Heaven

It has been said, “No one can ever paint hell too hot or heaven too beautiful.” There are no words in the human vocabulary that can appropriately describe the beauty of heaven.

1 Corinthians 2:9 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.

Heaven is a literal place. It is not a state of mind or a figment of one’s imagination. Just as people travel to N.Y. or L.A., one day Christians will travel to heaven.

John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² 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. ³ 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.”

Heaven is North

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

Psalms 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, *is* mount Zion, *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

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

Place of New Bodies

Our new body will be a Christ-like body. We go straight to heaven at death.

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.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Place of Activity

We will be busy serving God in heaven (Rev. 22:3-5). God will have a great and glorious plan that will keep us occupied. We will marvel at God’s love to us.

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.

Place of Rewards

Christians can earn crowns for serving God here on earth (II Tim.2:4, James 1:12, I Pet. 5:4, Rev. 2:10, I Cor. 9:25).

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

What Will be Missing in Heaven

There will be no death, sorrow, crying, pain, cancer wards, beer, adultery, hospitals, abortions, drugs, pornography, immodesty, war.... God will make all things new.

A boy was flying a kite on a cloudy day. A man only saw the string in his hand and asked what he was doing. He replied, "Flying a kite." The man asked, "How do you know there is a kite up there?" The boy said, "Mister, I know there is a kite because I can feel the tug." A Christian feels a tug from the blessed Holy Spirit that assures him/her that heaven is our home!

Hell

Hell is a place of despondency, darkness, sadness, torment, and separation from God. Read Luke 16:19-31 for the most accurate account of hell given in the Bible.

Jesus preached more on hell than He did on heaven. He told us that hell was originally prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

Hell is located in the heart of the earth. It is the place called *Hades*. *Hades* is the temporary holding place for the unsaved until the Great White Throne Judgment. At that time, the souls will be transported to God's throne and then will be cast forever into the lake of fire.

It is a Place of Torment and Thirst

Luke 16:24 "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."

It is a Place of Memory

Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

Jesus Warned Us

Mark 9:43 "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵ And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁶ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁷ And if thine

eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

Matthew 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Body and Soul

When an unsaved person dies, their body goes into the ground, while their soul goes immediately to *Hades*. On judgment day (Rev. 20:11-15), the soul will be rejoined with the body and he will be judged according to his life. He will then be cast into the lake of fire forever. A person in hell will burn and yet never be consumed.

Who Will Go To Hell

- Unsaved church members like Judas Iscariot
- Unsaved preachers and false prophets (Matt. 7:21-23)
- Unsaved sincere people
- Unsaved procrastinators

Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

Famous Last Words

Charles IX “I am lost forever. I know it.”

Sir Francis Newport “You need not tell me there is no God, for I know there is one, and that I am in His angry presence! You need not tell me there is no hell, for I already feel my soul slipping into its fires! Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever.”

What Sends One To Hell

The sin that sends one to hell is the sin of unbelief. Jesus paid for the sins of the world and to neglect that payment (unbelief) damns the soul to hell.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

How will your knowledge of this lesson affect your life? Ponder the truths within these pages and allow God to transform your life for the cause of souls.

PURITY & BATTLE OF THE MIND

PURITY

The world says, “Everyone is doing it.”

No, there are some moral people still around. It takes work to stay pure in today’s world.

I Tim. 5:22 “Keep thyself pure....” *Keep* means *to guard*. We are to guard our morals. If we do not, we will lose them.

1 Corinthians 6:15 “Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid. ¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. ¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. ¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

The two biggest decisions anyone will ever make are to get saved and to get married. The greatest foundation anyone can have for a godly marriage is purity. Purity prevents problems.

Purity is revealed through our thoughts.

Proverbs 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he.” You are not what you think you are, but what you think, you are! Thoughts produce actions, which produce habits, which produce lifestyles. Some say – ‘But I can’t help think those thoughts.’ You cannot prevent some thoughts from entering your mind, but you **can** prevent yourself from dwelling on them. Controlling one’s eyes also helps control the thoughts. We ought to control what we see on billboards, magazines and on the Internet. Do not let your thoughts wander.

Matthew 5:28 “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

Prov. 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Job 31:1 “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

Ask God help you control your thoughts:

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**”

Purity is revealed in our Words

Words reveal the heart. Morals are revealed in our words. Cursing, filthy talk, and shady jokes are out of bounds for the pure person.

Matthew 12:34 “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

Purity and the Media

A Christian must sincerely examine that which he/she sees on television and the Internet. Psalm 101:3 “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me.”

Purity and Music

Lot ruined his life and his testimony by what he heard and what he saw.

2 Peter 2:7 “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in **seeing and hearing**, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)”

Music has tremendous sway over the mind and soul of the listener. Most of the world’s music promotes rebellion, immorality, drugs, lust and violence. The Christian ought to examine his/her life and completely rid themselves and their house of all ungodly music, magazines and occult items.

What about Christian Rock music? That is like asking about Christian pornography - or Christian adultery. Rock music + Christian words \neq Glory to God.

Things to Avoid to Stay Pure

Avoid being alone with the opposite sex. Don’t get caught in a situation where people could ‘talk.’

Avoid touching the opposite sex. Touch means *to kindle*. The dangerous thing about touch is that it alone does not satisfy. Lust wants more. The flesh is not satisfied. Proverbs 6:29 “So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.”

A young couple dating needs to firstly determine if it is God’s will for them to get married. Unite the spirit first, then unite the soul, and lastly unite the bodies after marriage.

An immoral crowd of girls was ridiculing a teenage girl in a public school for her pure life. One day she had had enough. She stood up in front of the class of girls and said, “I can be like you any day I want, but you can never again be like me.” How true!

Dating

1. Read Bible daily
2. Guard you thoughts
3. Date only Christians – or date unsaved by bringing them to church
4. Pray for God’s will first
5. Dress modestly at all times

BATTLE OF THE MIND

God Knows Your Thoughts

It is estimated that you have 10,000 thoughts a day. To God, your mind is a window without curtains.

The Mind is a Battlefield

Man is a very complex creature. The human mind can do amazing things. A parent can control a child's actions but not his thoughts. God is very interested in thoughts because thoughts produce actions. God destroyed the world with a flood because 'every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'

Keep your mind busy. One of the reasons God destroyed Sodom was idleness.

Ezekiel 16:49 "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."

Dr. Bob Jones Sr. said, "Behind every human tragedy there is a slow process of evil, wicked thinking." No one ever falls into sin. They have been falling for a long time. We only saw them when they landed. It began in their thoughts.

Sir Francis Bacon said, "Tell me what the young people are thinking and I'll tell you the outlook for the next generation."

Thoughts	Produce	Actions
Actions	Produce	Habits
Habits	Produce	Lifestyles

Transform Your Thoughts

Romans 12:1 "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. 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."

Every cell in your body is replaced every seven years. Your body renews itself. A bird's feathers molt and they are replaced. The feathers are renewed. We need to renew our mind with godly thoughts.

Ephesians 4:22-24 "That ye put off...the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...And that ye put on the new man..."

Ask God to control your thoughts. Each day wake up and ask God to help you!

Memorize II Cor. 10:5

THE CHURCH

What is the church? It is not a building, though there are church buildings. The church is not a group of pleasure seekers on a boat on Sunday worshipping God ‘in their own way.’ It is not even a group meeting in a home for Bible study. The word *church* comes from the word *ekklesia* that means ‘called out assembly.’ It is a group of baptized believers called out to carry out the Great Commission.

Believers – who are baptized – organized to carry out the Great Commission. The authority for the church started with God. John the Baptist was sent by God to baptize.

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

Mark 11:29-30 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was *it from heaven*, or of men? answer me.”

Ephesians 4:5 “One Lord, one faith, **one baptism**.”

The authority to baptize is from God. There is only one baptism – John’s baptism. John was John the Baptist. Hence, Baptists have the authority to baptize. A Baptist church ought to start other Baptist churches.

As Abraham is the father of Israel in the O.T., John the Baptist is has the authority from God in the N.T..

The church is a hospital for sinners, not a memorial for saints. It is a college for Bible education. It is a boot camp for training Christian soldiers. It is called the *body of Christ* and the *bride of Christ*. Every Christian ought to be an active member in His church.

Mission of the Church

The mission of the church is to carry out the Great Commission – to reach the world for Christ. This will be covered later.

Head of the Church

Ephesians 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” Christ will lead the church. The church is to be sensitive to His leading.

Leader of the Church

God always put one in the position of authority. Since God Himself is not on earth to run things, He places someone in authority to lead. That one with authority will be held accountable for his action. In the home, the husband is the head of the house. In government, God put kings over Israel. In the church, God has called pastors.

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.” (This is written to elders – vs. 17)

Ephesians 4:11 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 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; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

There are three titles given to the preacher:

1. **Elder:** This title emphasizes experience and wisdom.
2. **Pastor:** This title emphasizes being a shepherd who gives protection. He is to warn people of harmful things and to watch over them like a sheep dog. He is run off wolves.
3. **Bishop:** This title means *overseer*. The pastor is to oversee the church and make sure it benefits the members. All things should go through and be approved by the pastor.

Church Members and The Pastor:

- Be loyal to him.
- Follow his leadership.
- Pray for the pastor and his preaching
- Prepare your heart for the preaching
- Honor him (Give him respect when addressing him – never call him by his first name)
- Encourage him
- Never criticize him – or allow others to criticize him
- Get involved in his vision for the church

Church Members and The Church:

- Be faithful – whenever possible, be at all church services
- Use your spiritual gifts – the church is where God wants you to use your gifts
- Bring your tithes (10%) to the church

Leviticus 27:30 “And all the tithes of the land...*is* the LORD'S...”

1 Corinthians 16:1 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ² Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him...”

[Click here](#) to learn Why You Need To Be Saved

Malachi 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”

Join the church by baptism .

Pray for the pastor daily.

Start tithing.

WITNESSING AND SOUL WINNING

Witnessing - Relating your own personal experience of salvation

Soul winning – Using your witness and the Bible to lead others to salvation

This world is lost and headed to hell. It is the job of every Christian to reproduce themselves. Someone cared enough to see that I got saved. It is now my job to share with others the good news of salvation.

A soul winner is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread.
Bringing one soul to Christ is the highest achievement possible in human life.
It is to be the main business and heartbeat of every Christian.

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

Daniel 12:3 “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.”

James 5:20 “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

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

Why Win Souls?

- **It glorifies God.**
- **It is commanded by Jesus** (See Mark 16:15 (above)).
- **It delivers souls from hell.**
- **There are crowns and rewards** (See Dan. 12:3 above).
- **It is a debt.**
 - Romans 1:14 “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”
- **It is caring.**
- **It brings joy.**

Psalm 126:5 “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. ⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.*”

Why Do Some Christians Not Witness?

Excuses

Most excuses are lies. The need of the lost is greater than our selfish excuses. Get your eyes off of yourself and your petty problems and see a world without Christ.

Pride

We must humble ourselves to witness. Ask God for boldness and when the opportunity comes, speak up. God will then continue to help you.

Fear

Jesus was despised and rejected of men. God will give you the courage. Claim these Bible verses:

Psalm 81:10 “I *am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.”

Jeremiah 1:8 “Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.”

Joshua 1:5 “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

Awkwardness

This is overcome by experience. The more you go, the more confident you will become.

Lack of Bible Knowledge

Just start. Start out by following *How to get involved*. The need is so great, it ought to compel us to go. The love of Christ ought to compel us. Time is so short, it ought to compel us to go. God does not ask us to do what we cannot do – just to do what we can.

Motivations for Soul winning:

- **Calvary**

Read the account of the crucifixion. Think of His sufferings for the sins of the whole world.

- **Hell**

Read about the rich man in hell in Luke 16:19-31. Think of the reality of hell of those who reject God’s only Son.

- **Great Commission**

Most of the world has not rejected Christ, they simply have not heard. If all the births and deaths in China were stopped today, and you won 3,000 people to Christ per day, it would take 900 years to reach that nation.

- **Great White Throne Judgment**

Imagine standing before a holy God and witnessing all the unsaved stand before God. They will be judged and then cast into the lake of fire for all eternity. The time to witness is **now** – while we are alive. Be busy serving God.

- **Judgment Seat of Christ**

One day you will stand before God and give an account of your life. You will give an account for how you used your time, talent, money, and energy to reach the lost

- **Harvest is White**

If the harvest is ripe, it needs to be picked. Fruit will spoil if not picked.

- **Rewards**

God will reward us!

How to Get Involved

If one person would win one person to Christ in one-year period and then train that person to do the same, (the next year both of them would win and train one, the next year those four would win and train one each...) in 33 years that person would see 8 billion, 589 million, 934 thousand, 592 souls saved. God's plan includes multiplication!!!

You need to get involved:

- **Use a Tract** (Get involved in putting tracts out – no talking involved)
- **Tract and invite to church** (Use a tract and invite someone to church)
- **Personal testimony** (Tell how you got saved – your testimony is unique!)
- **Witness with a plan** (Learn how to witness with the Bible)

Learn the plan of salvation on the following page and find a 'guinea pig' that will allow you to share it. Try to get a lost person to be the 'guinea pig.'

This Week:

- **Pass out 20 tracts**
- **Invite 5 people to church**
- **Give 2 people your personal testimony**
- **Witness to 1 person (Ask them to be a guinea pig for you)**

Ask: “If you died today, are you 100% sure that you would go to heaven?”

Here is how you can know:

The First Point is that **God loves you** Open to **John 3:16**

Explanation: God’s love drove Him to give up His most precious possession.

The Second Point is that **we are all sinners** **Rom 3:23**

Explanation: Sin is breaking God’s commandments or missing the bull’s-eye of being perfect as Jesus.

Application: Are you a sinner? Of course, we’re all sinners – all have sinned.

The Third Point is that **sin has a payment** **Rom. 6:23A**

Explanation: When God’s commandments are broken, someone must pay for it. Since we are the guilty ones, it is only fair that we should pay the penalty. There are two kinds of death Jesus mentions:

Physical – we will all experience a physical death

Spiritual – this is the death a soul suffers when he/she dies without Christ

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving...and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Application: So, if you died unforgiven, where would you have to go?

The Fourth Point is that **God has already paid your debt** for you **Rom. 6:23B**

Explanation: Because God does not want anyone to go to hell, He sent His Son to earth so that whosoever receives Him would be forgiven and go to heaven.

Application: So, if you received Jesus as a gift into your life, would you go to heaven?

How many times would you have to receive Him? **Rom. 5:8**

Explanation: God chose to let Jesus pay for your sins. He willingly laid down His life on the cross. He rose from the dead on the third day and is in heaven wanting sinners to turn from their sins and accept His gift of forgiveness.

Application: If you were the only sinner, Jesus would have still paid the price. He loves you more than you ever know. So, if you were to die unforgiven right now just as you are, where would you have to go? (Answer should be hell)

But, that is not where you want to go- is it?

The Fifth Point tells us **how to accept this gift** **Rom. 10:13**

Explanation: The way to receive Jesus is to ask.

Application: You do believe He will come into your life and forgive you today, right?

Would you trust Him today as your Savior? You can be saved by praying from your heart the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins. I open my heart and ask you to forgive me for my sins and come into my heart to be my Savior. I trust that Your blood was shed to forgive my sins. I ask you to forgive and save me. In Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance: Ask for honesty – Did they get saved? Are they sure? If so, invite to church to tell others and allow them to rejoice with them.

MISSIONS

The Last Words of Jesus

After Jesus rose from the dead the third day, he then spent 40 days on earth (Acts 1:3). His last words include:

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

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

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

This is our Mission. Our mission is a worldwide mission / it is worldwide missions!

The Need

There are over 6 ½ billion people on planet earth. Jesus died for each one. God only had one Son and He made Him a missionary to the world. Of Jesus’ twelve disciples, only one did not become a missionary – he became a traitor. If it were not for missionaries, America would not have the gospel.

The Plan

God has a plan to reach the world for Christ. It is **Church planting**. By church planting we mean: **Churches planting churches that plant churches** - this is the definition of missions. We must be actively involved in church planting.

We must not sacrifice the best for something good. It is good to do social work, but the *best* is church planting. The world needs the gospel and God has a plan.

It Works

The first church was located at Jerusalem. It started other churches including the church at Antioch. The church at Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabus. Soon, the process of churches planting churches that plant churches reached the world with the gospel.

Acts 17:6 “...These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

Romans 10:18 “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

Romans 16:26 “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets...made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.”

Colossians 1:5 "...whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world..."

Colossians 1:23 "...the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven..."

The early church reached the whole world. Persecution arose and the church had many martyred for their faith. The wicked Roman rulers persecuted the early church. Later, the *Dark Ages* saw 1,000 years of oppression from the church headed up by the Pope. The Catholic Church prevented Bible reading and martyred many Bible preaching Christians. The *Reformation* helped stem the tide as Bibles became available to the common man with the invention of the printing press.

Sending Out Missionaries

God's plan is for every church to reach their locale with the gospel; to financially support missionaries; and to send young men and women to Bible College to serve Christ. As God calls men into the ministry, the local church ordains them and expands its ministry.

The cause of church planting is something every believer ought to get involved in. At Grace Baptist Church, you need to actively get involved in the tract ministry, inviting others to church, supporting missions through designated *missions offerings*, and any other way the church uses to reach the world for Christ.

Missions Giving

You need to pray as to how much money God would have you to faithfully give to missions. Then weekly, you designate that amount on your offering envelope as \$___ for Missions.

When we give to missions, we will receive a reward *as if we went ourselves*.

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."

Pray and ask God how much you should faithfully give to missions. Then designate that amount on your offering envelope.

Get involved in the outreach ministry of your church. This is your mission field!