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From Death To Life Through The Cross

Chapter 1

WHO IS GOD?

In these readings, you will learn about God who gives us life. Who is He? What has He done? Does He care about us? What does He want from us? Why is it so wrong to worship and serve any person, object, or thing other than God?

1. John 17:3 - "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

a. To receive eternal life, do you need to know God? **YES or NO**

2. John 4:23, 24 - "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

a. God is either spirit or matter. Which? _____

b. Is God seeking people to worship Him? **YES or NO**

3. Acts 17:24-31 - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'"

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Questions

a. Who created the world and all that is in it? _____

b. Who needs whom?

___ 1) We need God

___ 2) God needs us

c. What shows that God cares for us

___ 1) He gives us life and breath

___ 2) He wants us to seek Him

___ 3) He is always near to each one of us

___ 4) all of these answers.

d. He who thinks that God is like gold, silver, stone or any other work of art is:

___ 1) intelligent

___ 2) ignorant

e. Do you think that God really will judge and condemn those who do not repent, even knowing that He loves and cares for us all?

YES or NO

4. Romans 1:18-25 - "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."

"Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator who is forever praised. Amen."

a. Even a person who never read the Bible should know that the Creator is powerful, intelligent and divine.

YES or NO

b. Does the person who denies the existence of God the Creator have any excuse?

YES or NO

c. Should the fact that God is our Creator cause us to worship and praise Him?

YES or NO

d. Does God let people follow their own sinful desires even though they are displeasing to Him

YES or NO

e. Whoever worships and serves things that were created instead of the Creator is?

RIGHT or WRONG

f. Write some created things that people serve nowadays:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

5. Matthew 19:26 - "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

a. Is there anything that God cannot do?

YES or NO

b. Can we trust in God to supply all our needs?

YES or NO

6. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (Romans 5:6-8) You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

a. Does God love you, even though you are a sinner?

YES or NO

b. What is the greatest proof of God's love for you? _____

c. What does God want for you?

DEATH or LIFE

Summary:

You saw that the God who created you also loves you and wants you to seek, worship and glorify Him. This Wonderful God is powerful and “able to do infinitely more than anything we can ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). He gave us His Son, Jesus, as a great demonstration of His love. Now you need to learn some important things about this Jesus.

Chapter 2

WHO IS JESUS?

In these readings, you will learn about Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Life. (Acts 3:15) Who is He? What is His importance for us? Why is He worthy of our praise and obedience?

1. John 1:1-4, 14 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- a. Is Jesus God? **YES or NO**
- b. Where can we find life? _____
- c. Is Jesus the God who became a man and lived here on earth for a time?

YES or NO

2. Matthew 1:20-23 - “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’-which means, “God with us.”

- a. Was Jesus conceived miraculously? **YES or NO**
- b. Jesus came to save us from what? _____
- c. Jesus Christ is:

- ___ 1) God who lived here on earth with us in human form
- ___ 2) only a good person

3. Matthew 16:13-16 - “When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

- a. Who is Jesus? _____

4. John 10:11, 14, 15, 27 - “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” ... “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep.” ... “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

- a. Who is the good shepherd? _____
- b. Did the good shepherd come to earth to care for us and protect us, even at the cost of his life?

YES or NO

- c. For Christ to be your good shepherd, do you have to listen to and follow him?

YES or NO

5. John 14:6 - "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

a. Is there any other way to be saved except by Jesus? **YES or NO**

b. What is the only way you can get to God and receive eternal life?

- ___ 1) following some pastor
- ___ 2) following some priest
- ___ 3) following some guru or religious leader
- ___ 4) following Jesus Christ

6. 1 Timothy 2:5 - "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

a. Is there any other mediator between God and man except Jesus?

YES or NO

b. Today, can you approach God by way of:

- ___ 1) Mary, the mother of Jesus
- ___ 2) some saint or good person who has already died
- ___ 3) only through Jesus Christ

7. Hebrews 10:10-14 - "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

a. Who offered the only and perfect sacrifice for our sins? _____

b. Is the sacrifice of Jesus repeated again and again? **YES or NO**

c. What sacrifice can you offer to God that will pay for your sins?

- ___ 1) prayers or rosaries
- ___ 2) personal suffering
- ___ 3) humble service
- ___ 4) contributions and tithes
- ___ 5) acts of charity
- ___ 6) nothing you can do will pay the price of your sins

Summary

In these verses, you saw that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the only way for us to get to God, The Father, the Savior, the perfect and only sacrifice capable of paying for our sins. And he is much more! Try to discover other truths about Jesus in your Bible reading. But you should already understand why the Bible says that "there is no other name under heaven, given to men, by whom we may be saved." (Acts 4:12) You need Jesus to save you from your sins.

Stop and reflect on this wonderful person! Recognize His greatness and how much you need Him for everything,

especially for salvation. Seek the salvation and eternal life that is only found in Jesus Christ.

Chapter 3

JESUS IS LORD!

In this part, you will learn what it means that Jesus is Lord. Why does He have authority over us? Why is it so important to follow His example and obey His commands?

1. Acts 2:36 – “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

a. After his resurrection, Jesus was made to be _____ and _____.

2. Philippians 2:9-11 - “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

a. Is there any person more exalted than Jesus? **YES or NO**

b. Who is going to confess that Jesus is Lord one day? _____

3. Matthew 28:18 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”

a. God gave Jesus _____ authority.

b. Does Jesus have the right to order us to do whatever he wishes?

YES or NO

c. Who has more authority over you?

____ 1) a church council of religious leaders

____ 2) the government of the country

____ 3) a preacher or priest

____ 4) your family

____ 5) Jesus Christ

4. John 12:48 - “There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”

a. Jesus said we will be judged on the last day by the words of

____ 1) a pastor

____ 2) a rabbi

____ 3) a priest

____ 4) Jesus himself

b. On the Day of Judgment, will the basis of judgment be what you think is right or wrong?

YES or NO

c. On God's judgment day, will you be judged by the words and beliefs of your parents?

YES or NO

5. Luke 6:46 - “Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”

a. The person who calls Jesus Lord is obligated to _____ him.

b. If you are not obeying Jesus, do you have the right to call him Lord?

YES or NO

6. Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

a. Will all those who call Jesus Lord and believe in him be saved?

YES or NO

b. Is it necessary to obey Jesus to be saved?

YES or NO

c. Do you want to obey Jesus in everything?

YES or NO

7. 1 John 2:6 - "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

a. Who is the example that we should imitate in life? _____

b. Should we try to live as Jesus lived, that is, having the same values, virtues and attitudes?

YES or NO

c. It is easy to say, "I am a Christian", but the person who really abides in Jesus must _____.

8. Luke 14:27, 33 - "'And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.'"

a. To be a true disciple of Jesus, must you put him and his will above everything in your life?

YES or NO

b. Would you decide to become a Christian even if your family were against this decision?

YES or NO

Summary

We see that Jesus is the Lord of all, and that, in practice, this truth means that he is the one who controls the life of the true Christian. You cannot think about being a Christian without bowing before Jesus, and surrendering the control of your life into his hands. Nobody can become a Christian without deciding to obey Him. The Christian's goal is to be like him and obedient to him in everything. But remember the high price Jesus paid to be your Lord. He gave his life for you and now requires that you live for him. Reflect on these truths. Ask yourself if you are ready to call Jesus Lord, knowing the commitment that this confession implies in your life.

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

In these readings, you will learn about sin. How does it bring God's punishment upon us? Why were the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross necessary so that we could be saved from God's punishment? How did Jesus resolve the great problem of sin on Calvary's cross?

1. 1 John 3:4; 5:17 - "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.... All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death."

a. Is whoever breaks or disobeys God's law a sinner?

YES or NO

b. If you do something that is not just or right according to God's Word, do you become a sinner?

YES or NO

c. Have you, personally, ever disobeyed God? **YES or NO**

2. James 4:17 - "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins"

a. Is the sinner just that person who kills, steals, gets drunk, lies, commits adultery, or commits other "terrible crimes?"
YES or NO

b. Is it also sin to fail to do the good things we know to do?
YES or NO

c. Have you always done the good things you have known you should do?
YES or NO

3. Galatians 3:10 - "All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'"

a. The person who does not always do everything that God demands is a sinner and _____.

b. Have you always done everything that God demands? **YES or NO**

4. Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

a. Are you a sinner? **YES or NO**

b. Make a list of some of your sins:

c. Thinking about these, your sins, answer very personally:

1) Do these sins make God sad? **YES or NO**

2) Do these sins make you sad? **YES or NO**

3) Did you know that God will punish sinners? **YES or NO**

4) Would you like to be forgiven of these sins and become as innocent as a little baby?

YES or NO

5) Do you want to live with Jesus forever? **YES or NO**

5. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

a. What does a sinner deserve as his salary?

___ 1) contract a disease

___ 2) a sharp rebuke

___ 3) another chance

___ 4) be forgiven

___ 5) eternal death

b. Is God just when He punishes the sinner? **YES or NO**

c. As a sinner do you deserve the punishment of God? **YES or NO**

Summary

You should now know that you, like the rest of us, are a sinner who deserves God's condemnation and death. But "God

so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son” in order to be able to give us life. Jesus, because he loves you, was crucified on the cross of Calvary to pay the price for all your sins. Now you need to reflect on this because each one of us has to decide how we will react to these truths. If you decide that you want to be forgiven of your sins, you will want to know how to receive forgiveness and pass from death to life.

Chapter 4

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE FORGIVEN OF MY SINS?

In these readings, you will learn what you must do in order to receive forgiveness of your sins and eternal life. Knowing that Jesus already paid the price for your sins, what must you do to receive the benefit of Christ's sacrifice on the cross?

1. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

a. To receive eternal life do you have to believe in Jesus? **YES or NO**

2. John 8:24 - “I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins.”

a. Is it possible to be saved if you do not believe in Jesus? **YES or NO**

3. Romans 10:14-15 - “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

a. In order to believe, do you have to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?
YES or NO

4. Luke 13:3 - “I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

a. Will you receive eternal life if you refuse to admit you have sinned and repent of your sins?
YES or NO

5. 2 Corinthians 7:10 - “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

a. To repent means:

___ 1) decide to not continue in sin but to be obedient to God.

___ 2) only feel remorse for the sins you have committed.

b. Do you want to quit sinning? **YES or NO**

6. Mark 16:16 – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

a. Which of these statements is the truth Jesus taught?

___ 1) He who believes will be saved and afterward ought to be baptized

___ 2) He who is baptized will be saved and afterward ought to believe

___ 3) He who believes and is baptized will be saved

7. Acts 2:38 - “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

a. What is the purpose of this baptism?

- ___1) for remission (forgiveness) of sins
- ___2) to announce to the world that you were saved
- ___3) to become a member of a religious denomination

8. Acts 22:16 – “And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

a. When was Saul saved?

- ___1) when he believed in Jesus on the road to Damascus
- ___2) while he prayed and fasted in Damascus
- ___3) when he was baptized, being washed of his sins

b. What did Saul call on the Lord to do?

- ___1) wash away his sins
- ___2) tell the world he had been saved

9. Colossians 2:12 – “Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”

a. Is baptism an expression of faith in the power of God **YES or NO**

b. Is it right to baptize a person who does not believe in Christ?
YES or NO

10. Romans 6:3-6 - “Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

a. Does the new life in Christ begin before or after this burial and resurrection of baptism? _____

11. How was your baptism?

- a. Did you believe in Jesus when you were baptized? **YES or NO**
- b. Was your baptism a burial (immersion) in water? **YES or NO**
- c. Was your baptism for the forgiveness of your sins? **YES or NO**
- d. Did you repent of your sins before you were baptized? **YES or NO**
- e. Was your baptism biblical and thus valid? **YES or NO**

Summary

For you to leave behind the world of sin and become a Christian, you must hear and understand the good news of Jesus Christ. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a sinless life, died on the cross in your place, and then rose from the dead on the third day. You must repent of your sins, deciding sincerely that you are going to live in submission to the Lord Jesus. You must confess Him as Lord and be baptized (immersed) in water, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. By doing this, you begin the Christian life, free of the fear of God's punishment and secure in the hope of eternal life in Christ. Stop now and reflect on your need to become a Christian. If you have already been converted to Christ, ask yourself if your conversion was according to the Bible or not. But before making such an important decision, you should know about the commitment that the true Christian assumes.

Chapter 5

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR HIS CHURCH?

In these readings you will learn what God wants of you as a Christian and a member of His spiritual body, the church. What is the church? How should the church be? What should the church do? What is your responsibility as a member of the church?

1. Ephesians 1:22-23 - "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

a. Who has all authority over the church? _____

b. Who is the head of the church?

____ 1) The Roman Catholic Pope

____ 2) Some Protestant Pastor, Bishop or Reverend

____ 3) Only Jesus Christ

c. Is the church called the body of Christ? **YES or NO**

2. Ephesians 4:4 - "There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called."

a. According to the Bible, how many bodies does Jesus have? _____

b. The church (the body of Christ) should submit to:

____ 1) the traditions and human's decrees

____ 2) Jesus, who is head of the church

3. John 17:21 - "... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

a. Jesus wants all his followers to be:

____ 1) united

____ 2) divided into various religious denominations

4. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 - "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos;,' another, 'I follow Cephas;,' still another, 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?"

a. Does God condemn divisions in His church? **YES or NO**

b. Some people say: "How wonderful it is that there are so many denominations and churches because everybody can choose a church that suits them." Is this **RIGHT or WRONG?**

5. Ephesians 4:16 - "... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

a. Should every Christian participate actively in the life and work of the church?

YES or NO

6. Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

a. Does God want all Christians to regularly participate in the meetings of the church?

YES or NO

7. Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

a. The Christian life consists of persevering in:

- ___ 1) the apostles' teachings
- ___ 2) fellowship
- ___ 3) observance of the Lord's Supper
- ___ 4) prayer
- ___ 5) all these items

8. Acts 17:11 - "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

a. Should you, as a Christian, study your Bible to make sure that what you hear is true or not?

YES or NO

9. Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

a. Does the Lord want Christians to edify and encourage one another by singing hymns, and praises?

YES or NO

10. Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."

a. Should your whole life be dedicated to the Lord? **YES or NO**

b. Make a list of some areas in your life that you can dedicate to God:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Summary

The Christian life is a life of participation and involvement in the church, in evangelism, and in good works. To be a Christian means a serious commitment that you must think about beforehand. But remember, there is no salvation in any other way.

Chapter 6

HOW TO KEEP YOUR ETERNAL LIFE

In these readings, you will learn how to remain in possession of eternal life that God gave you when you became a Christian. Remember that many may say "I am a Christian" or "I am saved" but the life of a true Christian will reveal itself in deeds.

1. 1 John 1:5-7 - "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies

us from all sin.”

a. If you, as a Christian, begin to live in the darkness, will you lose your fellowship with God?

YES or NO

b. If a Christian quits walking in the light, will the blood of Jesus still cleanse him of his sin?

YES or NO

2. 1 John 2:9 - “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.”

a. If you, as a Christian, do not live loving your brethren in Christ, will you continue to be saved?

YES or NO

3. 1 John 2:3-6 - “We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

a. If a Christian stops obeying Jesus, will he still be saved? **YES or NO**

4. 1 John 4:1,6 - “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ... “We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”

a. Do all those who teach something in the name of some religion always teach the truth?

YES or NO

b. To be a true Christian, do you have to accept the teachings of his apostles?

YES or NO

Summary

The Christian life is a life dedicated to the goal of every day becoming more like Jesus. This life begins when you believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, and are baptized in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. This life is maintained as long as you continue to walk in the light (loving the brothers, obeying Jesus, and believing the doctrine of Christ). This is the life worthy of the Lord. Reflect a while on the value and beauty of the truly Christian life. Don't be deceived by the life of some so-called “Christians” who profess it but do not live it. Jesus calls us to live the higher life, the life that is worthy of him.

Chapter 7

REVIEW AND CONCLUSION

Review what you learned and make a personal application for your life, answering these questions:

1. Do you understand that you are a sinner in the eyes of God and deserving of eternal punishment?

YES or NO

2. Do you understand that Jesus paid the price for your sins when he gave his life on the cross?

YES or NO

3. Do you truly love God and Jesus with all your heart? **YES or NO**

4. Do you, freely and truly, want to renounce everything and dedicate your life to Jesus now?

YES or NO

5. Are you ready to confess publicly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and your only Lord?

YES or NO

6. Do you want to be united with Christ in baptism to be forgiven of all your sins?

YES or NO

7. Do you desire to be just a Christian, a member of Christ's body, his church?

YES or NO

8. Do you understand and are you ready to accept the commitments of the Christian life?

YES or NO

9. If you answered "YES" to all these questions, then prayerfully read Acts 22:16 – "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" and 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 ... "since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power..."

These passages should motivate you to think seriously about your decision to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Meditate about this before making any decision but notice the urgency of being saved. Remember that no one knows the day or the hour when the Lord will return. The decision is yours. Do you really want to become a true Christian, freed from the guilt of sin? Do you want to escape death and enter into eternal life?

Those who accept God's message are added by God to Christ's Body, His Church.

God's Invitation to the World

Matt 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1 Corinthians 2:9-11 "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

Mark 1:14-15 Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 6:33-34 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Romans 6:16-19 "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh."

"For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."

Acts 4:10-12 “Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Hear

- Study diligently and read what Christ taught for they are the Words of life.

Understand

- All men are sinful having disobeyed God’s righteous ways and commands
- All have sinned and not living according to God’s commands
- One’s sin will result in their eternal death
- One must be forgiven to have eternal life with God
- Christ is the only way for one to be forgiven of all their sins

Believe

- Jesus Was and is God
- He came to earth in human flesh as Jesus of Nazareth
- He lived among men
- He willingly gave His sinless physical life as the perfect sacrifice for my sins, being crucified
- He was buried
- God raised Him from the grave on the third day
- He appeared to hundreds following His resurrection
- He ascended back to heaven to be with the Father

Repent

- Change from sin and disobedience to trust and obedience

Confess

- Acknowledge publicly your belief that Jesus is the Son of God.

Seek

- Call upon God to forgive you of your sins

Die

- Put to death your old, sinful, worldly life

Be Buried

- Bury your sinful life you put to death in the grave of baptism by water immersion into the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, allowing God to raise you from the grave as a new Creation, cleansed of sin.

Receive

- The Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come

Become

- As a new Christian God added you as His adopted child to the other children into the Church Christ established.

Live

- Continue to live steadfastly and obediently to Christ and the apostles teachings “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Questions

1. God desires all mankind not to perish but to come unto Him.

T. ___ F. ___

2. Man is a slave to the one he chooses to follow - either God, the Father, or Satan, the father of evil.

T. ___ F. ___

3. Salvation is found only in Christ

T. ___ F. ___

4. All that God requires of man for him to inherit eternal life is for him to believe that God exist.

T. ___ F. ___

5. When is the best time for one to seek salvation

a. ___ After achieving one's goals and settles down

b. ___ When he is no longer tempted to sin

c. ___ Today

d.

Take action – the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Chapter 8

There Is No Guarantee of a Tomorrow

The tragedy is that nobody has to lose Heaven and gain Hell. The choice is ours. We are free to determine our own eternal destiny. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people and Hell is a place prepared for an unprepared people.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

John 15:10 “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

Conclusion

Those “In Christ” must be aware of temptations constantly set before them by the Devil There are examples in both the Old Testament and New Testament of God’s children disobeying God and going back into the ways of the world.

Those not “In Christ” who desire to be His Child need to seriously consider what the Bible has told others to do.