

# WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY ABOUT?





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**By Richard & Marty Elwell**  
**Ultimate Outcomes**



# ULTIMATE OUTCOMES

WHY IDEAS MATTER.

Ultimate Outcomes is a non-profit organization founded on the fruit of the 30 plus years Pastor Richard Elwell and his wife Marty spent in church ministry, developing studies that would help their congregants discern and apply God's truth. Richard was a firm believer that the outcomes in our lives are a result of what ideas we choose to believe and follow.

After Richard died of a rare liver disease in 2018, Ultimate Outcomes has taken on the mission of sharing the Elwell's insights with all people who desire to live a better life and are willing to look to God for understanding of the way they are to go. To that end it makes available for free download on its website: Bible studies, Sunday school curriculum, and sermon podcasts.

Richard earned a Master of Divinity degree from the International School of Theology and was the founding and senior pastor at University Park Church, San Bernardino, CA for over 30 years. His passion was always to make God's truth understandable and applicable to all who hunger for it. Marty holds a Master's Degree in Teaching Processes from Claremont Graduate University. Her passion has been to train women and provide curriculum for parents who want to raise up their children up in the ways of the Lord.

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# WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY ABOUT?

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The Four Fundamental Questions of Life

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# THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF LIFE

## MAN'S SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING

Throughout human history people have been on a quest to understand the meaning and purpose of life. The four fundamental questions that philosophers have asked throughout the ages are:

1. The question of origin: Where did we come from?
2. The question of purpose: Why are we here?
3. The question of morality: What is the right thing to do?
4. The question of destiny: Where are we going?



This lesson will be a comparison between the way Christianity and the prevailing humanistic philosophy of the modern western world answer those questions. If you hold to a different religion, then you need to determine how it answers the four questions.

The Bible is the holy book of Christianity and its content forms the foundation of the Christian religion. In the Bible it says, "Test everything. Hold on to the good, avoid every kind of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) These verses tell us that we need to carefully examine ideas to determine which best fit reality and answer more adequately the fundamental questions of life.

It is through the comparison of philosophies and their outcomes that we can figure out what are better ideas to believe by determining which will lead us down a more beneficial path. The Bible tells us to hold on to the ideas that will benefit us (true ideas) and reject those (false or deceptive ideas) that will hurt us by leading us away from God and down a destructive path.

## THE QUESTION OF ORIGIN:

### Where did we come from?

The question of origin is critical to test; how it is answered will determine the answers to the other fundamental questions. On the next page is a comparison between evolution, the prevailing view of origin in society at this time, and creation, the Christian view that comes from the Bible. The Bible begins with the story of creation in the first chapter of the book of Genesis. The word "genesis" means beginnings.

**Genesis 1:1** - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 1:26-27** - <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

According to the theory of evolution, what is the answer to the question as to where we came from?

According to the Bible, what is the answer to the question as to where we came from?

## COMPARISON OF ORIGIN THEORIES

### EVOLUTION - HUMANISM (Random Processes)

### CREATION - BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY (Intelligent Design)

#### PRESUPPOSITIONS

There is no God or if there is a god he is confined to nature and cannot act outside of it, therefore everything must be explained by natural causes. Miracles (supernatural events such as creation) can't happen.

There is a God who has revealed himself through his creation and the Bible. God is self-existent and eternal and transcends the natural world. Miracles (supernatural events) can happen and are designed and carried out by God for his purposes.

#### PREMISES

1. Everything in the physical world arose from nothing and organized itself into systems. Order and design are an illusion; they are the result of random processes. (Contradicts the 1st Law of Thermodynamics\*)

1. Everything in the physical world was created by God. Order and systems are part of God's design and have a function.

2. The earth and the universe must be billions of years old to allow time for changes to take place.

2. Matter and all that is formed from it were created by God. Creation occurred at a particular point in time and does not require billions of years to allow for changes.

3. Living things arose from non-living matter. (Contradicts the Law of Biogenesis\*\*)

3. God created living things as living kinds. God is the source of all life.

4. The first living thing changed into a different living thing through small mutations, which then changed into another thing and so on. Similarities in living things are evidence of evolution.

4. God created each type of living thing after its own kind and designed them to reproduce their own kind. There are differences within species as a result of adaptation, but one kind of living thing does not change into a different kind. Similarities are evidence of a singular designer.

\* 1st Law of Thermodynamics - The law of conservation of energy states that the total energy of an isolated system is constant; energy can be transformed from one form to another, but can be neither created nor destroyed.

\*\* Law of Biogenesis - Living things only come from other living things; life does not arise from non-living matter.



## PURPOSE

### Why are we here?

If evolution is true, what would be the answer to the question as to why we are here?

*Isaiah 43:6b-7 - Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

If the Bible and the story of creation are true, what would be the answer to the question as to why we are here?

## MORALITY

### What is the right thing to do?

If evolution is true, what would be the answer to the question as to what is the right thing to do?

*Psalm 119:30 - I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.*

If the Bible and the story of creation are true, what would be the answer to the question as to what is the right thing to do?

## DESTINY

### Where are we going?

If evolution is true, what would be the answer to the question as to where we are going?

*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.*

If the Bible and the story of creation are true, what would be the answer to the question as to where we are going?

## THE OUTCOME OF BELIEF

The outcome of belief is determined by the way one answers the first fundamental question of origin. What we choose to believe in terms of where we came from will make a profound difference in the way we live our lives and the impact we have on our families and society.

## THE OUTCOME OF BELIEF

**EVOLUTION - HUMANISM**  
(Random Processes)

**CREATION - BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY**  
(Intelligent Design)

### CONCLUSION

Because all things came into existence through time and chance there is no meaning or purpose to life. We are not accountable to God. We are our own moral determiners and can decide for ourselves right and wrong. Our destiny is dust.

God created all things for his purposes and our purpose is to honor and glorify him. Since God is our creator we are accountable to him. God determines what is right and wrong and we will do well if we follow him. Our destiny is eternal communion with God or separation from him depending on whether or not we put our faith in him.

1. What is the outcome of believing there is no purpose to life?
2. What is the outcome of believing our purpose is to bring glory to God?
3. What is the outcome of believing people are their own moral determiners?
4. What is the outcome of believing people are accountable to God for their actions?
5. What is the outcome for people if they are wrong in their view of origins?

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States, said that "It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself." We must think through ideas carefully when the government, the media or society suppress the discussion of all ideas except one.

Also, when people do not have a good argument against an idea they resort to using ad hominine attacks (calling a person stupid, ignorant, etc.) instead of persuasive evidence.

Because the theory of evolution is what is promoted by the media, the government and the schools we have to examine carefully the ideas behind it and determine whether or not they can possibly be true. That means we test the evidence we can gain from observing the world around us and come to a reasonable conclusion about the origin and nature of the physical world and living things.

### ILLUSTRATION

### Does order ever come from random processes?



To get three dice to line up precisely next to each other with all showing a three on top you would: (Select a or b.)

- Throw the three dice over and over and over again. (random processes)
- Apply understanding and energy and turn each die so a three is on top and then line them up next to each other. (intelligent design)

What is the probability that you can get the three dice to precisely line up through random tossing? What about only two? Why is getting them to line up by continual tossing a virtual impossibility? How does that apply to understanding the origin of the universe?

## LESSON REVIEW

What are the four fundamental questions and how does Christianity answer them?

1. The question of o \_\_\_\_\_: Where did we c \_\_\_\_\_ from?

We were c \_\_\_\_\_ by G \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The question of p \_\_\_\_\_: What are we h \_\_\_\_\_ for?

Our p \_\_\_\_\_ is to bring g \_\_\_\_\_ to G \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The question of m \_\_\_\_\_: What is the r \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do?

We are to f \_\_\_\_\_ what G \_\_\_\_\_ says we should do.

4. The question of d \_\_\_\_\_: Where are we g \_\_\_\_\_?

If we b \_\_\_\_\_ in God, our d \_\_\_\_\_ is e \_\_\_\_\_ life.

## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

Which theory of origins do you believe best fits reality?

Why?

Which theory of origins would you rather live by?

Why?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings

1. Psalm 19:1-4 – How do we know there is a God?
2. Romans 1:18-20 – Why are people without excuse in terms of knowing who God is?
3. Psalm 10:4 and 53:1-3 – Why don't people seek God?
4. Luke 11:5-13 – How do we come to know God?
5. John 3:16-21 – What will knowing God do for us?
6. Psalm 19:7-11 – What does God's Word do for us?

# WHAT IS THE BIBLE ALL ABOUT?

## THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is the sacred (holy) text of the Christian religion. It contains 66 books, written by 40 different authors over a period of approximately 1600 years. The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblos*, meaning “book.” The Bible is God’s written revelation of who he is, who we are, and how we can experience the fullness of God’s love for us.

Christians believe the Bible can be fully trusted for the following reasons:

1. The Bible is an accurate historical record that was written down and carefully copied. It has never been disproved. There are far more ancient copies of it than any other historical book that people trust to be true.

**1 Corinthians 10:11** - *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on who the fulfillment of the ages has come.*

2. The Bible gives a right view of reality. It fits the way things actually work. It purifies our minds, changes our thinking and gives us understanding. We can test God’s laws and ways of doing things and see that they work.

**Psalms 119:138** - *The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.*

3. The authors of the Bible were inspired by God to write down God’s thoughts. Much of the prophecy in the Old Testament has already come to pass in the way the Prophets said it would. The most important prophecy was God’s promise of a Messiah (savior). This prophecy was fulfilled with the coming, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** - *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

4. Jesus confirmed that the Old Testament was true. He quoted it and referred to it in his teaching.

**Luke 24:44** - *[Jesus] said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”*

## THE PARTS OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two main parts, the Old and the New Testaments. The word “testament” comes from the Latin word *testari*, which means to testify or declare something to be true. The testaments in the Bible cover God’s covenant (agreement) with mankind.

## THE OLD TESTAMENT



The Old Testament contains the covenant of the law and is the sacred text of the Jewish religion. It begins with the story of creation and follows the history of the Jewish people up to 400 years before the coming of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is divided into four types of books: *law*, *history*, *wisdom/poetry* and *prophecy*.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is the agreement God made with people about their salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. It begins with the birth of Jesus, proceeds through his life and ministry and the growth of the early Christian church. It also includes epistles (letters) written to the churches and followers of Jesus to teach them the way of God. The New Testament ends with a book of prophecy about the end of time. There are four types of books in the New Testament which parallel the four types of the Old Testament: the *gospels*, *history*, *epistles* and *prophecy*.



## THE CONTENTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

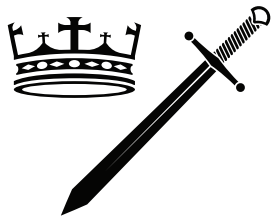
### **The Books of Law** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The first five books of the Old Testament are the books of the law. **Genesis** relates the account of creation and the beginning of human history. It also tells about how God chose one man, **Abraham**, to be the father of the Hebrew (Jewish) people. God promised to bless Abraham to be a blessing to all the earth. (Genesis 12:2-3) Both the Jewish law and salvation came through descendants of Abraham.



The book of **Exodus** tells how God used his prophet Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery from Egypt and contains the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are God's decrees and tell men how they are to relate to God and to other people. They form the basis of God's law. The full law God gave to Moses taught the Jewish people (also called the Israelites or Hebrews) how they were to live to honor God and experience his blessing. In the books of the law God called the Jews to follow his **commandments**, to be a separate people and to be holy as he is holy. (Leviticus 19:1)

### **The Books of History** – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther



After the books of the law come the books of history, beginning with the book of Joshua. The books of history tell the long story of the people of Israel from the time they entered the land God had promised to Abraham up to the time they were taken captive by Babylon and led into exile. God revealed himself to the world through his special relationship with the people of **Israel**. Reading these books enable people to see clearly the reality of the blessing of obeying God and the bad consequences that come from disobeying him. (1 Corinthians 10:6)

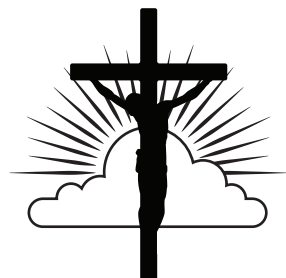
### **The Books of Wisdom (Poetry)** – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

After the books of history are five books that are sometimes called the books of wisdom and at other times are referred to as the books of poetry. The books of **wisdom** were written to focus the reader on God, reveal God's character and show the benefits of living in right relationship to him.



Job is the first book of wisdom and is the story of a man who went through a lot of suffering, which caused him to recognize more fully the greatness of God. Psalms means songs and is a book of poetry that was meant to be sung. Many of the Psalms were written by David, the great king of Israel. Proverbs are wise sayings that show the right way to live. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs were written by King Solomon who was King David's son and was known for having great wisdom. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

### **The Books of Prophecy** – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



The last books of the Old Testament are the books of prophecy beginning with the book of Isaiah. The books of prophecy contain revelation from God about future events and warnings to the people of Israel of the consequence of their sin. They were meant to turn the hearts of the people back to God and also give hope and encouragement in suffering. The prophets foretold of the Messiah, the Savior God promised to send to the Jews. The coming of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in the Old Testament about the Messiah. (Isaiah 53:1-5)

# THE CONTENTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

## **The Gospels** – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The first four books of the New Testament are the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. The word “gospel” means good news. The Gospels tell the good news about God sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the world. Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of Abraham. The gospels relate the things Jesus said and did.



Each gospel is titled with the name of the person who wrote it. Matthew and John were two of Jesus’ disciples. Mark was a follower of Jesus who was closely associated with the Apostle Peter. Luke was a Greek physician who became a believer after Jesus died and was closely associated with the Apostle Paul. Jesus personally chose twelve men to be his disciples. These men were called apostles by the early church. (Luke 1:1-4)

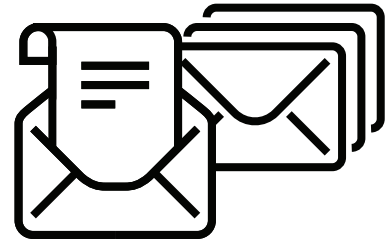
## **The Book of History** – Acts



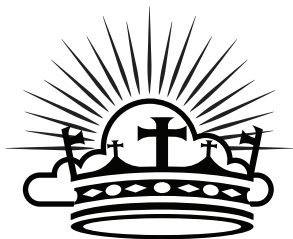
After the gospels comes Acts, a book of history. Acts relates the account of what happened when the followers of Jesus obeyed his command to go out and share the good news about him with the entire world. It tells the story of the beginning of Christianity and the early church. (Acts 2:42-47)

## **The Epistles** – Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude

Following the book of Acts are the epistles. The epistles are letters which were written to groups of believers and individuals to encourage them in their faith, teach them the truth about Jesus, and direct them in the right way to think and live. They are either named after the group they were written to or the person they were written by. The majority of them were written by the Apostle Paul who at one time persecuted Christians and then had a dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus after Jesus had died. (2 Peter 3:1-2)



## **The Book of Prophecy** – Revelation



The last book of the New Testament is Revelation, a book of prophecy that was given to the Apostle John. Revelation contains warnings to the churches and lots of prophecy about the end of time. Most of it is written in figurative language, making it more subject to different interpretations. (Revelation 1:1-3)



## THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE BIBLE

It is important to know both why you should read and study the Bible and how to do so in a beneficial way. Before you read the passage below, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After you read it think about what it says and then answer the questions below it.

In the Further Study section of each lesson are suggested Bible readings that give greater insight into the lesson topic. Completing a short Bible reading every day is a beneficial habit to establish. Life goes better the more we know and apply God's Word.

### **Psalm 19:7-11 – The Nature of God's Word**

*<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.*

*The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

*<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.*

*The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*

*<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.*

*The ordinances of the LORD are sure, and altogether righteous.*

*<sup>10</sup>They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.*

*<sup>11</sup>By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

What does this passage mean?

Why do I need to know that?

What should I do in response?

## LESSON REVIEW

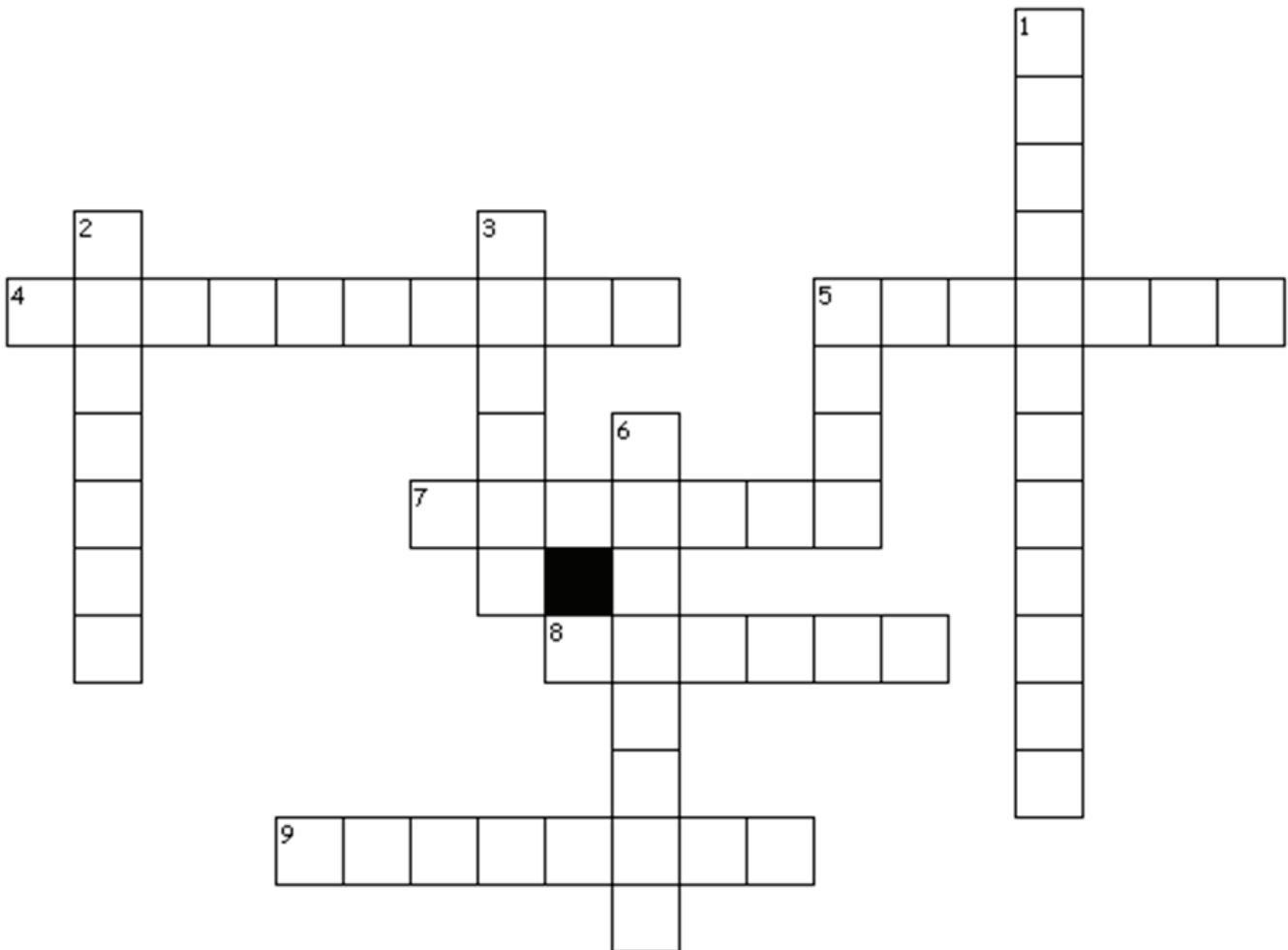
Fill in the crossword puzzle with information about the Bible.

### **Across**

4. The book in the New Testament about events that are still to come
5. The father of the Jewish people
7. Books in the Bible which tell the good news about Jesus
8. The people God chose to reveal himself through
9. Books in the Bible revealing what will happen in the future

### **Down**

1. The decrees God gave to Moses in the book of Exodus
2. The book that tells about creation and the beginning of history
3. Books in the Old Testament which show the benefit of following God
5. The book in the Bible which tells about the beginning of Christianity
6. Letters in the New Testament written to groups and individuals



## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

What do you believe the Bible to be?

Why do you believe that about the Bible?

What should your belief about the Bible cause you to do?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - What can be learned from studying God's word

1. Proverbs 2:1-11
2. Proverbs 3:1-8
3. Proverbs 3:13-20
4. Proverbs 3:21-26
5. Proverbs 4:10-19
6. Proverbs 4:20-27



## LESSON 2

# WHO IS GOD?

## LESSON 1 REVIEW

## THE CONTENTS OF THE BIBLE

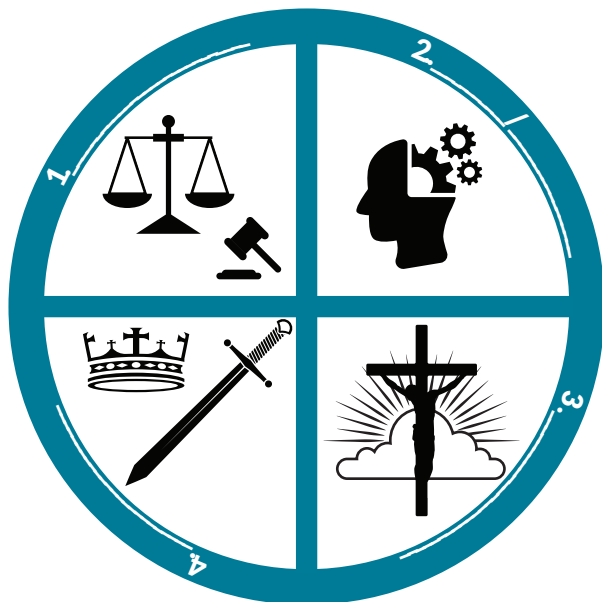
In the first lesson we saw that Christians believe the Bible to be true for the following reasons:

1. The Old Testament is an accurate, h \_\_\_\_\_ record that was written down and carefully copied.
2. The Bible gives a right view of r \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The writers of the Bible were inspired by G \_\_\_\_\_ to write down God's thoughts.
4. J \_\_\_\_\_ confirmed that the Old Testament was t \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Parts of the Bible

The Bible is divided into two main parts, the Old and the New Testaments. Each of the testaments is divided into four types of books. Fill in the blanks.

#### THE OLD TESTAMENT



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF GOD

The faith of Christians is founded in the nature and character of God. If there is no God then faith in God is in vain (worthless, hopeless, useless). If God exists then it is critical to seek to know and understand him to the best of one's ability. The Bible, which Christians believe to be the Word of God, gives insight into who God is.

### There is only one God.

**Deuteronomy 4:39** - <sup>39</sup>*Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.*

The Christian faith says that there is only o \_\_\_\_\_ God. There are no other gods.

### God is the creator of all that is.

**Genesis 1:1** - <sup>1</sup>*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

All things have their o \_\_\_\_\_ in God. God has made it clear who he is through the order and majesty of his creation.

### God is holy.

**Psalm 99:3** - <sup>3</sup>*Let them praise your great and awesome name —he is holy.*

God is h \_\_\_\_\_ and perfect. He is worthy of p \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing evil in him. He never does anything wrong.

### God is good and loving.

**Psalm 106:1** - <sup>1</sup>*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Good means morally right. God is the measure of what is r \_\_\_\_\_. He loves and takes care of his creation. His love doesn't depend on our response. He always acts in our best interest even when we turn our backs on him. God wants what is g \_\_\_\_\_ and beneficial for us.

### God is knowable.

**Psalm 19:1-4** - <sup>1</sup>*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.* <sup>2</sup>*Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.* <sup>3</sup>*There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.* <sup>4</sup>*Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

Everyone can know who God is through the d \_\_\_\_\_ and majesty of his cr \_\_\_\_\_. Everything we see points to the reality that there is a God.

**Psalm 10:4** - *In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*

What keeps people from knowing God?

## THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

From the Bible we can see that God is a personal God with a mind, a will and emotions. He is not the impersonal force of eastern religions. The following passage explains who God is and is from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Isaiah was a prophet sent by God to speak to the people of Israel.

### **Isaiah 40:25-31 – The Uniqueness of God**

<sup>25</sup> "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

<sup>26a</sup> Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. <sup>26b</sup> Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28a</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

<sup>28b</sup> He will not grow tired or weary, <sup>28c</sup> and his understanding no one can fathom.

What does each verse from Isaiah 40:25-31 say about God?

- Vs. 25 There is none e \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

God is unique. He is different from everything else that exists.

- Vs. 26a He is the c \_\_\_\_\_ of and r \_\_\_\_\_ over all things.

God is sovereign over creation. Everything belongs to him.

- Vs. 26b He has all p \_\_\_\_\_ and s \_\_\_\_\_.

God is omnipotent. He has the power to do whatever he desires.

- Vs. 27 All our ways are k \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

God is omnipresent. He is everywhere at all times.

- Vs. 28a He is the e \_\_\_\_\_ God.

God is eternal. He always has and always will exist.

- Vs. 28b He will not grow t \_\_\_\_\_ or w \_\_\_\_\_.

God is longsuffering. He is patient and doesn't give up.

- Vs. 28c His u \_\_\_\_\_ is unfathomable (immeasurable).

God is omniscient. He knows and understands all things.

The passage that follows is from the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms consists of songs and prayers written by David, a king of ancient Israel, and other Israelites. After reading through the Psalm write down what the listed verse says about God.

## **Psalm 111 – The Majesty of God**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup> They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

To him belongs eternal praise.

- Vs. 3 God's deeds are g \_\_\_\_\_ and m \_\_\_\_\_.

The things God does are incomparable. He has a purpose for what he does. People can see him through the goodness of his deeds.

- Vs. 3 God is r \_\_\_\_\_.

God is perfectly right. He won't do what is wrong. He acts in harmony with his moral nature.

- Vs. 4 God is g \_\_\_\_\_ and c \_\_\_\_\_.

God doesn't treat us as we deserve. He is willing to forgive us and understands our weaknesses.

- Vs. 5 God p \_\_\_\_\_ food for those who fear him.

God takes care of those who acknowledge him and submit to his authority.

- Vs. 5 God r \_\_\_\_\_ his covenant.

God keeps his promises.

- Vs. 7 God is f \_\_\_\_\_ and j \_\_\_\_\_.

God can be counted on and will do what is right and fair.

- Vs. 7-8 God's precepts are t \_\_\_\_\_ and s \_\_\_\_\_.

God's commandments are good and the Bible can be counted on. The truth of God will never change. God's word reflects reality; the way things are and are designed to work.

- Vs. 9 God has provided r \_\_\_\_\_ for his people.

Redemption means that God has paid a price to buy us back so we can have a relationship with him. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.

- Vs. 10 says that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." What is wisdom?



**Basic Belief:** According to the Bible, the fear of the Lord is the way to wisdom. The fear of the Lord consists of recognizing who God is, understanding that he knows and sees everything we do, and knowing that we are accountable to him for our thoughts, words and actions.  
 (Psalms 34:11-16, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, 2 Corinthians 5:9-11)

The fear of the Lord is the way to wisdom because it causes us to s \_\_\_\_\_ to God's authority and keeps us from going our own way into sin.

## LESSON REVIEW

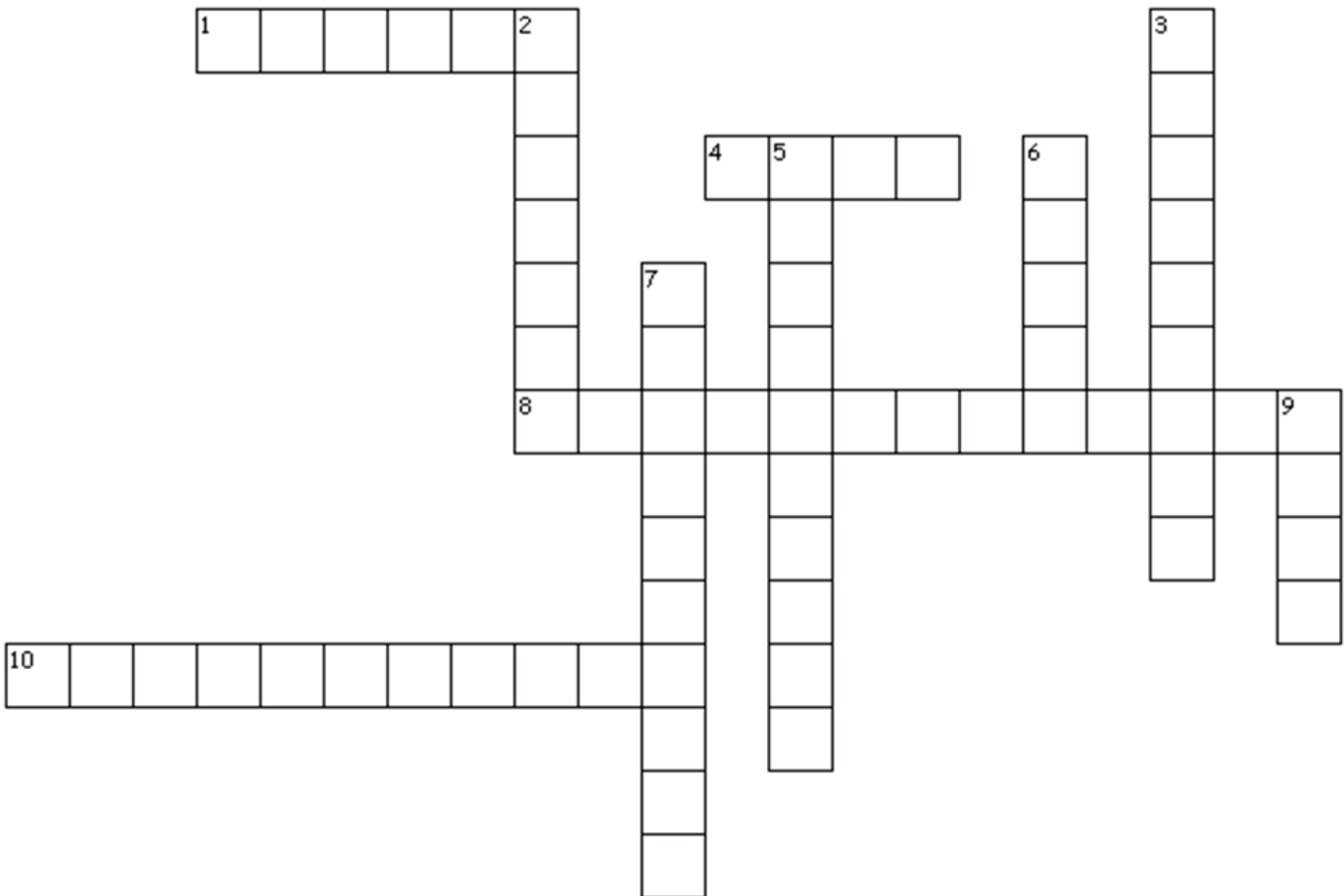
Fill in the crossword puzzle with information about the Bible.

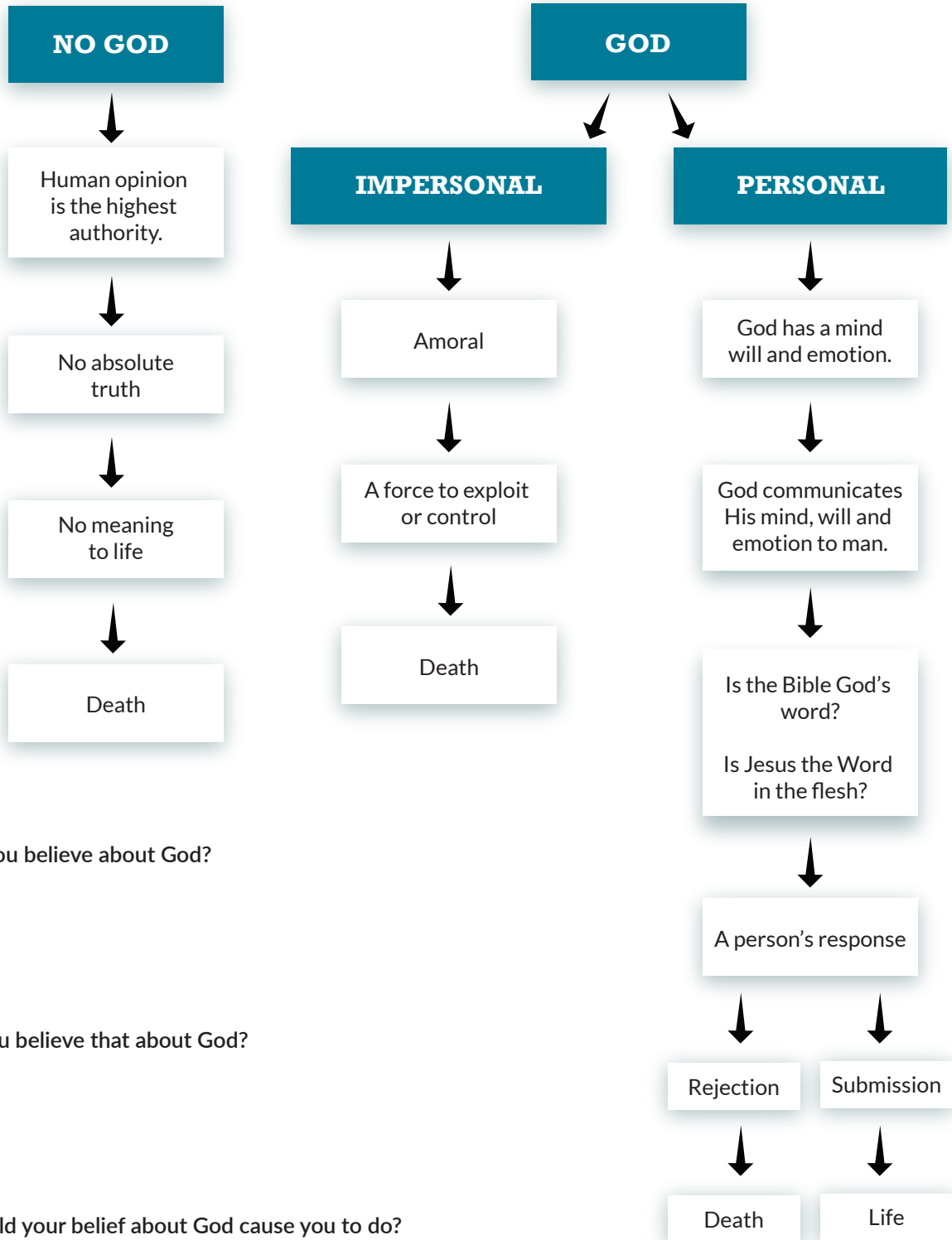
### Across

- 1. God is different from all else.
- 4. God is perfect.
- 8. God is patient and doesn't give up.
- 10. God is everywhere at all times.

### Down

- 2. God has no beginning or end.
- 3. God has authority over creation.
- 5. God is all knowing.
- 6. The characteristic that keeps a person from knowing God.
- 7. God is all powerful.
- 9. God does what is morally right.





What do you believe about God?

Why do you believe that about God?

What should your belief about God cause you to do?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - What is God like?

1. Psalm 25
2. Psalm 33
3. Psalm 34
4. Psalm 36
5. Psalm 100
6. Psalm 111



## LESSON 3

# WHO IS JESUS?

## LESSON 2 REVIEW

## THERE IS NONE OTHER LIKE GOD.

1. God has no beginning or end. God is e \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is everywhere at all times. God is o \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God does what is morally right. God is g \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God is different from everything else. God is u \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God is all powerful. God is o \_\_\_\_\_.
6. God is all knowing. God is o \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God has authority over creation. God is s \_\_\_\_\_.
8. God is patient and doesn't give up. God is l \_\_\_\_\_.
9. God is perfect. God is h \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The characteristic that keeps a person from knowing God is p \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE TRIUNE NATURE OF GOD

Christians believe that there is only one God, but that the one God exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This unique, triune nature of God is referred to as the Trinity.

### ILLUSTRATION

### One unified whole



One unified whole can have three distinct aspects, which are part of the whole and dependent upon one another. This can be seen by examining a book. A book has three dimensions: height, width and depth. If you were to take away any one of the dimensions, the book could not exist. There is only one book, but there are three distinct dimensions to it, each of which is a necessary part of the whole.

### The Demonstration of the Triune God

The first four books of the New Testament are the Gospels, which are an historical account of the things Jesus said and did. The Gospel accounts of the baptism of Jesus communicate the triune nature of God. Baptism is when a person is lowered into the water and raised back up. It is done as an act of obedience to show a person is being set apart for God and is a visual illustration of how God cleanses us from our sin and then raises us up to new life.

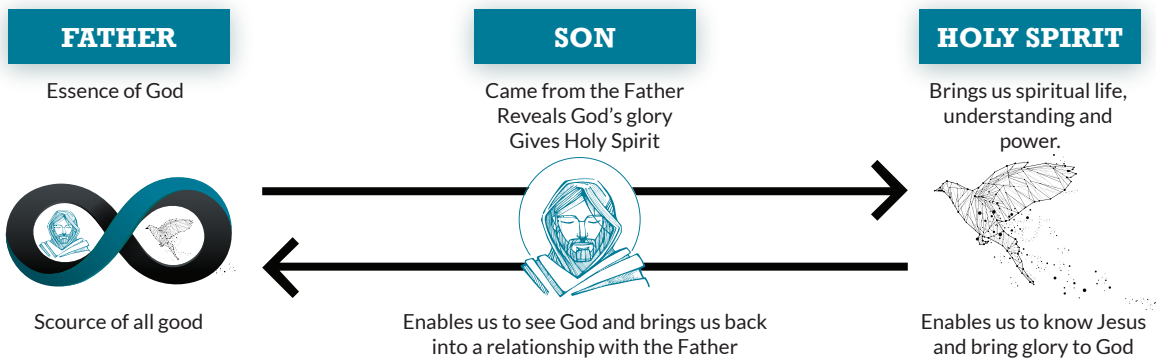


**Mark 9:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The three persons of God seen in the passage are: the F \_\_\_\_\_, S \_\_\_\_\_, and Holy S \_\_\_\_\_.

- **The Father is the essence of God.** The Father is who we think of when we refer generally to God. In the Bible God is said to dwell on high and oversee his creation.
- **The Son (Jesus) is God in the flesh.** Jesus came to earth as a man in physical form to reveal the glory, truth and nature of God. He made a way for us to come back into a right relationship with God by dying on the cross. Jesus is the means by which we comes to know the Father.
- **The Holy Spirit is God's presence here on earth.** The Holy Spirit dwells with us when we put our faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the power to live rightly with God and provides the means by which we understand our need for a savior and come to know Jesus.

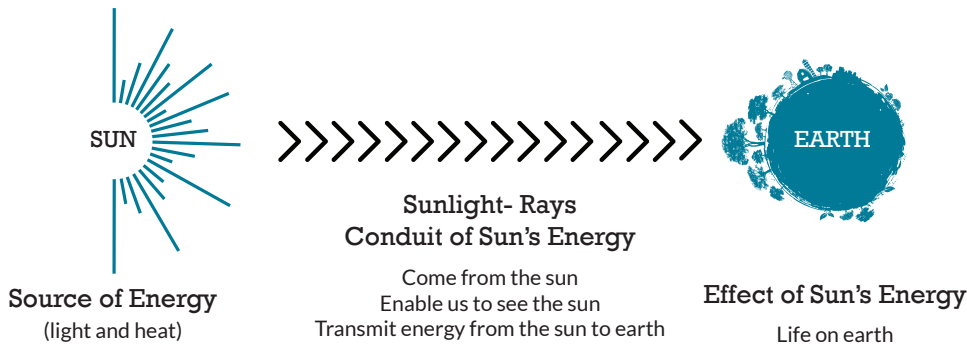


**Basic Belief:** Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was sent to earth by the Father to testify to the truth of God, reveal God's glory, and die on the cross for the sins of all people. After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he left his Holy Spirit to be with us here on earth and lead us in his way.

- The Father is the e \_\_\_\_\_ of God; the source of all that is good.
- The Son is God in the f \_\_\_\_\_, the means to know and enter a relationship with God.
- The Holy Spirit is the p \_\_\_\_\_ and p \_\_\_\_\_ of God with us on earth.

**ILLUSTRATION The Sun**

The triune nature of God can be better understood when compared to the nature and effect of the sun. There are three distinct aspects to the sun which are part of the essential whole and can't exist separately: the sun itself, the sunlight that comes from the sun and the effect of sunlight on the earth.



## THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The Gospel of John begins with a description of who Jesus is. John was a fisherman who was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus and an eyewitness of the things Jesus did and said. First we will read through the entire passage and then we will examine the verses to understand their meaning better.

### **John 1:1-14 - In the Beginning...**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

**Verses 1-2** - <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

The Word refers to J \_\_\_\_\_ who was both with God and is God. In this verse the Greek word that is translated "with" means proceeds from. That is similar to how sunlight both is with the sun and comes out from the sun.

The beginning was when God created the material, visible world.

Jesus is the W \_\_\_\_\_ because he reveals the mind (thoughts) of God.

Our words proceed from our thoughts. They are of the same nature, yet distinct.

**Verse 3** - <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Because Jesus is God he is the c \_\_\_\_\_ of all things. Nothing would exist without him.

**Basic Belief:** The truth that Jesus is the creator means he is Lord (ruler) over all that is. He watches over and takes care of what he has made. Because he is our creator he has both the understanding and the right to tell us how we should live our lives. We belong to him.

**Verse 4** - <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

What is life?

There are two realities to human life: ph \_\_\_\_\_ and s \_\_\_\_\_.

Physical life is the life of the body in the created, material world. Spiritual life is the part of life that has no material substance. It is related to our relationship to God and the eternal aspect of our being. Jesus is the source of life itself, both material and spiritual.

What is light?

Darkness is the absence of light. Light enables us to s \_\_\_\_\_ and l \_\_\_\_\_.

**Basic Belief:** The ability to see and understand who God is comes through Jesus and is given to all who seek him.

**Verse 5** - <sup>5</sup>*The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

People live in d \_\_\_\_\_ because they don't look to God for understanding.

**Basic Belief:** People live in darkness because they want to live their own way and do their own thing. They don't want to submit to God's authority.

**Verses 6-9** - <sup>6</sup>*There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

These verses refer to a different John than the one who wrote the Gospel. He is called John the Baptist and was a prophet sent by God to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. He came to reveal to people their sin so that they would understand their need for a savior.

A witness is someone who tells what happened or testifies to what is true. John came to witness to the tr \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus; he was a pr \_\_\_\_\_ who had been given special insight about Jesus by God.

**Verses 10-11** - <sup>10</sup>*He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*

The people, to whom God gave physical life, didn't see Jesus for who he really is. They only saw him as a m \_\_\_\_\_ like them. Jesus came to his own people, the Jews, but they didn't acknowledge him as their savior (Messiah).

**Verses 12-13** - <sup>12</sup>*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

If we r \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and b \_\_\_\_\_ in his name, we recognize him for who he is and see our need for s \_\_\_\_\_. Through believing in Jesus we become ch \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We are spiritually born of God and enter his e \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.

**Basic Belief:** We were originally created in the image of God and have an eternal nature and destiny. Sin separates us from God. By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus overcame sin, making a way for us to be reconciled to God. Reconcile means to bring back into right relationship. Jesus is our Savior; he brings us back into a right relationship with God when we receive him and believe in his name.



**Verse 14** - <sup>14</sup>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.

Flesh refers to the muscle and skin that make up a material being. Since flesh is physical it has a beginning (birth) and an end (death). Flesh is finite, not infinite; temporal, not eternal.

Jesus, the infinite, spiritual and eternal God, became a man, a f \_\_\_\_\_, ph \_\_\_\_\_ and t \_\_\_\_\_ being. The one who created all things became part of his c \_\_\_\_\_.

**Basic Belief:** Jesus became flesh so we could gaze upon the glory of God, see into the spiritual realm, understand truth and have a relationship with him. Because we are physical beings, it is hard for us to understand who God is. It is easier for us to relate to other people. Jesus came as a man to show us the nature of God, testify to the truth, and pay the penalty for our sin so that we would be able to enter God's presence. Jesus' nature is both grace and truth.

Grace is the favor God shows to us that we don't d \_\_\_\_\_. Truth is the r \_\_\_\_\_ of what things are and how they work.

**Basic Belief:** God's grace consists of his love, mercy and forgiveness. Truth encompasses everything that is real. God's truth revealed through the Bible shows us how much we need God's grace.

## WHO IS JESUS?

In his Gospel John clearly states that Jesus is G \_\_\_\_\_. Many people do not want to accept the claims of Jesus that he is divine. Many of the people who won't accept him as God would say, however, that Jesus was a great moral teacher or prophet. The truth is that Jesus can't be a great moral teacher unless he is also G \_\_\_\_\_.

C.S. Lewis who was a professor at Oxford University in England says in his classic book, *Mere Christianity*, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg--or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us."

According to the English author C.S. Lewis, Jesus can only be one of three things: a liar, lunatic (crazy), or Lord (God). Since Jesus claimed to be G \_\_\_\_\_ his claim either has to be t \_\_\_\_\_ or he was a fraud or absolutely crazy. If Jesus were a fraud or crazy, then nothing he said could be t \_\_\_\_\_ and it would be impossible for him to be a g \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.

- To be a good moral teacher you have to tell the truth about all things; you can't be a liar. In Luke 18:19 Jesus responded to a young man who called him "Good Teacher" by saying, "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone." In essence, Jesus was asking, "You are calling me good. Do you believe I am God?"
- If Jesus were a lunatic, claiming to be God when he was really only a man, then one wonders how he was able to so clearly articulate the truth about God and debate with his opponents. The people who listened to him were amazed at his wisdom and understanding. Matthew 7:28-29 says, "When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law." That would not be the response of a crowd to someone they thought was crazy.

- Jesus said that he was Lord and God. His own words and the evidence of his life and miracles support his claim. In John 14:11 he says, *“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”*

John concludes his Gospel (John 20:31) saying, *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

**Basic Belief:** It is the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, which shows the world that he is God.



## WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?

Jesus is quoted in the Gospels saying many things about who he is and what he came to do. The following Scriptures each contain a claim of Jesus about himself.

- John 6:40 – Jesus claimed eternal life comes through him.
- John 8:46-47 – Jesus claimed to be sinless.
- John 14:6 – Jesus claimed to be the only way to God.
- John 17:5 – Jesus claimed to share the glory of God from before creation.
- Luke 5:20-21 – Jesus claimed the power to forgive sin.
- John 18:36-37 – Jesus claimed to be a king who came to testify to the truth.
- John 10:30 – Jesus claimed he and the Father are one.
- Luke 18:31-33 – Jesus claimed he would die and then rise from the dead.
- Matthew 24:27-30 – Jesus claimed he will come again.

If the things Jesus said about himself aren't true, what does that mean?

## LESSON REVIEW

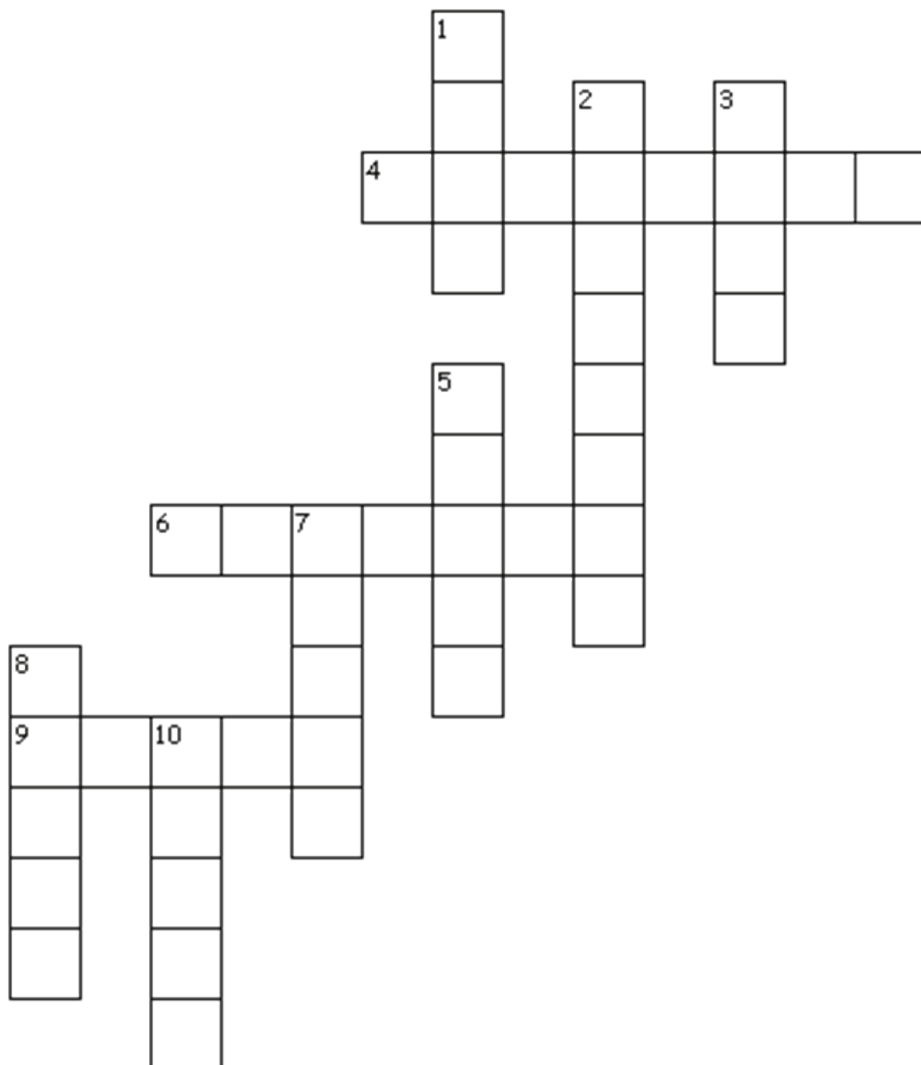
Fill in the crossword puzzle with words from the lesson.

### **Across**

4. That which was made through Jesus
6. What John the Baptist was in terms of Jesus
9. That which enables us to both see and live

### **Down**

1. What Jesus has to be if he isn't a liar or lunatic
2. What people live in when they can't see Jesus
3. That which is both spiritual and physical and is found in Jesus
5. What the Word became
7. The reality of what things are and how they work
8. What we see of God through Jesus
10. The undeserved favor of God given through Jesus



## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

Who do you believe Jesus to be?

Why?

What should your belief about Jesus cause you to do?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - The birth of Jesus and John the Baptist

1. Luke 1:1-25
2. Luke 1:26-56
3. Luke 1:57-80
4. Luke 2:1-20
5. Luke 2:21-52
6. Luke 3:1-22

## LESSON 4

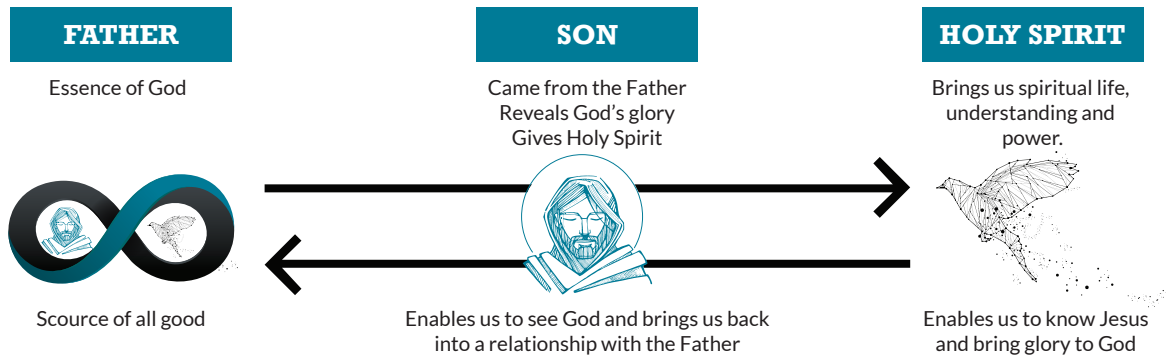
# WHO IS MAN?

## LESSON 3 REVIEW

### Jesus is God

Lesson three examined who Jesus is.

1. Jesus and the Father are o \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus comes from the Father and makes God v \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus is the source of l \_\_\_\_\_ and l \_\_\_\_\_.
4. People who reject Jesus live in d \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Those who believe in Jesus become ch \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
6. Jesus can only be one of three things: l \_\_\_\_\_, l \_\_\_\_\_ or L \_\_\_\_\_.



## MAN WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

The Bible begins with the story of how God created all things. After God created the material world and all the other animals, he created man and breathed life into him. The historical use of the word "man" refers to all people, both male and female.

**Genesis 1:26-27** - <sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**Genesis 2:7** - the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Of all of God's creation only man was created in the i \_\_\_\_\_ of God and had God

b \_\_\_\_\_ life into him. Man was given au \_\_\_\_\_ over the rest of creation.

An image is a reflection or replica (copy) of something. God is spirit and doesn't have a physical body so we know that people weren't created in his physical image. The God of the Bible is a personal God; he is not an impersonal force.

**Basic Belief:** Because God is a personal being he has a mind, he has a will and he has emotions or feelings (heart). Since man was created in the image of God he also has those characteristics and that is what makes man different from all other animals.

- **Mind:** Because we have a mind, we can learn and understand ideas.

Our minds enable us to l \_\_\_\_\_ about and kn \_\_\_\_\_ God.

- **Will:** Having a will means we can make moral choices.

We can choose to f \_\_\_\_\_ God and do what is right or we can choose to r \_\_\_\_\_ God and do what is evil.

- **Emotions:** Having emotions means that we have feelings. We can feel love or hate, happiness or sadness, joy or sorrow, hope or despair.

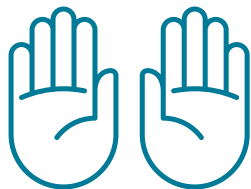
Our emotions affect the way we th \_\_\_\_\_ about and r \_\_\_\_\_ to things.

- **Soul:** Besides having a mind, will and emotions, each person also has an eternal soul.

The soul is the u \_\_\_\_\_, essential identity of a person that lives f \_\_\_\_\_.



**MIND**



**WILL**



**EMOTIONS**



**SOUL**

## MAN'S PURPOSE IS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD

### Isaiah 43:6-7

*Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

1. Why did God create man?
2. Why do most people think they were given life?

**Basic Belief:** God's glory is the demonstration of his essential character, the display of his divine nature. The purpose for which we were created is to reflect his nature in our own lives.

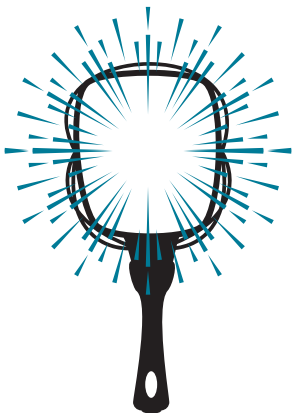
## THE DIFFERNECE BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

What is the difference between God's mind and man's mind? God's will and man's will? God's emotions and man's emotions?

GOD	MAN
<b>MIND</b>	
<b>WILL</b>	
<b>EMOTIONS</b>	

**Basic Belief:** We fulfill our purpose and bring glory to God by reflecting his image. We reflect God's image when we conform our mind to his mind, our heart to his heart, and our will to his will. We can only do that through being in a right relationship with him through Jesus Christ his Son.

## ALL PEOPLE FALL SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY



The Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Rome said, (Romans 3:23) ... *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

There is no person on earth who hasn't sinned. All of us fall short of the purpose to which God has called us.

Our purpose is to r \_\_\_\_\_ God's glory. We can't fulfill our purpose to reflect God's glory when we s \_\_\_\_\_.

# ALL PEOPLE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

## 2 Corinthians 5:10

*<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

The impact of having an eternal soul is that we will all face judgment and give an account for how we have lived our lives. What is the problem every person has in facing God?

The problem of all people is that they have s \_\_\_\_\_, fall short of God's g \_\_\_\_\_, and stand g \_\_\_\_\_ before God. The next lesson will examine more fully the problem of sin and the lesson after that will look at the solution God has provided for our sin.

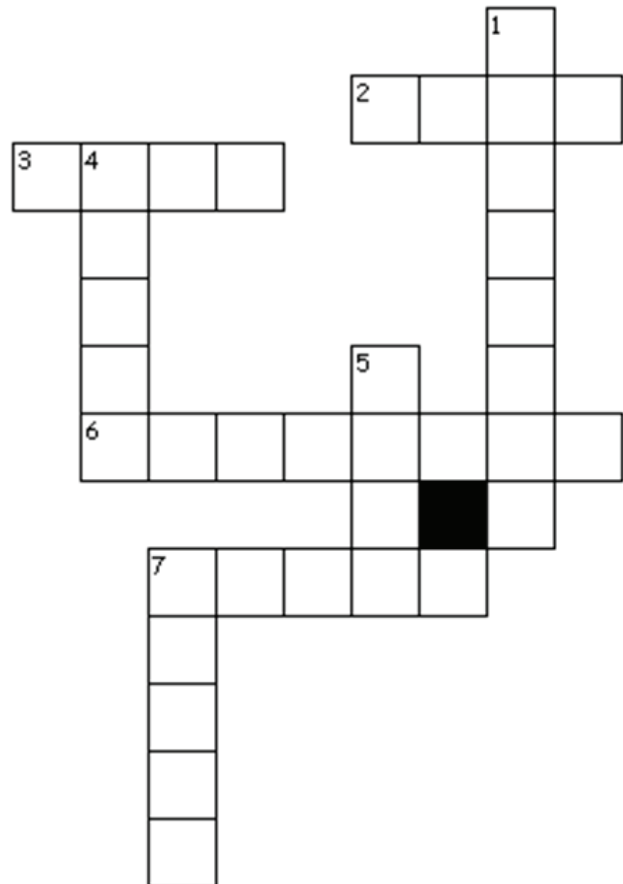
## LESSON REVIEW

### Across

2. The unique, essential identity of a person.
3. What man uses to think and reason.
6. The feelings that man has.
7. The problem everyone has in facing God.

### Down

1. What all people will face before God.
4. God created man in his \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Man's ability to make moral choices.
7. God created man to reflect his \_\_\_\_\_.





## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

## What are you like?

1. What fills your mind?
2. What is your heart set on?
3. Have you chosen to follow or reject God?
4. What is the destiny of your soul?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - What is the difference between God and man?

1. Psalm 14
2. Psalm 16
3. Psalm 20
4. Psalm 23
5. Psalm 24
6. Psalm 49



# WHAT IS MANKIND'S PROBLEM?

## LESSON 4 REVIEW

### Man was created in God's image

In the last lesson we saw how God created man in his image. People are unique from all the other animals in God's creation.

- We have a soul, which means we are e \_\_\_\_\_ beings, designed to live forever in a r \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- We have a mind, which means we can l \_\_\_\_\_ about and kn \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- We have a free will, which means we can make m \_\_\_\_\_ choices. We can choose to f \_\_\_\_\_ or r \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- We have a heart, which means we have f \_\_\_\_\_ and e \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT IS SIN?

**Basic Belief:** God gave man his law (commands) in the Bible. God's law shows us how we are to live in order for life to go well and bring glory to God. Because God is our creator he knows what is right and good and has the authority to tell us what we are to do. Sin is the breaking of God's law.

As the last lesson showed, the problem for every person is sin. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The Bible describes sin in the following ways:

- 1 John 3:4 - *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.*
- 1 John 5:17a - *All wrongdoing is sin.*
- James 4:17 - *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

There are three key Hebrew terms in the Old Testament for sin. All are rooted in the belief that God has established certain standards for mankind to live by. The word **hata'** appears the most often. It means to fall short of divine standards. **'Avon** is usually translated "iniquity" or "guilt" and means to twist divine standards or deviate from them. **Phesa'**, is translated "transgression" or "rebellion" and is human revolt against God's standards or his expressed will. (Source: Revell Bible Dictionary)

Sin is any act that falls short of the g \_\_\_\_\_ God desires and his standard of what is r \_\_\_\_\_ to do. Sin is anything that hurts us and others.

### **Romans 7:15-19 – The Human Dilemma**

Sin is a problem for all people. The Apostle Paul, who wrote most of the epistles in the New Testament, describes the dilemma everyone experiences.

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

Evil is anything that falls short of the good that God desires. When Paul wanted to do g \_\_\_\_\_, he did e \_\_\_\_\_ instead. He wanted to do what would please God, but he would keep giving into s\_\_\_\_\_.

How do you relate to Paul's description of himself?

## HOW DID SIN ENTER THE WORLD?

When God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, he gave them a perfect place in which to live, the Garden of Eden. In the Garden they had everything they needed for a good life. God had only given them one command of something they were not to do.

### **Genesis 2:16-17 - God's One Command**

*<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

The one rule God told them was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of g \_\_\_\_\_ and e \_\_\_\_\_. The right to determine what is g \_\_\_\_\_ and what is e \_\_\_\_\_ belongs only to God. God said that if they ate from that tree they would surely d \_\_\_\_\_. They would be separated from God, and both spiritual and physical death would enter the world.

Putting the tree in the garden and giving the command served two purposes:

1. It showed God has authority over his creation. He is sovereign.
2. It showed that God created people as moral beings under God's authority with the ability to make moral choices. Obedience to God's command would show love for God.

**Basic Belief:** Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden chose to follow their own desires and do what appealed to them rather than obey God. They rebelled against God and disobeyed his one command, and so sin entered the good world that God created. Everyone is born with a sin nature, which means that they are inclined to sin.

### **Genesis 3:1-7 - The Fall**

The story of Adam and Eve's rebellion is related in the book of Genesis and is known as "The Fall." In the story, Satan, who is the enemy of both God and men, took on the form of a serpent, one of God's created beings, in order to tempt Eve to disobey God.

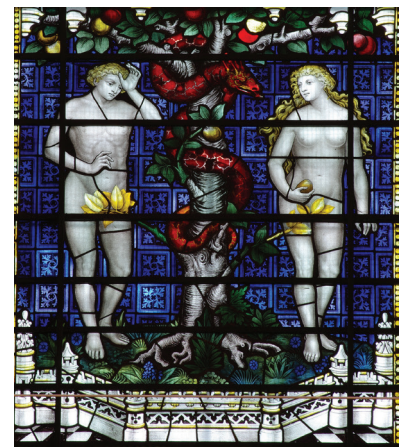
*<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"*

*<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"*

*<sup>4</sup>"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

*<sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*



In the passage, we can see the crafty way Satan, in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve so she followed her desires into sin.

- He planted seeds of doubt against God (verse 1), "Did God really say.."
- He denied the danger of disobedience (verse 4), "'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman."
- He promised great benefit (verse 5), "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

It was Satan's deceptive promise in verse 5 that Eve could be like G \_\_\_\_\_ that led Eve to take the final step into sin. The idea of personal sovereignty that one can be in c \_\_\_\_\_ of one's life and make one's own decisions about what is r \_\_\_\_\_ and wr \_\_\_\_\_ to do is the foundation of all sin. It is the desire to be like God and is r \_\_\_\_\_ against God and his sovereignty over his creation. Adam willingly chose to f \_\_\_\_\_ Eve into sin.

### **Genesis 3:8-13 - Lost Innocence**

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"  
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."



Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise | Author: Paul Gustave Doré | Source: Scan from a Dutch bible.

Once Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their innocence.

They recognized that they were n \_\_\_\_\_.

They felt shame about their condition and tried to c \_\_\_\_\_ themselves up. Their relationship with God was broken and they attempted to h \_\_\_\_\_ from him. Neither one of them was willing to take responsibility for what they did. Adam blamed Eve for g \_\_\_\_\_ him the fruit, and Eve blamed the serpent for d \_\_\_\_\_ her. God sent them out of the Garden. They no longer lived in perfect peace and harmony.

## WHAT CAUSES US TO SIN?

Sin and death entered the world because Adam and Eve followed their own desires rather than God's command. They gave into Satan's temptation that they could be like God.

Just as Satan's temptation led Adam and Eve astray in the Garden of Eden it remains a problem for us today. Satan knows our weaknesses and where we are likely to give into temptation. He wants to lead us into sin and death.

**James 1:14-15** – *Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

**Basic Belief:** Satan tempts us in the areas where we have evil desires and are vulnerable and weak. Evil is a corruption of what is good. It is anything that is harmful to God's creation. Evil desires are ones that will end up hurting others or us. When we follow our own desires or emotions rather than God's desires and his truth, we end up giving in to Satan's temptations and we sin.

- The equation of sin becomes:

t \_\_\_\_\_ + e \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ = s \_\_\_\_\_ that destroys

To break the equation of sin you can either get rid of temptation or evil desires.  
Why is the only reasonable option to get rid of evil desires?

- Temptations are things put before us that we w \_\_\_\_\_ even if they are not good for us.

They are things we desire that take us off God's path and appeal to our natural desires.

- Evil (fallen, natural) desires are ones that are not of God and lead us into s \_\_\_\_\_.

They are evil because they bring us or others harm.

- Temptation works best in an area where we have e \_\_\_\_\_ or wr \_\_\_\_\_ desires. If we don't have a desire for something it can't tempt us.

In the garden Satan, the tempter, clothed as a s \_\_\_\_\_ caused Eve to d \_\_\_\_\_ God. She believed the l \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil and then followed her d \_\_\_\_\_ into s \_\_\_\_\_. To keep from sinning we have to recognize Satan's craftiness, turn from the t \_\_\_\_\_ and put our faith in God and his promises.

**Basic Belief:** Sin is any act that falls short of the good God desires, his standard of what is right. It is anything that hurts others or us. God only wants what is best for us, which is why he has given us his law.

## LESSON REVIEW

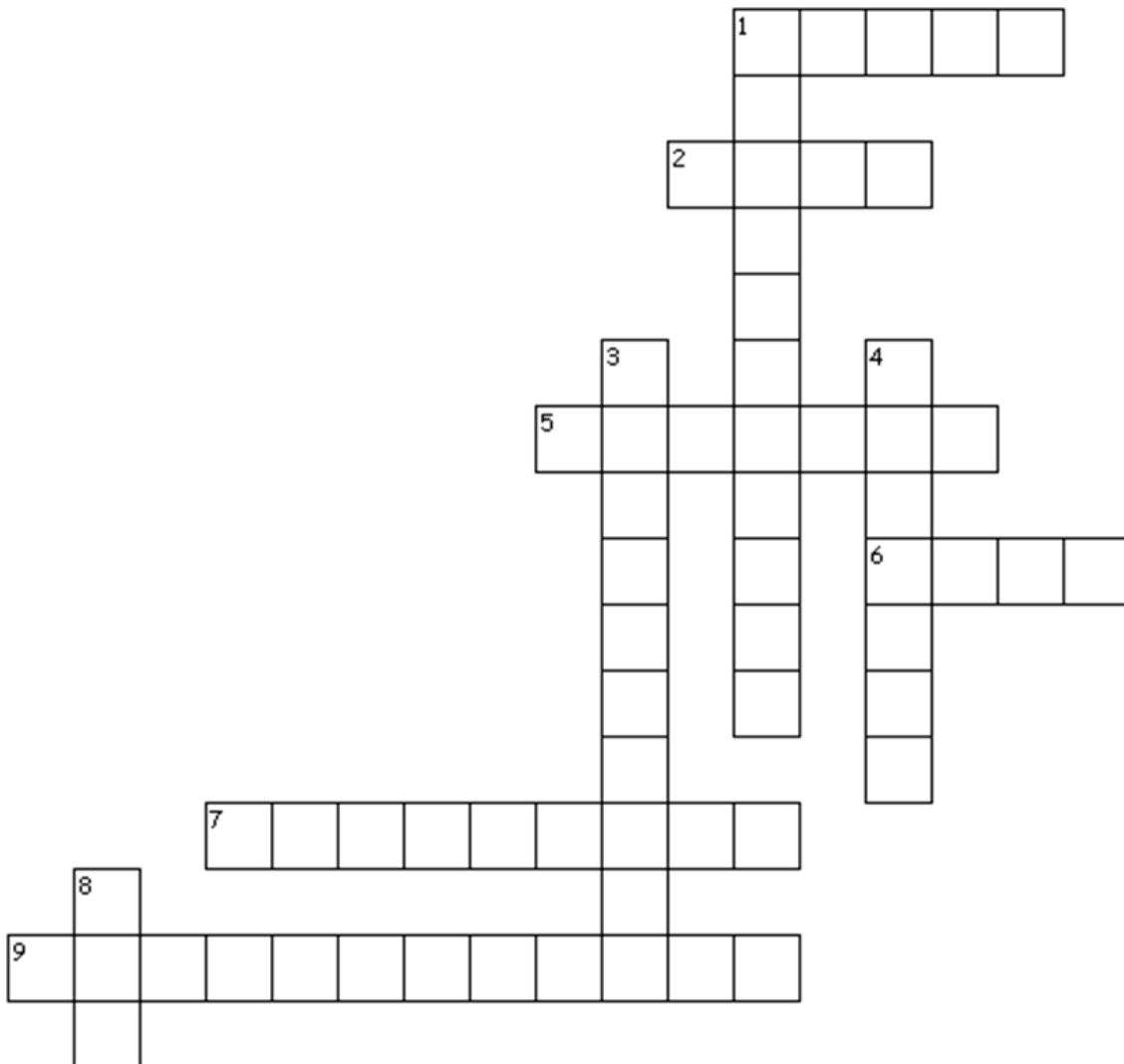
Fill in the crossword puzzle with information from the study.

### Across

1. The enemy of God and man
2. A corruption of what is good
5. What we have that are evil and cause us to give into Satan
6. When sin entered the world
7. What Satan's promises actually are
9. Going against God's standards of right and wrong

### Down

1. God's right to rule over his creation
3. What Satan puts before us to get us to sin
4. The nature of God's will and his character
8. Any action that falls short of the good God desires



## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

What are areas where you have desires that lead you into sin?

What is the outcome of your giving into sin?

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - Why we do what we do?

1. Romans 7:7-25
2. Mark 7:14-23
3. Psalm 51:1-12
4. Romans 8:1-17
5. 1 John 2:15-17
6. Ephesians 4:17-24



## LESSON 6

# WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO MANKIND'S PROBLEM?

## LESSON 5 REVIEW **Everyone has sinned.**

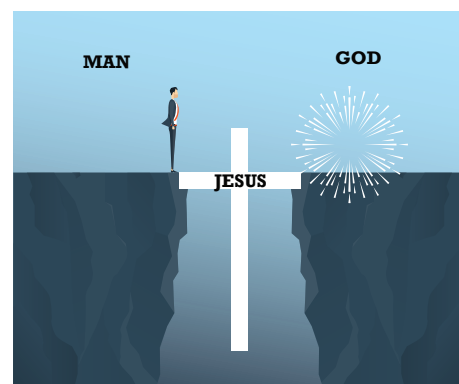
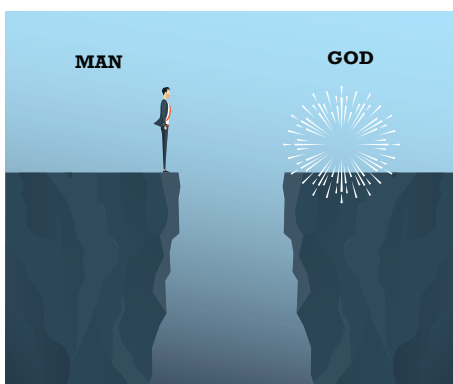
- In the Garden of Eden Satan got Eve to disobey God and sin by:
  1. Causing her to d \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  2. Denying the danger of d \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Promising her great b \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sin is any act that falls short of the g \_\_\_\_\_ God desires and his standard of what is r \_\_\_\_\_ to do. Sin is anything that h \_\_\_\_\_ us and others.
- The equation of sin is: t \_\_\_\_\_ + e \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ = sin that destroys.

## ALL MEN NEED A SAVIOR

We have seen that sin is a problem for everyone. The verse in Romans that shows that everyone has sinned is followed by a verse that reveals the solution.

**Romans 3:23-24** – *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.*

- Justified means one is found innocent or made right somehow.
- Redemption is the act of buying back or paying the price for something that is broken or of lesser value.



All religions recognize that there is a huge gulf between God and man. However, there is a big difference between Christianity and all other religions. All religions other than Christianity believe that people can reach God and salvation on their own through doing good things. In the end, they think the good people do will balance out the bad. They forget that God is holy and won't tolerate anything except what is perfect and holy.

Christianity is different from other religions. Christians believe that people can't reach God on their own; they need a savior to bridge the gap. It is only because God sent his Son to redeem us that we can be saved, be made right, and have a relationship with God. The cross represents how Jesus came to bridge the gulf between people and God.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Basic Belief:** To overcome the problem of our sin, God brought salvation to us by sending his Son to die for us and pay the penalty for our sin. Christ redeemed us by taking our sin on himself. He could only do this because he lived a sinless life as a man among men. He offered his perfect life as a sacrifice to cover our sin so we can stand before a perfect and holy God without blemish.

## THE LIGHT OF SALVATION

To receive salvation we have to recognize that we are lost in the darkness and need to reach out to Jesus and receive the gift of his life. In the Gospel of John there is a story of an encounter of Jesus with an important Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus that explains the way of salvation.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, probably because he didn't want others to know what he was doing. Most of the Jewish religious leaders were very opposed to Jesus. Nicodemus knew Jesus was performing miracles and that caused him to believe that Jesus was sent by God. He wanted to know and understand more about Jesus and what he was doing.

### **John 3:1-6 - The need to be born again**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

<sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

<sup>4</sup>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

**Physical life** is referred to as f \_\_\_\_\_. Physical life only comes from physical life. You are alive physically because your mother, who is also a physical being, gave birth to you. **Spiritual life** is of a different nature than physical life. It has to come from the Spirit; it doesn't come from the physical realm.

First a person is born physically. When a person comes to u \_\_\_\_\_ who Jesus is and puts his faith in him then he undergoes a second, **spiritual birth**. This is what Jesus means when he says a person must be **born again**. Once a person is born again he comes alive spiritually and can enter the kingdom of God.

**Basic Belief:** The **kingdom of God** is where God reigns as king, where people put themselves under his authority as the Lord and sovereign ruler. To enter the kingdom of God we have to come under God's dominion (rule, authority, sovereignty). Once we do that we can live in God's presence both here on earth and for all eternity.

### **John 3:16-21 - For God so loved the world...**

Even though he was a religious leader and a teacher of the people, Nicodemus didn't understand what Jesus was saying, so Jesus explained to Nicodemus more fully what he meant.



<sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

God sent his Son to earth because he loves all people and wants e \_\_\_\_\_ to come into a relationship with him.

Condemned means that a person has been found g \_\_\_\_\_ of some criminal act for which he will be punished. According to the Bible our own sin condemns us. We are all guilty in the eyes of God and deserve to be punished.

However, if we b \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus we are no longer condemned. Jesus paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross. He took on our punishment so God can forgive us. God no longer sees us as guilty, and we can have a relationship with him.

If a person doesn't believe in Jesus, he remains in a c \_\_\_\_\_ state. He doesn't receive the benefit of what Christ did for him.

In this passage Jesus is described as the l \_\_\_\_\_. What does physical light do for us?

The light of Jesus reveals the condition of our h \_\_\_\_\_. If we want to be made clean, we come into the light so we can see what is in our heart and needs to be cleaned out.

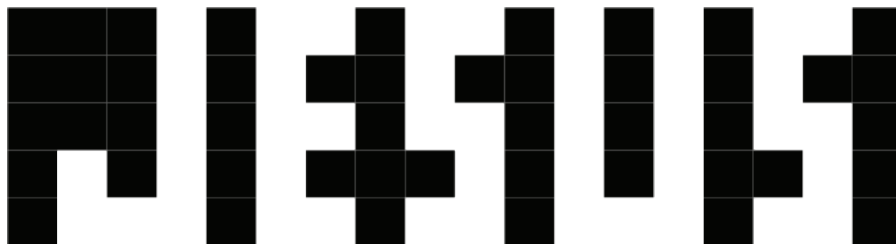
People reject Jesus because they love d \_\_\_\_\_ more than light.

What does it mean to love darkness more than light?

**Basic Belief:** To see what exists and is real we have to have light. If we want to continue doing things that are not of God and therefore evil, then we will resist the light and stay in the darkness. In the darkness we can't see what is in our heart and needs to be cleansed. Jesus came to show us the condition of our heart and make a way for us to come out of the darkness and truly live.

If in looking at the image of black and white shapes below you focus on the dark shapes, what do you see?

If you focus on the white space, what do you see?



**Basic Belief:** If we focus on the world and what is dark and not of God, then we will miss seeing Jesus. If we focus on the light and what is of God, then we can see Jesus. People miss seeing who Jesus is, not because he isn't there, but because they can't see him where they are looking. If we are born again, then we are alive spiritually and can see who God is. We don't miss seeing the things of God.

**Note:** If you have trouble seeing the word "Jesus," draw a line across the top and bottom of the shapes. Once you can see "Jesus" in the shapes, it becomes what you automatically focus on.

## HOW IS A PERSON SAVED?

**Romans 10:9-11** - <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Our part in salvation is to b \_\_\_\_\_ and c \_\_\_\_\_ what God has done for us through Jesus. Once we do that, we are s \_\_\_\_\_ from the penalty of our sin and brought into new life with Jesus. We submit to God's truth and authority.

**Basic Belief:** Salvation comes through belief (faith, trust) in Jesus and what he did for us when he died on the cross for our sin. If we truly believe, then we will confess (share) that belief with other people.

## THE GOSPEL

### The good news of Jesus

#### 1. All people are sinners and separated from God.

Romans 3:23 - <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

#### 2. God sent his one and only Son to earth.

John 3:16 - <sup>16</sup> "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.

#### 3. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Romans 4:25 - <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

#### 4. Jesus was buried and then rose from the dead.

In doing this he proved that he is both Lord (our ruler) and Christ (our savior).

Acts 2:32 - <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

#### 5. When we believe in Jesus and repent (turn away) from our sin we are given new life in him.

We are born again spiritually into an eternal relationship.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

## LESSON REVIEW

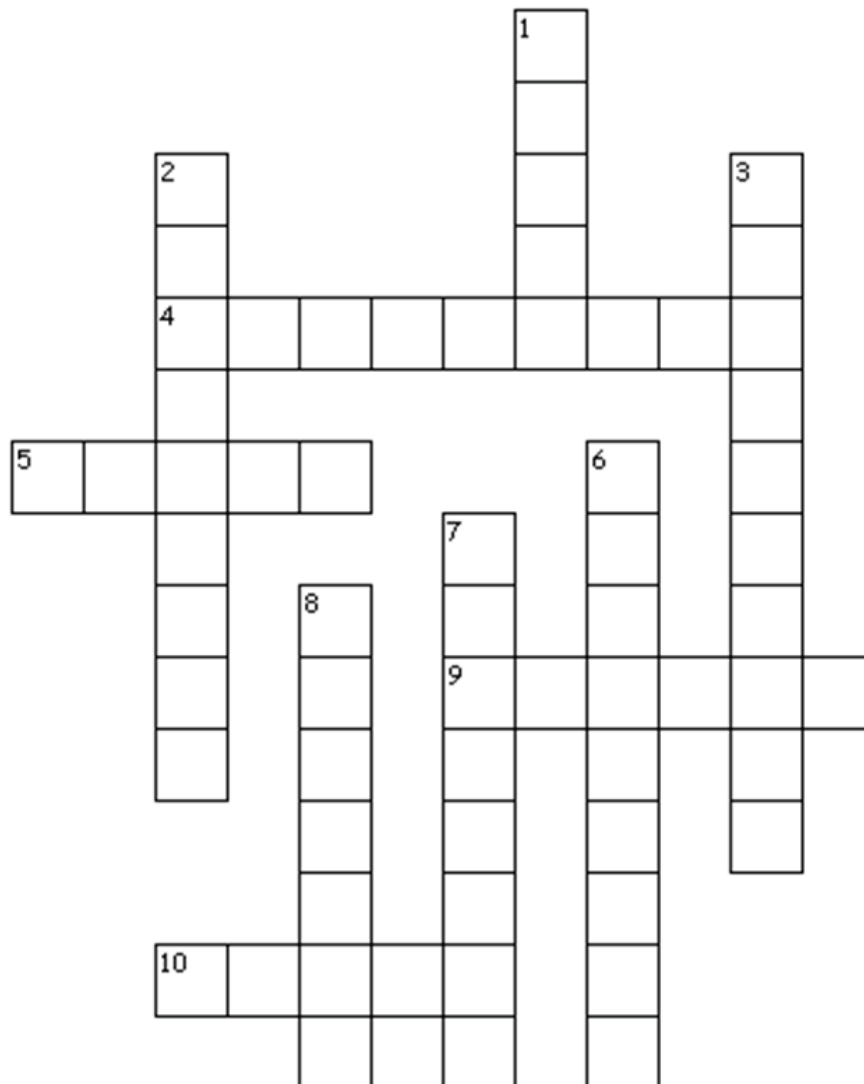
Fill in the crossword puzzle with information about the Bible.

### **Across**

4. The gift God gives us through Jesus
5. What we are saved through
9. To pay the price to buy something back
10. What we aren't saved by

### **Down**

1. What enables us to see the condition of our hearts
2. To be found innocent or made right
3. What a guilty person deserves
6. What a person is who doesn't believe in Jesus
7. What we live in if we can't see Jesus
8. What all people are



## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

Have you received God's gift of salvation through his Son Jesus Christ?

If yes, have you been growing in that relationship? In what ways?

If no, would you like to do so now? (Pray the prayer below or something similar.)

Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need your gift of salvation. Thank you for dying for my sins and making a way for me to enter your kingdom. I thank you for your forgiveness and cleansing of my sin. I put my life in your hands and ask that you would dwell in me so that I will be able to live a life that pleases you and brings you glory.

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - What has Jesus done for us?

1. Hebrews 10:1-25
2. 2 Peter 1:1-11
3. Colossians 2:6-15
4. Hebrews 9:11-28
5. Colossians 1:15-23
6. Ephesians 1:3-14

## WHAT IS SALVATION?

## LESSON 6 REVIEW

## The good news of Jesus

1. All men are s \_\_\_\_\_ and separated from G \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God sent his one and only S \_\_\_\_\_ to earth.
3. Jesus died on the cross to pay the p \_\_\_\_\_ for our s \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus was buried and then rose from the d \_\_\_\_\_. In doing that, he proved that he is both L \_\_\_\_\_ (our ruler) and C \_\_\_\_\_ (our savior).
5. When we b \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus and r \_\_\_\_\_ (turn away) from our sin, we are given new l \_\_\_\_\_ in him. We are born again s \_\_\_\_\_ and enter into an eternal r \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

## THE WAY TO SALVATION

**Basic Belief:** When God created man, he designed people to live in an eternal relationship with him and he still desires to have that relationship with them. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, causing all people to be born into sin. Jesus came to restore our relationship with God, make a way for us to gain eternal life, and enable us to overcome the power of sin in our life.

**Romans 5:18-19** - <sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The one trespass refers to the F \_\_\_\_\_ when Adam and Eve brought s \_\_\_\_\_ into the world. All people are born into sin. They are born with a sin nature which means they have e \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ which incline them to want what is wr \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus, by obeying the Father and dying on the cross, provided a way for people to be made r \_\_\_\_\_ again. We are made right (justified) when we put our f \_\_\_\_\_ in the work Jesus did on the cr \_\_\_\_\_ when he paid the p \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin.

## THE GIFT OF SALVATION

**Basic Belief:** Salvation is a gift from God given to everyone who believes in Jesus and what he has done. It isn't something that we deserve. It isn't something that we earn by being good or something that can be bought. It is a gift given to us because God is kind and gracious to us and wants to have a relationship with us.

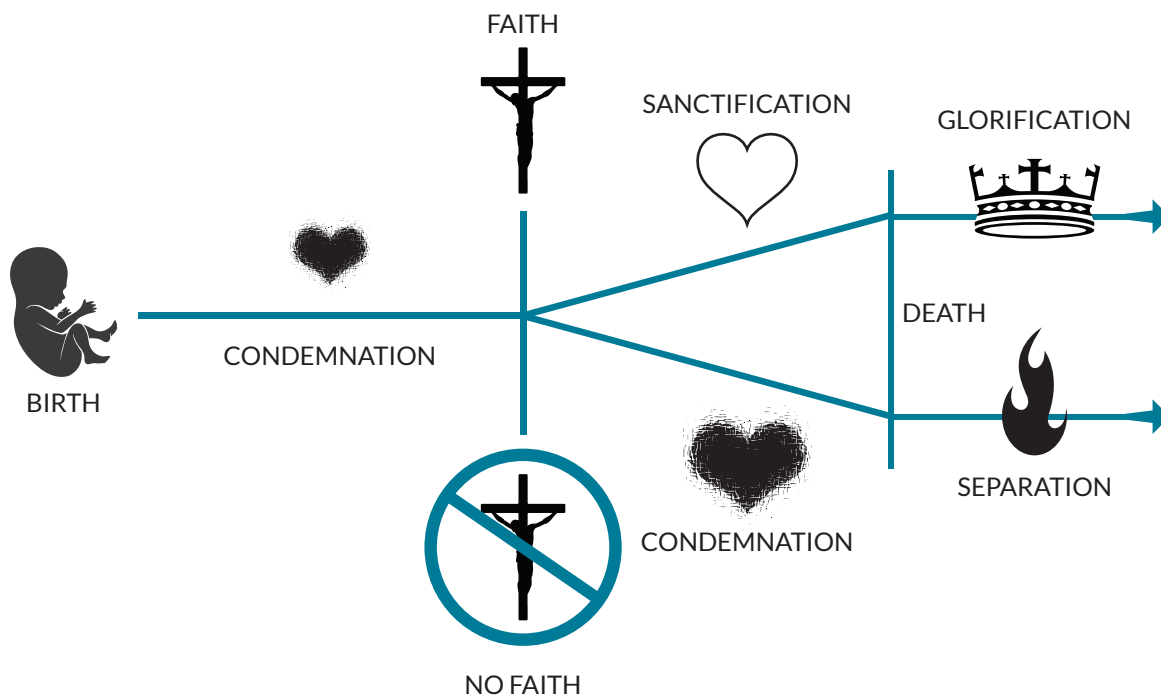
**Ephesians 2:8-10** - <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Grace is the favor that God shows to us that we don't deserve. Grace is demonstrated in the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins.

Salvation isn't something that we can buy or earn by our own efforts. We deserve God's judgment but because of his love for us he sent his Son to earth to take the penalty for our sin.

**Basic Belief:** God's purpose for us once we are saved is to do good works for his glory. Doing good works is the outcome of salvation; good works aren't the means by which we are saved.

## THE PATH OF SALVATION



- Birth brings physical life. A person is born into a state of condemnation because of Adam's sin. We are all born with a sin nature, which means we are inclined to do wrong. The dark heart represents the condemned state into which we are born.
- Faith brings spiritual life and salvation. Once a person puts his faith in Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross, he is saved. This is the state of justification, which means a person is seen as right in the eyes of God and delivered from the penalty of sin.
- Once a person is justified, the healing process begins. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit delivering a person from the power of sin and making him right. This is represented by a white heart, a heart that is being changed and made new. If a person never comes to faith in Jesus he remains in the state of condemnation.
- Death ushers a person into eternal life. A person will either dwell with God in glory in heaven or be separated from God and spend eternity in hell. God wants everyone to be saved, that's why he sent his Son to earth. The crown represents the state of glory we will experience in heaven. The flames represent the agony and separation from God in hell.



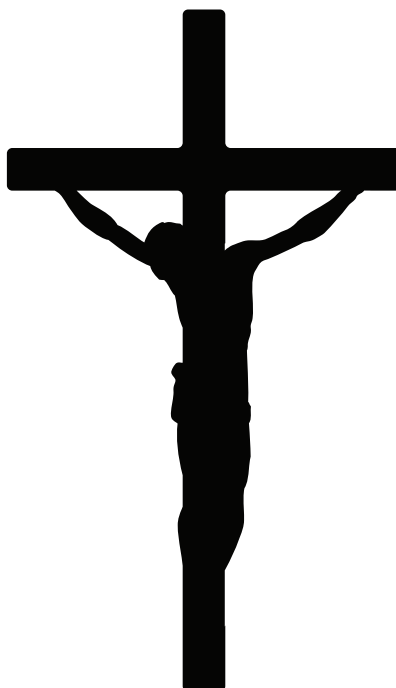
**Hebrews 10:4** - *by the one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

“Made perfect forever” (justification) is a completed, past action. It is Jesus’ work on the cross, which delivers us from the penalty of our sin when we put our faith in him. It means that when we stand before the judgment seat we won’t be condemned because we have been justified or made right by Jesus; the penalty for our sin has been paid.

“Being made holy” (sanctification) is an on-going, present action being done to us once we have put our faith in Jesus. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, which delivers us from the power of sin so we can do what is right. The process begins when we are justified (born again) and ends when we are glorified (enter heaven).

One day we will stand before God completely justified by Christ. He will see us as “made perfect.” We will enter heaven and spend eternity in the presence of God. Heaven is a perfect place where we are delivered from the very presence of sin. In heaven, we will completely fulfill our purpose of bringing glory and honor to God as we fully reflect his image.

PART OF SALVATION	DELIVERENCE FROM	EXPLANATION
Justification	P_____ of sin	Confession of belief in Jesus which means one is no longer condemned.
Sanctification	P_____ of sin	Work of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life once faith is put in Jesus.
Glorification	P_____ of sin	Entrance into eternal life with Jesus through his sacrifice on the cross.



## LESSON REVIEW

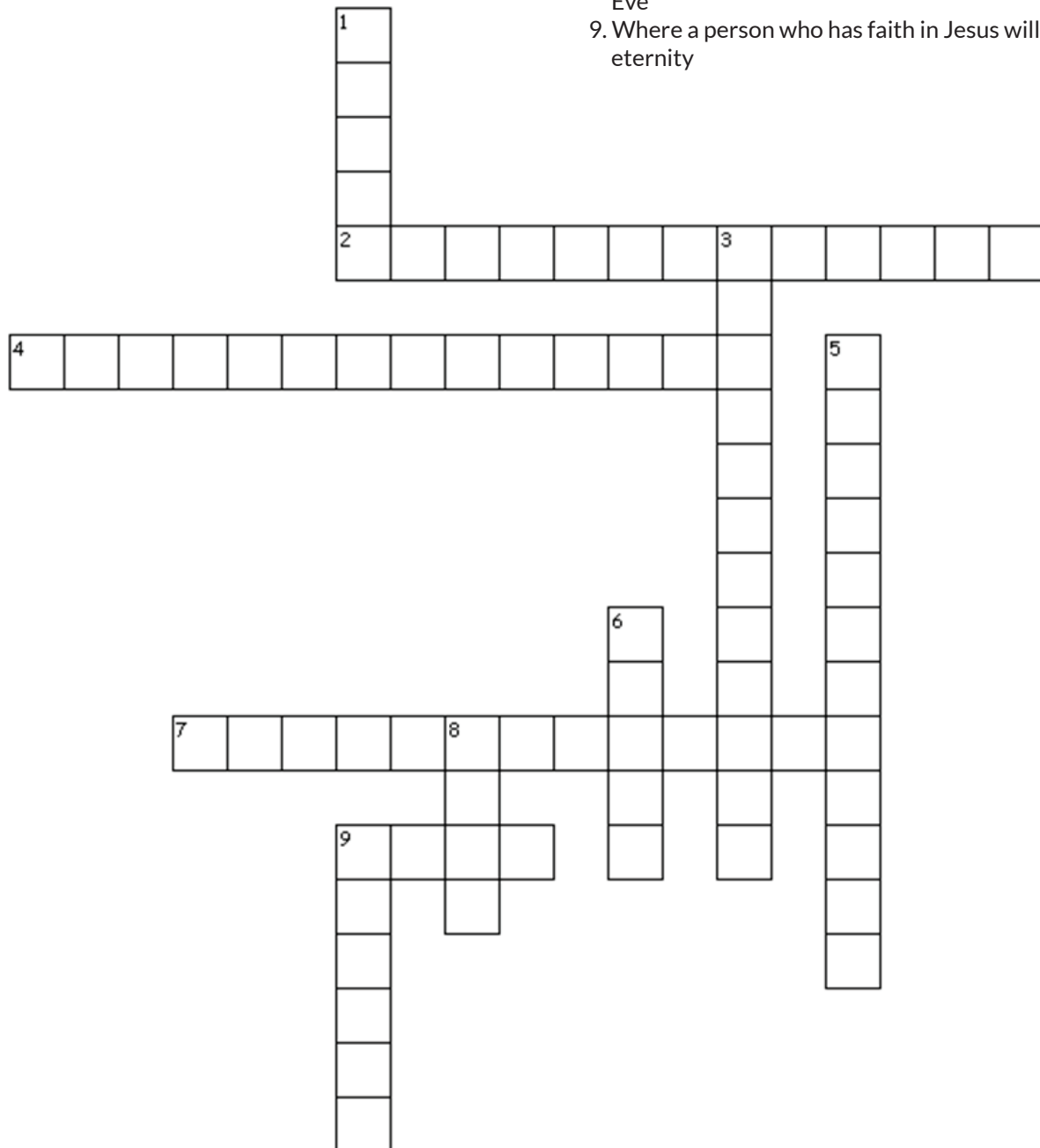
Fill in the crossword puzzle with words from the lesson.

### Across

2. Delivered from the very presence of sin
4. Being saved from the power of sin
7. Saved from the penalty of sin
9. Where a person who doesn't have faith in Jesus will spend eternity

### Down

1. What people are inclined to do because they are born with a sin nature
3. The state where a person is guilty and deserves punishment
5. What God wants to have with all people through Jesus
6. What ushers a person into eternal life
8. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve
9. Where a person who has faith in Jesus will spend eternity



## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

I have put my faith in Jesus and have been justified (made perfect forever).      yes      no

I am in the process of being sanctified (being made holy).      yes      no

Write out a prayer about the work you would like the Holy Spirit to do in you.

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - What is our destiny?

1. John 3:16-18
2. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
3. Hebrews 9:11-15
4. Romans 6:15-22
5. 1 Timothy 1:12-17
6. 1 John 5:13-20



# HOW DO WE LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE?

## LESSON 7 REVIEW **The Way of Salvation**

- Condemnation – Condemnation means a person is g \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and in a condemned state deserving p \_\_\_\_\_.
- Justification – Justification is the first result of salvation. It is the state of being declared innocent or r \_\_\_\_\_ and delivered from the p \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
- Sanctification – Sanctification is the on-going work of salvation. It is the p \_\_\_\_\_ of being made h \_\_\_\_\_ by the work of the Holy Spirit in us, delivering us from the p \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
- Glorification – Glorification is the eternal destiny of a person who has put his f \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus. In heaven we will be delivered from the very p \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and enter a glorified state where we live with Jesus for all e \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE PRINCIPLES FOR HOLY (RIGHT) LIVING

God calls us to obey him. For Christians obedience is a demonstration of love for Jesus. We can only obey Jesus if we know and believe his truth and are connected to him through the Holy Spirit living in us. In John 15:5 Jesus says, *I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

To live a Christian life, in addition to abiding in Christ, there are principles we need to follow. The Apostle Paul laid out these principles in his letter to the Colossians.

### **Colossians 3:1-17 - The Rules for Holy Living**

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

<sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

According to Colossians 3:1-17 what are the six main principles for holy living?

1. (vs. 1-2) – Set your h \_\_\_\_\_ and m \_\_\_\_\_ on things a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. (vs.5) – Put to d \_\_\_\_\_ your earthly n \_\_\_\_\_.
3. (vs. 10) – Put on the new s \_\_\_\_\_.
4. (vs. 15) – Let the p \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ r \_\_\_\_\_ in your h \_\_\_\_\_.
5. (vs. 16) – Let the W \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ d \_\_\_\_\_ in you richly.
6. (vs. 17) – Do e \_\_\_\_\_ in the n \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

### 1. Set your heart and mind on things above. (v. 1-2)

If we set our heart and mind on things above, we put our focus on G \_\_\_\_\_, what is important to him and has e \_\_\_\_\_ value. Setting our heart and mind on God enables us to p \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances and keeps us from getting d \_\_\_\_\_ and giving up.

#### **Example: The Apostle Paul responding to prophecy (Acts 20:22-24)**

*<sup>22</sup>“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup>I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup>However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

Paul didn't let the h \_\_\_\_\_ he was going to face keep him from doing what God called him to do. He looked to God and what has e \_\_\_\_\_ value.

### 2. Put to death the earthly nature. (v. 5)

If we put to death the earthly nature we do away with the evil d \_\_\_\_\_ that cause us to s \_\_\_\_\_. Putting to death our earthly nature enables us to live a life that p \_\_\_\_\_ God.

#### **Example: The believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:17-20)**

*<sup>17</sup>When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. <sup>18</sup>Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. <sup>20</sup>In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

The people of Ephesus c \_\_\_\_\_ their evil deeds and d \_\_\_\_\_ the things they had previously valued.

### 3. Put on the new self. (v. 10)

The words "put on" are words of dressing. If we put on the new self, we will be dressed in Jesus and our new n \_\_\_\_\_. Putting on the new self means we will be able to reflect Jesus and bring g \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

#### **Example: The Apostle John speaking to Gaius (3 John 2-4)**

*<sup>2</sup>Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. <sup>3</sup>It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. <sup>4</sup>I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

Gaius loved Jesus. It was evident in the way he l \_\_\_\_\_ his life.

#### 4. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. (v. 15)

The word for rule is *brabuo*; it is a sporting term which means the function of an umpire. If we don't have the peace of Christ in our heart, it is like an umpire calling us out or a referee calling a foul.

We can only have the peace of Christ in us when we o \_\_\_\_\_ him and do what is r \_\_\_\_\_. If we let the peace of Christ rule our hearts, we will quickly become aware of our s \_\_\_\_\_, ask for forgiveness, and turn back to God. It is impossible to have the enduring peace of Christ in our heart when we d \_\_\_\_\_ God and his truth.

##### **Example: King David of ancient Israel when he disobeyed God (2 Samuel 24:10)**

<sup>10</sup>David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

David saw what he had done wr \_\_\_\_\_ and asked God to take away his g \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 5. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (v. 16)

The same word which means indwelling means residence in a house. The word of Christ in one sense is the teachings of Christ, but in a larger sense refers to all of God's truth. The word richly means abundantly. If we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, then God's word completely fills our m \_\_\_\_\_. We will th \_\_\_\_\_ about it and act upon it. If the word of Christ dwells in us abundantly, we will know the tr \_\_\_\_\_ and the way we are to l \_\_\_\_\_.

##### **Example: The fellowship of new believers in Jesus (Acts 2:42-47)**

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The way the believers l \_\_\_\_\_ showed they were devoted to the tr \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 6. Do everything in the name of Jesus. (v. 17)

If we do everything in the name of Jesus we are faithful to o \_\_\_\_\_ him and do his w \_\_\_\_\_. We are his ambassadors to the world. By doing everything in the name of Jesus we will show the world Jesus' l \_\_\_\_\_. We will demonstrate the r \_\_\_\_\_ of his truth and who he is.

##### **Example: The disciples Peter and John before the Jewish religious leaders (Acts 4:8-10)**

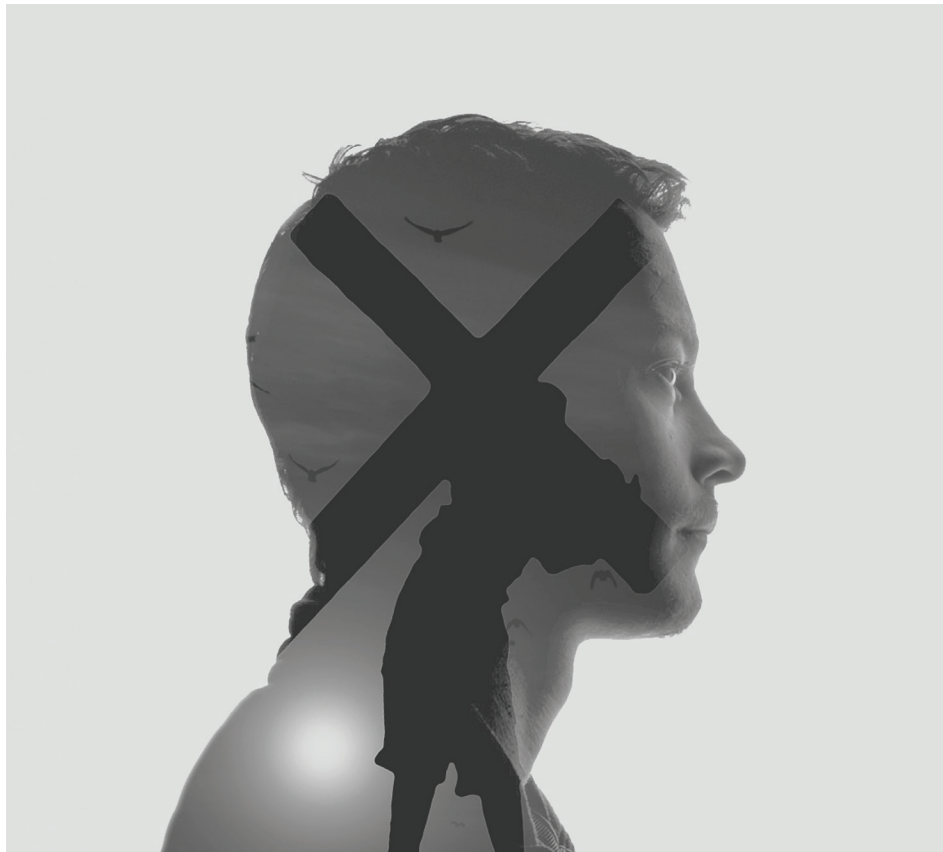
<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

Peter and John healed the man in the n \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. They shared the tr \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus with the people.

## LESSON REVIEW

Fill in the blanks in the Rules for Holy Living.

1. Set your h \_\_\_\_\_ and m \_\_\_\_\_ on things a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Put to d \_\_\_\_\_ your earthly n \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Put on the new s \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Let the p \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ r \_\_\_\_\_ in your h \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Let the w \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ d \_\_\_\_\_ in you richly.
6. Do e \_\_\_\_\_ in the n \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.





## PERSONAL CONCLUSION

Put a check mark by the description if it most often characterizes you. Write down what needs to change in you if it doesn't.

1. I set my heart and mind on things above. I keep an optimistic and eternal perspective. I don't complain about my circumstances or allow them to drag me down.
2. I put to death my earthly nature. I am not controlled by my sinful nature. I choose to obey Jesus. I recognize my sin and how it hurts me.
3. I put on the new self. I demonstrate godly character. I reflect Jesus to the world.
4. I let the peace of Christ rule in my heart. I am quick to recognize and repent from sin. I welcome and accept correction.
5. The word of Christ dwells in me richly. I study and think about the Word of God each and every day. I recognize wrong ideas that are not of God and will hurt me.
6. I do everything in the name of Jesus. I faithfully represent Jesus and his truth to the world and bring honor and glory to God by what I say and do.

## FURTHER STUDY

Below are suggested readings for further study from the Bible that you can do during the week. Before you read a passage, pray that God would give you understanding and open your mind to him and his truth. After reading each passage, write in a journal your answers to the following questions:

- What does this passage mean?
- Why do I need to know that?
- What should I do in response?

### Suggested Bible Readings - How do we stay on track?

1. Galatians 6:1-10
2. Philippians 3:1-4:1
3. Philippians 4:2-9
4. 1 John 1:5-2:6
5. 1 John 2:15-17
6. 2 Peter 1:3-11