

Note field

Welcome to the Family of God!

You are beginning life's most satisfying adventure – your walk with God! Your decision to follow Christ means God has forgiven you and that you will spend eternity in heaven. Jesus Christ has taken residence in your heart; your sins are forgiven. The Bible tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NKJV).

As you start this adventure, we, your church family, want to help you. We want to "do life" with you. We have designed this class to give you have a good start to your new beginning with Jesus. Even if you have walked with the Lord for some time, this class is a great way to get back to the basics of Christianity.

It is our deep desire that you will "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18 NKJV).

Memory Verse

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

JOHN 3.16 (NKJV)

Salvation

From one point of view, salvation is very _____. It can be summed up in Paul's words to the Philippian jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). At the same time, salvation is _____; it has the most pervasive and permanent impact on the one who experiences it. **PAUL LITTLE**

Man's Greatest Need

Man's greatest need is to be saved from the curse of _____.

The Bible says that, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The Problem of Sin

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

"You shall have no other gods before me."

Have you had a master passion other than God?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

"You shall not make for yourself any idol."

Have you ever shared your affection with another god?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

Have you ever misused the name of the Lord?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

...if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger.... And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

MATTHEW 5.21-22 (NKJV)

Remember to keep the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Do you spend time with other Christians and take time to honor God by resting in Him?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

"Honor your father and your mother."

Do you respect and obey your parents as unto the Lord?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

"You shall not murder."

Have you every been angry at someone?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

"You shall not commit adultery."

Have you ever lusted?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ____

But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

MATTHEW 5.28 (NLT)

"You shall not steal."

You want something but don't get it....You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

JAMES 4.1-4

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
(Ephesians 4:28 - NIV)

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ___

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
(Ephesians 4:29 - NIV)

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ___

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house...wife...servants...animals...or anything that is your neighbors.”

Do you have wrong motives for wanting something?

Guilty? ___ Not Guilty? ___

The Penalty of Sin

Before coming to Christ, our problem was simple; we were spiritually _____
(Ephesians 2:1).

Adam, as a three dimensional being, was created with a

To relate to the world around him

To relate with himself

To relate to God

The Bible defines death as _____.

...the body without the spirit is dead...

JAMES 2.26

People die physically when their spirit leaves their body.

People die _____ when rebellion separates them from God

We are “dead men walking”

A corpse is _____.

A corpse is inactive and _____.

A corpse is _____.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you

ISAIAH 59.2

Sin comes naturally.

Only God can fill the emptiness in man.

You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied.

You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm.

Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!

HAGGAI 1.6 (NLT)

Living a sinful life is like going shopping with a bottomless shopping bag.

The chains of sin are too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

Sin leads to death.

Physical death is the separation of _____ and _____ from the _____.

Spiritual death is separation from _____.
Eternal death is separation from the grace of God for _____.

What's the greatest gift that
you've ever received?
Who gave it to you?

God's Greatest Gift

"For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23 - NKJV). John 10:10 says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Jesus is God's gift to us. The solution to the problem of sin is _____.

We owe a debt that we cannot _____, He paid a debt He did not _____.

God chose you before you
chose him.

The decision to follow Jesus Christ is the most important decision you will ever make.

Jesus said, "There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to Me" Luke 24:47 (NLT).

"You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of unending love and mercy" Nehemiah 9:17 (NLT).

In this man Jesus there is forgiveness
of your sins. Everyone who believes
in Him is freed from all guilt and
declared right with God.

ACTS 13:38-39 (NLT)

How do we get forgiveness?

"For the law was given through _____, but _____ and _____ came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

For it is by grace you have been
saved, through faith – and this not
from yourselves, it is the gift of God
– not by works, so that no one can
boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV)

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ came from the Father and was "full of grace and truth."

Grace has been described as unmerited favor.

If it sounds too good to be true, _____.

We make money the old fashion way, we _____.

There's no such thing as a free _____.

No pain, _____.

God helps those who _____.

Grace is:

G
R
A
C
E

It was done on the cross and
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ.

Religion is spelled D-O, but Christianity is spelled ___ ___ ___!

There isn't anything you can do to save yourself.

Accept grace.

1. Grace is a _____ gift.

How do you get to heaven?

(We are)...justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
(Romans 3:24 - NKJV).

(We are)...justified freely by His
grace through the redemption that is
in Christ Jesus
ROMANS 3.24 (NKJV)

2. _____ gives grace.

... grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17 (NCV)

...many people received God's gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15 (NCV)

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through Me." John 14:6 (NIV)

For He made Him who knew no sin
to be sin for us, that we might
become the righteousness of God in
Him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5.21 (NKJV)

When Jesus died upon the cross, it was not for anything He had done, but it was for our
sins (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ died as our substitute. He suffered in our place so that
we could be forgiven.

Just before He died, Jesus uttered the victorious cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Our debt of sin was paid in full.

Now to receive God's favor and forgiveness, all that's necessary is to believe on Christ.
Salvation is free, but never think it's cheap. It cost God His only Son. God's pain was our
gain.

Salvation is free - but not
cheap.

He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment
that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5
(NIV)

God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be
made right with God through Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

3. Grace is available to anyone and everyone, including _____.

“in Christ” is used over 120 times in the New Testament.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

Once in a while, we slipped up and did something good.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
EPHESIANS 2:3

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”
JOHN 6:29 (NKJV)

“In Christ” refers to _____

In God's eyes, you became one with Christ.

The Christian life is an exchanged life.

Galatians 2:20 reads, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

You will occasionally slip up and _____, but you have received a new nature.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we're told, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

The Bible says that when I come to Jesus and say, “Jesus, I open my life up to You and I want to accept Your free gift of salvation” then God gives me the gift of grace, takes my life, with all the scars, all the tears, all the mistakes, and places me in Christ.

When God looks at me with eyes of grace He only sees the perfection of Jesus Christ.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13 (NIV)

4. Grace lasts _____.

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NLT)

All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)

5. I can have eternal life, by _____ it.

God's gift is received by faith.

You have to trust Jesus to save you. You have to believe in Jesus.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

Grace is God's part, _____ is our part

The Lord longs to be gracious to you.
ISAIAH 30.18 (NIV)

Faith and Repentance

Faith is the key that unlocks the door to heaven.
Salvation is a grace gift. Forgiveness is free.

Salvation is not based on my performance, it is based on God's promise. Salvation is not based on my goodness, it is based on God's grace. I'll get to heaven, not based on my merit, but based on God's mercy.

How does a person accept God's grace and get the gift of forgiveness?

The Bible makes this promise: Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Acts 10:43 (NIV)

In the Bible, the word "believe" means more than just brain knowledge, it means "_____."

Jesus said, "Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear Me calling and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
ACTS 3.19 (NKJV)

Do you remember the four steps to knowing God?

1. Realize that you are a sinner.
2. Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.
3. Repent of your sins.
4. Receive Jesus as your Savior.

To repent means:
to have a change of _____,
resulting in a change of _____,
resulting in a change of _____.

Father, today I open my heart, I invite You inside. Please God, forgive me of my sins and change my life. For Christ's sake, and for God's glory, In Jesus name. Amen

If you just prayed that prayer or you have prayed a similar kind of prayer before, here's what the Bible says has happened in your life:

In those days you were living apart from Christ....you did not know the promises...You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:12-13 NLT)

Not true:

1. I'm saved because I _____ saved

2. I'm saved because I'm a _____.
3. I'm saved because I was _____.
4. I'm saved because I am an _____.
5. I'm saved because I go to _____.
6. I'm saved and so now I can _____.

The moment you received Christ by faith, as an act of the will, many things happened, including the following:

1. Christ came into your life (Revelation 3:20; Colossians 1:27).
2. Your sins have been _____ (II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:14).
3. You became a child of God (John 1:12).
4. You received eternal life (John 5:24).
5. You began the great _____ for which God created you (John 10:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

How do you know you're saved?

- My feeling say so? Yes No
- My faith says so? Yes No
- The facts of God's word say so? Yes No

Summary

John 3:16

For God: The greatest giver
 so loved: The greatest motivation
 the world: The greatest need
 that He gave: The greatest act
 His only begotten Son: The greatest sacrifice
 that whoever: The greatest invitation
 believes in Him: The greatest opportunity
 should not perish: The greatest deliverance
 but have everlasting life: The greatest gift

The _____ of Sin

Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

The _____ of Sin

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death...*

The _____ for Sin

Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The _____ from Sin

Romans 10:9-10 - *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing*

in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Prayer and Worship

Memory Verse

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

HEBREWS 4.16

Prayer

The _____ of Prayer

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges given to man.

“Prayer is the most important activity a born-again Christian can engage in.”

CHUCK SMITH

“And whatsoever you shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14 - KJV).

To seek aid in time of distress from a supernatural Being is an instinct of human nature. I believe in the truthfulness of this instinct and that man prays because there is something in prayer. As when the Creator gives His creature the power of thirst, it is because water exists to meet its thirst; and as when He creates hunger there is food to correspond to the appetite; so when He inclines men to pray, it is because prayer has a corresponding blessing connected with it. **CHARLES SPURGEON**

Jesus invites us to pray.

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

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7 - NKJV).

The _____ of Prayer

“The purpose of prayer is not to get our will done in heaven, but to get _____ done on earth.”

WARREN WIERSBE

Prayer changes us not God.

By the very virtue of the fact that a disciple has denied himself, he is not seeking the things that would glorify his flesh. The very fact

that he's taken up his cross, he's not seeking his own glory but reckoning himself to be dead with Christ. He is now identified only in the things God wants: committing himself, his ambitions, and his life totally to Jesus Christ.

CHUCK SMITH

"I try, to the best of my ability, to rid myself of personal inclination and opinion when seeking God and His will on a particular matter."

GEORGE MUELLER

Answers to prayer can be...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When you read your Bible, God speaks to you. When you pray, you speak to God.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

JAMES 5.16

The _____ of Prayer

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 - NKJV)

Prayer precedes power!

As far as we know from scripture, the disciples never asked Jesus to...

- Teach them to preach.
- Teach them to perform miracles.
- Teach them to evangelize.

Why? Because after watching Jesus for several years, the disciples were convinced that prayer was the secret of Jesus' ministry and the foundation for all He did. They understood that prayer was the power behind His preaching, miracles, and evangelism. For Jesus Himself once said, "I only do that which I see My Father doing."

The Pattern of Prayer

THE LORDS PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

In this manner, therefore, pray:

1. God's Person: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. God's Purpose: Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

3. God's Provision: Give us this day our daily bread.

4. God's Pardon: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

5. God's Protection: And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Practice of Prayer

1 Thes. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Jesus' example of prayer

Luke. 6:12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Different Types of prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO PRAYER

1. Day dreaming
2. Sleepiness
3. Interruptions
4. Reminders
5. Sense of unworthiness
6. Sin
7. Lack of faith
8. Out of God's will
9. Unforgiving spirit
10. Selfish motive

Remember: "Going without prayer for 7 days makes one weak."

Worship

How can I have a rich relationship with God? By spending time with Him in worship.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness" (Psalm 29:2 - NIV).

Worship means: “to attribute worth to, to bow down your will.”

Whatever we value highest is what we worship most. What is your “master passion” in life?

Let me give you a picture of worship. Have you ever seen a young child reach up their arms for their mommy or daddy? Have you ever noticed a little boy or girl that runs up to their parent just to say, “I love you, daddy.” That’s what worship is. It’s an adoration of the Artist of the Universe and our lives. It’s our reaching out to touch God.

We can do that by singing songs to Him. Use cd’s or get an iPod.

...true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship Him that way. John 4:23 (NLT)

“Worship renews the spirit as sleep renews the body.” **RICHARD CABOT**

Jesus

There's an old hymn with the lyric "There is just something about that name"

You can talk about God and people are often comfortable, but when you use the name Jesus, the conversation gets tense.

Jesus is the center of scripture:

- 1) It is said that if you cut the scriptures anywhere, they bleed with the blood of Jesus.
- 2) The Bible is a love story written in blood, the blood of Jesus!
- 3) If you don't see Jesus on every page of the bible, you're not looking hard enough.

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9 - NKJV).

The title "Jesus Christ our Lord" is not Jesus' first, middle and last name. Each is a separate and distinct description of who He is.

His Name: Jesus

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua."

Hosea, Jesus and Joshua all come from the same root word Hoshea which is a Hebrew word for salvation.

The name "Jesus" (Joshua) was a very popular name at that time. All the Jewish parents wanted their son to be called "God saves."

Today, it would be like naming your son George or Jose.

The name Jesus reminds us of His Humanity.

Jesus was the name given Him at his birth. People knew Joshua the carpenter from Nazareth.

His Title: Christ

"Christ" is a title, and not his last name!

Christ means "anointed one."

Matthew 1:16b says, "...Jesus, who is called the Messiah." This means that Jesus is "The Messiah, the Anointed One." The Savior!

Look at Luke 4:16-21 (NLT)

When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll containing the messages of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him, and he

unrolled the scroll to the place where it says: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.” He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue stared at him intently. Then he said, “This Scripture has come true today before your very eyes!””

This passage in Isaiah 61 speaks of the Messiah. Jesus applied this passage to Himself. He is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ.

Jesus was telling the people who saw him as Jesus the Man from Nazareth, that he was also Jesus the Christ (Messiah, Anointed One) according to the scriptures.

1. Jesus was the Savior they were hoping for.
2. Jesus is God’s only Savior! Messiah! Christ!
3. Jesus is our Savior! Messiah! Christ!

His Position: Lord

Definition of Lord: Power over, master, owner, supreme in authority.

Read Luke 2:10-11 (NLT): "but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord —has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!”

Note the the titles of Jesus listed in this passage: Savior, Messiah, Lord.

Read Acts 2:36 (NLT): "So let it be clearly known by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Jesus is both Lord and Savior; not just Savior.

What does it mean to us, individually, that Jesus is our Lord, our Master?

“He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15 - NKJV)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT):

"Or don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - NLT).

He is my Lord. He is my Master, supreme in authority! My life is not my own.

Jesus is not just my Savior, He is my Lord.

God

You can not avoid the subject of God forever.

- a. Either he is or he isn't.
- b. To deny the question is to stick your head in the sand.

2. The ramifications of our conclusions are life changing.

Romans 1:18-19 (NLT)

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth away from themselves. For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. To deny this, is foolish.

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

3. The Bible does not argue God's existence, but states it as a matter of fact.

a. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"

b. Romans 1:20 (NLT)

From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

Acknowledging that God is who He says He is, makes us accountable to Him.

c. Psalm 19:1-4 (NLT) The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world.

So Who Is God?

He is All-Powerful (Omnipotence)

having absolute power over all Almighty God: Absolute sovereign

1. If God made everything then he must be all powerful.

a. Revelation 11:17 (NKJV)

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,

The One who is and who was and who is to come,

Because You have taken Your great power and reigned."

Note: Almighty is another word for omnipotent:

b. Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

c. Job 42:2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. (NKJV)

d. Matthew 19:26 (NLT) Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."

Example: Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Application:

He is All-Present (Omnipresent)

Definition: Being at all places at all times.

1. God is not in everything (pantheism), but he is everywhere present.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 "Am I a God near at hand," says the Lord, "And not a God afar off?" Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord .

Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

There is no place in life so deep that God can't go deeper, and no place so high that God can go higher. He's always present.

Application: He's always with us.

He is All-Knowing (Omniscient)

Psalm 139:1-6 "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!" (NLT)

Note: God's knowledge is beyond our understanding!

Romans 11:33-36 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord ? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Application: He knows everything about us.

He is Unchanging and Eternal (No Beginning or Ending)

Exodus 3:13-14 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Ephesians 3:9-11 "and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,"

James 1:17 "Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, He never changes...." (NLT)

Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord , I do not change;"

God's Character

He is Gracious

Gracious means "to grant a favor freely, for nothing, to feel sympathy, compassion. It denotes "a heartfelt response by someone who has something to give to one who has a need."

Exodus 33:12-19 (NKJV)

Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." 14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?... 17 So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." 18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

He is Just

Just means right, correct, straight. It is the standard by which something is measured.

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NLT)

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!

He is Merciful

Mercy means to love deeply, to have compassion, to have tender affection.

Luke 6:35-36

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Ephesians 2:1-9 “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,...and were by nature children of wrath,...But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,...made us alive together with Christ...

He is Loving

Love means affection, wanting to do good, to help others.

1 Jn 4:7-8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son into the world to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

He is A Caring Father

Psalms 68:5 (NKJV)

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

Deuteronomy 32:6 (NKJV)

Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people?

Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

Malachi 2:10 (NKJV)

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?

Sometimes life may seem that hopeless. But you have a Heavenly Father who cares.

Time after time in the Bible, God showed His care for people, combined with His name, Jehovah. To those who needed provision, God said His name was Jehovah-jireh “the Lord will provide.” To those who needed healing, God said His name was Jehovah-rapha, “the Lord who heals.” To those who needed peace, God said His

name was Jehovah-shalom, “the Lord our peace.” To those who needed to know they were not alone, God said His name was Jehovah-shammah, “the Lord is there.”

God cares about you. He is your loving Father. He cares about your marriage, He cares about your job, He cares about your heart, He cares about children, He cares about the personal struggles and the questions that are filling your mind. He cares about the decisions that you need to make, He cares about your feelings.

Maybe you had a terrible earthly dad, who didn’t love you, who didn’t spend any time with you. Now you have a wonderful, personal, perfect, heavenly Father who loves and cares for you.

Summary

In summary, listen to this description of God, given by the Apostle Paul in Acts chapter seventeen.

Acts 17:24-28 (NLT) “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need there is. 26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. “His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28 For in him we live and move and exist....

End of section on God

The Bible

The Bible is our instruction manual for abundant life and eternal life.

Basic
Instructions
Before
Leaving
Earth

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Bible is Remarkable

Three ways the Bible is remarkable:

Remarkable in its origin

The Bible claims to be the Word of God over 3800 times, with statements like, “Thus says the Lord”, “the word of the Lord came to me”, and “God spoke to...”. (Examples: Romans 3:1-2, Exodus 17:14; Jeremiah 30:2)

If the Bible is the Word of God, then how did God communicate it to us?

1. The source of the communication is called Revelation
Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.
2. The method of the communication is called Inspiration
2 Peter 1:20-21 No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

This makes the Holy Spirit the author of the Bible, not man!

Remarkable in its Unity

The word “Bible” means book . It is actually a collection of 66 books , written over a period of 1400 years, that tells one story from beginning to end.

Old Testament looks forward to Christ
New Testament looks backward to Christ.

Old Testament looks forward to Christ
New Testament looks backward to Christ.

Consider this remarkable unity amidst incredible diversity

- It was written in different styles
(poetry, prophecy, letters, narratives, songs)
- It was written by different people
(politicians, shepherds, fisherman, king, doctor, etc.)
- It was written on different continents
(Europe, Africa, Asia)
- It was written in different languages
(Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic)
- It was written in different times
(war, romance, thanksgiving, isolation, suffering, etc.)
- It was written in different settings
(wilderness, prison, island, military outpost, cave, etc.)

The Bible never contradicts itself.

Remarkable in its popularity

- It is the best selling book of all time.
- There are more copies of the Bible than any other book in existence.
- It is translated into more languages than any other book.
- More books have been written about the Bible than any other book.

All considered, one must admit that the Bible is REMARKABLE!

II. THE BIBLE IS RELIABLE

If we are going to trust in the Bible as our user's manual for abundant and eternal life, then we must be sure it is reliable.

Three proofs of the Bibles reliability:

A. The Content of the Bible is Reliable

Many things testify to the reliability of the Bibles contents. Here are seven:

1. Archeology
2. Science
3. Prophecy
4. Philosophical superiority
5. Changed lives
6. The Bible itself
7. Jesus

B. The Canon of the Bible is Reliable

The word "canon" literally means "a reed" or "cain". It referred to something to measure things with. The Old Testament Scriptures were accepted as canon by the Rabbi's and ratified by Jesus during New Testament times.

We don't know exactly what criteria the early church used to choose the canonical books. There were possible five guiding principles used to determine whether or not a New

We don't know exactly what criteria the early church used to choose the canonical books. There were possible five guiding principles used to determine whether or not a New Testament book is canonical or Scripture.

Memory Verse

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

1B. Is it authoritative?

--Did it come from the hand of God?

(Does this book come with a divine "thus saith the Lord"?)

"In relation to the Old testament, this meant the authority of the lawgiver or the prophet or the leader in Israel.

In relation to the New Testament, a book had to be written or backed by an apostle in order to be recognized.

In other words, it had to have an apostolic signature or apostolic authorization.

Peter, for instance, was the backer of Mark, and Paul of Luke. Ryrie Survey 43

2B. Is it prophetic?

Was it written by a man of God?

3B. Is it authentic?

The fathers had the policy of "if in doubt, throw it out."

This enhanced the "validity of their discernment of canonical books."

4B. Is it dynamic?

Did it come with the life-transforming power of God?

The books themselves should give some internal evidences of their unique character, as inspired and authoritative.

The content would commend itself to the reader as being different from an ordinary book in communication their revelation of God. Ryrie Survey 43

5B. Was it received, collected, read and used?

Was it accepted by the people of God?

Peter acknowledged Paul's work as Scripture parallel to Old testament Scripture (II Pet 3:16).

C. The Copies of the Bible are Reliable

- The scriptures were copied letter by letter
- Tests were done to insure that every letter matched perfectly
- Current copies of the original manuscripts have matched ancient copies to the letter (i.e. Dead sea scrolls, and silver scrolls). (Any variations were non-doctrinal in nature. i.e. Alternate spellings of geographical names.)
- If a mistake was made, the entire document was destroyed.

Of all ancient writings, none can compare with the preservation of the Bible and its proven reliable content.

III. THE BIBLE IS RESOURCEFUL

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says the Bible is profitable for:

1. Doctrine: What is right

2. Reproof: What is not right

1. Doctrine: What is right
2. Reproof: What is not right
3. Correction: How to get right
4. Instruction: How to stay right

“The Devil is not afraid of a Bible that has dust on it.” ~ Anonymous

Metaphors for the Message

- Milk_____ for the spiritual new born (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
- __Light_____ for the spiritual traveler (Psalm 119:105)
- __Water_____ for spiritual cleansing (Ephesians 5:25)
- __Food_____ for the spiritual man (Matthew 4: 4)
- __Sword_ _____ for the spiritual soldier (Hebrews 4:12)
- __Rain_____ for the spiritual harvest (Isaiah 55:10-11)
- __Seed_____ for spiritual growth (Luke 8:11)

IV. THE BIBLE IS READABLE

“Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I always noticed that the passages which trouble me most are those which I do understand.”

~ Mark Twain

Many Christians think that only Pastors and church professionals can read and understand the Bible. That is not true. Although most of us start out being fed the Word by others, God does not want us to remain “spoon fed” all of our Christian lives.

Bible Reading Helps

Step 1: CHOOSE THE RIGHT TRANSLATION

- v New King James Version (Extremely accurate and literal to the original Greek and Hebrew. Also what Pastor Pedro teaches out of)
- v New Living Translation (Authorized and written in modern day language)
- v New International Version (easy to read, in common language, authorized, and fairly accurate)

Step 2: CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME ____

- A time that is undisturbed
- A time that is enjoyable
- A time that is consistent

Challenge: Don't let a day go by without reading at least some of God's Word. 5 Chapters a day will put you through the Bible in a year. Highlight

Challenge: Don't let a day go by without reading at least some of God's Word. 5 Chapters a day will put you through the Bible in a year. Highlight the verses that stand out to you.

Step 3: CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOK

The book of the Bible that you start off with is very important. Some good

books for beginners are:

Mark The shortest of the gospels

John Jesus the Son of God

Acts The beginning of the Church

James The most practical of the Epistles

Genesis The book of beginnings

Psalms The Hebrew hymn book

Proverbs Words of Wisdom

Step 4: CHOOSE THE RIGHT METHOD

THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Four easy steps to reading and understanding the Bible

1. Observation: What does it say ?
2. Interpretation: What does it mean ?
3. Correlation: What else does it say?
4. Application: What does it mean to me ?

Nehemiah 8:8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

Step 5: CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOTIVE

It's not to fill your mind with facts, but to fill your life with faith.

The goal is not to just know the bible better, but to know Jesus better.

Going the extra mile:

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Suggested Bible study tools

v Study Bible

v Bible commentary

v With the Word by Warren Wiersbe

v Halley's Bible handbook

v Bible dictionary

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about

them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 (NIV)

Fellowship

For where two or three gather together because they are Mine, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

In Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. Ephesians 2:22 (NIV)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

~ Hebrews 10:24-25

The word Church in the Greek is ecclesia and means the “called out ones”. Those who have responded to God’s call to come away from the ways of the world and practice the ways of Christ.

- The Church is not a PHYSICAL BUILDING
- The Church is not a DENOMINATIONAL MOVEMENT
- The Church is the BODY OF CHRIST

We were created to live in community with each other. We are not Lone Rangers.

God called us to be one with Him and with one another.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

We have to remember that in Jesus, all the things that normally would separate us are wiped away. We are all God's children and it doesn't matter what race, color, or creed the individual has, his or her entrance into the kingdom comes the same way, through the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Only one confession has stood the test of time:

Jesus Christ is Lord

That is the one confession that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. The only basis on which Jesus accepts us is our coming as repentant sinners, seeking His forgiveness and calling on Him as Lord. We don't have to walk alike, look alike, and smell alike to be in

That is the one confession that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. The only basis on which Jesus accepts us is our coming as repentant sinners, seeking His forgiveness and calling on Him as Lord. We don't have to walk alike, look alike, and smell alike to be in the same family. The man was right who said, "We can be brothers without being twins." Being part of the church, God's community also gives us a sense of purpose.

So often, our purpose can get lost in the midst of our living because we get so busy.

There was once a man who wrote his own epitaph. It read: Born a human being -- died a wholesale grocer. He explained, "I was so busy selling groceries that I did not have time to get married and have a family. I did not have time to travel or for the movies, or concerts, or for reading. I did not have time for community affairs. All of these were pushed out of my life by groceries. I was successful but I never had a life."

The Vision of Calvary Chapel Kendall

L – Loving God.

I – Instruction of God's Word

F – Finding a place in the fellowship to serve

E – Equipped to evangelize.

The word in the Bible for fellowship is: koinonia

It was true fellowship and in the Bible, fellowship has the ability to revolutionize lives. Masks come off, conversations get deep, hearts get vulnerable, lives are shared, accountability is invited and tenderness flows. People really become brothers and sisters in Christ.

A little boy was asked to define fellowship. He said, "I guess it is two fellows in a ship." That's a pretty good definition because when two fellows are together in a ship they go up together, they go down together, they move forward at the same pace, they are together in a common purpose, sailing the same direction, both working to get to the same destination.

Biblical community is a place where we can develop godly relationships, where we can "do life" with others.

The best way to do this is through a small group. This can be through the small group ministry or through another ministry of the church such as men's, ladies, or youth.

You become like the people you hang out with. We need to be hanging out with good Christian friends.

Baptism and Communion

Memory Verse

I. BAPTISM

A. The Practice of Baptism

The word “baptize” literally means to immerse or to dip.

Baptizing people in water was a common practice of discipleship (John 4:1-2).

1. Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)
2. Jesus commands us to be baptized (Matthew 28:18-20)
3. It was practiced by the early church in the book of Acts. (2:37-39; 18:8)
4. It is taught by Paul in the Epistles. (Romans 6:3-8)

Water baptism should be practiced by every Christian after conversion; hence it is sometimes called the first step of faith. Water baptism is the act of immersing the new believer in water as a testimony that he has experienced the reality of the conversion experience.

B. The Purpose of Baptism

Baptism is an outward confession of an inward conversion (Acts 10:44-48).

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

When we get baptized we are making a public commitment to follow Christ all the days of our life.

C. The Picture of Baptism

Baptism is a physical portrayal of what has happened in a new believers life. It is a living illustration of what Christ has done for us. Here are four snap-shots of significance of baptism

Snap-shot #1 Buried: We are dead to sin Romans 6:6

Snap-shot #2 Washed: We are cleansed from sin Titus 3:5

Snap-shot #3 Raised: We are resurrected to life Romans 6:5

Snap-shot #4 Walking: We live a new life Romans 6:4

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

D. The Pitfalls of Baptism

Many people have a false idea of what the purpose of baptism is. Here are some pitfalls to warn you about so you don't stumble.

Many people have a false idea of what the purpose of baptism is. Here are some pitfalls to warn you about so you don't stumble.

(Circle the correct answer for each of the following.)

Getting baptized guaranteed you eternal salvation. True or False

(F)

We should baptize infants to make sure they will go to heaven. True or False

(F)

I don't need to get baptized because I was sprinkled as a baby. True or False

(F)

When should one become baptized? (circle all that apply)

- a. when they are infants.
 - b. when they have received Jesus as Lord and Savior. (b)
 - c. when they want to make sure they are going to heaven.
 - d. when they want to make a public confession of your conversion.
- (d)

II. COMMUNION

Communion is also referred to as: The Lord's Supper, The Lord's Table, and The Eucharist.

A. The History of Communion

The Passover (Exodus 12:1-28)

- The angel of death would survey the homes in Egypt.
- The Israelites were to apply the blood of a lamb to the doorposts of their homes.
- If the angel of death saw the blood of the lamb it would "pass over" that home.
- The Israelites were to celebrate a "Passover" festival each year to commemorate the event.

The Last supper (Matthew 26:26-30)

- Called the last supper because it was the last Passover meal Jesus would eat until He comes again.
- Jesus fulfilled the Passover and changed its significance.

Bread = the body of Christ

Cup = the blood of Christ

The early church (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

B. The Majesty of Communion

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Communion remembers the past

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

- We remember Jesus' arrest
- We remember Jesus' trial
- We remember Jesus' mocking
- We remember Jesus' cross
- We remember Jesus' crucifixion

- We remember Jesus' cross

- We remember Jesus' crucifixion

Communion reflects the present

- We are to examine ourselves and get right with God

- We are to take communion in love for others

Communion rejoices in the future

- We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes

- We will eat from the Lord's table in the kingdom of God

The bread and juice are symbolic. There is a view of communion that states that they actually become the body and blood of Jesus. This is false. This view is called Transubstantiation.

These two sacraments of baptism and communion should be honored by all believers and held in the highest esteem. In practicing these sacred acts, show our love for God and our hope in God.

Inline Notes. This box will move with the your text changes.

Scripture Box: Use this type of Box to read entire bible passages.
This box will move with your text changes

Ephesians 5:22

Wives submit to your husbands...

