

LORD JESUS CHRIST

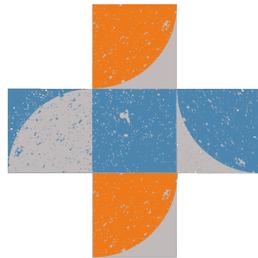
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LORD JESUS CHRIST

SAVIOR... LORD... MASTER... AND FRIEND!

BIBLE STUDY

Everything we do at Set Free Ministries is a direct result of God's influence in others, in us, and many times through us. Much of what we prepare as Bible Studies, teachings, and writings are a direct result of these great men and women of God and their influence in our lives.

What we do, teach, write and share is a reflection of the influence of other authors in and through us. Amen!

Our prayer is that through these Bible Studies, *you will find more hope and faith in the One Who is faithful, Jesus Christ.* He is the Giver, and we are the receivers.

May God Bless you as you are a blessing to others...

Tim

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker and the team at Set Free!
www.SetFreeCollege.org

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CHAPTER ONE

HOPE IN GOD IN HOPELESS TIMES (1)

By: Jack Wellman

www.WhatChristiansWantToKnow.com

The times we live in are so troubled. COVID 19, people losing their jobs, the stock market falls, natural catastrophes, and uncertainty in what the future holds. In today's economy there is little to hope for in the future however God is never caught off guard or by surprise. God knows the future. You are not the only one that has felt that there is no hope. Even Bible heroes had their times when they wanted to give up. Job, Moses, Jonah, Jeremiah, even the prophet Elijah.

Humans have definitions of hope that are different from God's. We might hope our team wins the Super Bowl, or we might hope we don't lose our jobs or our house. But the biblical definition of hope is not a hope-so but a know-so. Our hope in God is surer than the sun rising in the morning. Just read these verses of hope and put yourself or your own name in the place of "I" or "we". Where is hope found? It is in the Bible, the Word of God. **Psalm 119:74** "I have put my hope in your word", in **Psalm 119:81** "... I have put my hope in your word", and in **Psalm 130:5** "... in his word (The Bible) I put my hope".

HERE IS REAL HOPE. When a person reads the Word of God (Bible) they can know for certain that they have a secure and certain future for God will never allow us to suffer beyond our capabilities to trust Him to give us His strength to handle it. (**Phil 4:13**) There is nothing on this earth more certain than hope in God. He will never leave us nor will He ever forsake us. He is our anchor in the present and for the future.

REDEMPTIVE HOPE

"Put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption." **Psalm 130:7**

If you are a believer you can rest assured that God's love is unfailing and He will deliver us in the days of calamity. He has rescued the born-again believers from certain judgment and promised (**2 Peter 1:4, Jeremiah 29:11, Matt 11:29-29, Isaiah 40:29-31, Phil 4:19, Romans 8:37-39, Prov 1:33, John 14:27, Romans 10:9, Romans 6:23**) us an eternal home with Him. Instead of using ink, God has signed this redemption with Jesus' own blood, which seals you permanently. When our hope is in the Lord and not in us, it is a rock solid hope.

GIFT OF HOPE

For you have given me hope. **Psalm 119:49**

We know that there is always hope when we trust in God for He has given us His Holy Spirit to seal us as we read in **Ephesians 1:13**, "And you also were included in

Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”

FUTURE HOPE

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11***

God has plans for you. You can bank on that. His plans are not intended to harm you but to prosper you. Now this does not mean that He plans to make you rich but He does plan for you to have a secure future. God says that He has plans for you and He knows them even if we do not. Your stockbroker or financial adviser might have plans for you too, but they do not know the future, they may try to plan for a secure future but they do not have the ability to bring it about. God knows your future and is planning it better than anyone else can ever ourselves.

UNENDING HOPE

*Put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. **Psalm 131:3***

Hope is for now, it is for today, and it is for tomorrow too. Jesus clearly tells Christians that He will never leave us, never forsake us, and will never, ever cast us away (**John 6:37**). This promise is for tomorrow morning, next week, and next year. This hope is the believer's hope that covers their entire life. It is without end and will stay with us until Jesus comes for us.

LOVELY HOPE

*The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. **Psalm 147:11***

I am a father and grandfather. My children have troubles. They come to me for advice. I am always offering them hope that all things will work out for their best despite what today may seem like (**Romans 8:28**). I delight when they come to me with their troubles. So too does the Lord delight when we put our hope in Him and His unfailing love. He wants us to depend upon Him for everything. He delights to give us the desires of our hearts when they line up with His. (**Psalm 37:4**).

UNASHAMED HOPE

*No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame... **Psalm 25:3***

If we have our hope in the right place that is not in our jobs, our circumstances, and ourselves but in God alone, we will never be disappointed. We will never be ashamed for placing our hope in Him because He has the power to deliver us out of all our troubles. We do not possess that power. Our 401K does not have such power. God owns the whole earth, He owns every animal in the forest, and He is the owner of the cattle on a thousand hills as **Psalm 50:10-11** says, “*for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.*”

GUIDING HOPE

*Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long. **Psalm 25:5***

We are finite creatures and cannot look beyond today but God has planned every step we take. He guides us and protects us, even in areas where the dark shadows of death seem imminent in the lowest valleys (**Psalm 23**). We might plan our own course but God Himself determines where our steps go (**Proverbs 16:9**).

COURAGEOUS HOPE

*Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD. **Psalm 31:24***

If we are not a believer, then we have only hope in this world and among men and are most miserable. But if we are Christians, then we can take heart and be courageous because God is our hope. When God is your hope you have a sure thing. When it is in the world, then we are consumed with worry because we don't know what comes next. Those who have hope in God have hope in the only One Who can guarantee our future.

REVERENT HOPE

*But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, **Psalm 33:18***

When we hear the words "fear in the Lord" or "those who fear him" this is not a fear of punishment or retribution. Fear is simply a reverential respect and standing in awe of God. That is what "fear of the Lord" means. It means that those who reverence God and His name have nothing to fear at all; no evil, no pestilence, no begging for bread, and no fear of want. His unfailing love is upon those that fear or revere Him: His love never fails and His eyes are fixed on you in a permanent gaze that is transfixed upon your today and your tomorrow. You are the apple of His eye (**Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8**).

PROTECTIVE HOPE

*We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. **Psalm 33:20***

Our hope in God is a shield of life. Not only a shield in eternal life but in the present life. He is our help when we need it and our shield when we need protecting. God alone is our help and our shield.

SOVEREIGN HOPE

*But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You. **Psalm 39:7***

When we look to ourselves, our employer, our retirement fund, or our inheritance, we cannot fully hope with 100% certainty. But what do we look for when our Hope is in God? We know that even our employer's decisions are in God's sovereign hands. **Proverbs 21:1** says, "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes." The king thinks he might be in charge, or the boss might think he or she is making their own decision, but in God's

sovereignty, they do nothing that is not in God's divine plan for us. They are subject to the Lord's will whether they know it or not.

PRAISEWORTHY HOPE

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. Psalm 42:11

(These are repeated in **Psalm 42:5** and **Psalm 43:5**)

Here the Psalmist examines his own heart in asking, Why am I so downcast? Why am I so disturbed? When really he has no reason to be because when hope is in God we have reason to praise our Savior and our God. If you do not know Christ, then I would agree that there is every good reason to be downcast, to be depressed, and to be so disturbed. The world is the most uncertain place to live in today above any other day but not so for those whose hope is in God.

RESTFUL HOPE

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. Psalm 62:5

I have often times wrestled with tomorrow while I lay down to sleep. The many "what ifs" haunt my mind and do not allow me to sleep as I rehearse the day's events and worry about what happens tomorrow if.... But worrying about tomorrow is borrowing trouble from tomorrow and spending it on today. When you realize that tomorrow is already taken care of by God alone and the hope you have in Him, then you can find rest. It is easier to sleep tonight if you know tomorrow is in God's hands.

HOPE IN GOD BIBLE VERSES

If you are feeling hopeless and worried about tomorrow, next week, or even next year read the rest of these verses and see how far having hope in God goes:

Psalm 65:5 *You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.*

Psalm 69:6 *May those who hope in You not be disgraced because of me, O Lord...*

Psalm 71:14 *But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise You more and more.*

Psalm 71:5 *For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.*

Psalm 9:18 *But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.*

Romans 12:12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

Psalm 9:18 *But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.*

Job 11:18 *You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.*

Psalm 33:18 *But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love.*

Psalm 33:22 *May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in You.*

Psalm 119:74 *May those who fear You rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in Your word.*

FOR A CERTAIN FUTURE!

If you are not a born-again Christian then you have no hope in this present world. Your future is uncertain and you have no idea what tomorrow may bring. Decide right here and now, at this very moment, to fix your hope on the rock-solid promises of God and all of these verses can be literally claimed by you. It is a promise from God Himself. Today is your day of salvation (**2 Corinthians 6:2**). Here is how you can have a living, breathing hope. Even if you have to print this out and read this on your knees, or you have to read it out aloud right now, I ask that you would receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior today. Do it right now and you have the assurance of hope in God for today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

- **I Admit** that I am a sinner and in need of a Savior (**Romans 6:23**)
- **I Abandon** self-effort and realize I can not be saved by my works or efforts (**Acts 16:31**)
- **I Accept** freely Christ's payment for my sins, required of the Father (**John 3:16**)
- **I Acknowledge** Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior (**Acts 4:12**)

If you have just received Jesus, you have now received God's inheritance rights since you are now a son or daughter of His and can never be lost again & live forever (**John 10:28-29**). Now, join a Bible-believing church.

TEST - CHAPTER ONE
HOPE IN GOD IN HOPELESS TIMES

1. What are the troubles of our present times that we are living in?

2. In which economy is there little to hope for?

3. In the future however God is never what?

4. God knows what?

5. Are you are the only one that has felt that there is no hope?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Even Bible heroes had their times when they wanted to give up. Name these Bible heroes.

7. Do humans have definitions of hope that are different from God's?
Yes _____ No _____
8. But the biblical definition of hope is not a hope-so but what?

9. Our hope in God is surer than what?

10. Where is hope found?

11. What do we find written in **Psalm 119:81**?

12. How can someone know for certain that they have a secure and certain future for God?

13. There is nothing on this earth more certain than what?

14. He will never _____ nor will He ever _____.
15. He is our anchor in _____ and for _____.
16. Where in scripture do we find, *“Put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption?”*

17. If you are a believer you can rest assured that God’s love is _____ and He will deliver us in the days of _____.
18. He has _____ the born-again believers from certain _____ and _____ us an _____ home with _____.
19. Instead of using ink, God has signed this redemption with what?

20. What does Jesus’ own blood do for us?

- What does the word “Permanently” mean to you?

21. When our hope is in the _____ and not in _____, it is a rock _____ hope.
22. What does **Psalm 119:49** say?

23. We know that there is always hope when we trust in God. Why is this?

24. **Ephesians 1:13** says, *“And you also were _____ in Christ when you _____ the word of _____, the Gospel of your salvation. Having _____, you were _____ in Him with a _____, the promised _____.”*

25. For I _____ the _____ I have for _____, declares the _____, plans to prosper _____ and not to harm _____, plans to give _____ hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11**

What does the word "Prosper" mean to you?

26. Who does God have plans for?

27. Your _____ or _____ adviser might have plans for you too, but they do not know the _____, they may _____ to plan for a secure future but they do not have the _____ to bring it _____. God knows your future and is planning it better than anyone else ever could, even us.

28. What does **Psalm 131:3** say?

29. Hope is for _____, it is for _____, and it is for _____ too.

30. Where do we find in scripture Jesus clearly telling Christians that He will never leave us, never forsake us, and will never, ever cast us away?

31. This promise is for tomorrow _____, next _____, and next _____.

32. This hope is the believer's hope that covers _____ _____ _____.

33. It is without _____ and will _____ with us until _____ comes for _____.

34. Where in scripture do we find written, *The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love?*

35. What does **Romans 8:28** say?

36. What does the Lord delight in?

37. He wants us to _____ upon Him for _____. He _____ to give us the _____ of our hearts when they _____ with His.

38. Where in scripture do we find written, "No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame...?"

39. When we have our hope in the right place that is not in our _____, our _____, and _____ but in God _____, we will never be _____.

40. We will never be ashamed for what?

41. _____ owns the whole earth and _____ owns every animal in the forest, and _____ is the owner of the cattle on a thousand hills.

42. What does **Psalm 50:10-11** say?

43. *Guide me in Your _____ and _____ me, for You are God _____ Savior, and _____ hope is in You _____ day long.*

44. We are _____ creatures and cannot look beyond _____ but God has planned _____ step we take.

45. He _____ and _____, even in areas where the dark shadows of death seem imminent in the lowest valleys.

46. We might plan our own course but what does God Himself do?

What does the word "Determines" mean to you?

47. Where do we find the verse that goes with question 46?

48. What does **Psalm 31:24** say?

49. If we are not a believer, then we have only hope in this _____ and among _____ and are most miserable.

50. But if we are Christians, then we can take heart and be courageous because of what?

51. When God is your hope what do you have?

What do the words "Sure Thing" mean to you?

52. When our hope is in the world, then what?

53. Those who have hope in God have hope in what?

54. Where in scripture do we find written, "*But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love?*"

55. When we hear the words "fear in the Lord" or "those who fear him" this is _____ a _____ or _____.

56. Fear is simply what?

57. What does the "fear of the Lord" mean?

58. There will be no _____, no _____, no _____, and no _____. His unfailing love is upon those that fear or revere Him: His love never fails and His eyes are fixed on you in a permanent gaze that is transfixed upon your today and your tomorrow.

59. You are the apple of His eye. Where in scripture do we find this?

_____ and _____

60. Where in scripture do we find written, "*We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.*"

61. Our hope in God is a shield of what?

62. Not only a shield in _____ life but in the _____ life. He is our help when we need it and our shield when we need protecting.

63. God alone is our _____ and our _____.

64. What does **Psalm 39:7** say?

65. When we look to _____, our _____, our _____, or our _____, we cannot fully hope with 100% certainty.

66. **Proverbs 21:1** says, "The _____ heart is like channels of water in the _____ of the LORD; _____ turns it wherever _____ wishes." The _____ thinks he might be in charge, or the _____ might think he or she is making their own decision, but in God's sovereignty, they do nothing that is not in God's divine plan for us.

67. Who are subject to the Lord's will whether they know it or not?

68. *Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. (Psalm 42:11).* Where is this repeated in scripture?

69. Here the _____ examines his own heart in asking, Why am I so _____? Why am I so _____?

Define the words "Douncast and Distressed".

70. The _____ is the most _____ place to live in today above any other day but not so for those whose _____ is in God.

71. *Find _____, O my _____, in _____ alone; my _____ comes from Him. Psalm 62:5*

72. What haunts my mind and does not allow me to sleep as I rehearse the day's events and worry about what happens tomorrow if....?

73. But _____ about tomorrow is borrowing trouble from tomorrow and _____ it on today. When you realize that tomorrow is already taken care of by God alone and the hope you have in Him, then you can find rest.

74. It is easier to sleep tonight if you what?

75. If you are not a born-again Christian then you have no hope in this present world. Your future is uncertain and you have no idea what tomorrow may bring. Decide right here and now, at this very moment, to fix your hope on the rock-solid promises of God and all of these verses can be literally claimed by you. It is a promise from God Himself. Today is your day of salvation (**2 Corinthians 6:2**). Here is how you can have a living, breathing hope. Even if you have to print this out and read this on your knees, or you have to read it out aloud right now, I ask that you would receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior today. Do it right now and you have the assurance of hope in God for today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

I Admit _____

I Abandon _____

I Accept _____

I Acknowledge _____

- **Once you have completed the questions, re-read the questions with your answers and then share what you have learned with your pastor and/or close friend •**

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER TWO

SIN...

How BIG Is IT? (2)

By: Don Stewart

www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_82.cfm

WHAT IS SIN AND WHERE DID IT ORIGINATE?

Why is sin a big deal? If we don't understand how HUGE sin is, we may never understand or appreciate how HUGE forgiveness and Salvation is.

IF SIN'S NOT A BIG DEAL, WHY WOULD JESUS NEED TO DIE ON THE
CROSS?

When sin is HUGE, so is what Jesus did on and after the cross.

It took a GREAT GOD to conquer great sin! Sin caused a curse to be put upon the earth and all of creation. No great sin, no need for a great God! **ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. (Romans 3:23)**

The lie that Satan is selling to the world today is there is no great sin; they are all little things that should be overlooked. There is only grey, not black and white. This is not true!

HERE IS THE STORY OF ORIGINAL SIN...

THE ORIGIN OF SIN CAME FROM LUCIFER - SATAN

Sin started with Lucifer (today known as the Devil or Satan). God created all the angels and Lucifer was the most beautiful of all. He was to lead all of the heavens in worship and praise of God. Then Satan was cast out of heaven for wanting to be God.

Isaiah 14:12-17 says:

*12 How you have fallen from heaven,
You star of the morning, son of the dawn!*

You have been cut down to the earth,

You who defeated the nations!

13 But you said in your heart,

'I will ascend to heaven;

I will raise my throne above the stars of God,

And I will sit on the mount of assembly

In the recesses of the north.

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High.'

15 Nevertheless you will be brought down to Sheol,

To the recesses of the pit.

16 Those who see you will stare at you,

They will closely examine you, saying,

'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,

Who shook kingdoms,

17 Who made the world like a wilderness

And overthrew its cities,

Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'

In Ezekiel 28:11-19 it says, *Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD":*

*"You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

*You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

*You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

*You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.*

*By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;
Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,*

From the midst of the fiery stones.

*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.*

*You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;
Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you,
And I turned you to ashes upon the earth
In the sight of all who saw you.*

*All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror,
And shall be no more forever." (Ezekiel 28:11-19).*

Satan was a cherub and his position was to guard the very throne of God. His position was that of protecting the holiness of God. Satan had the highest of all positions, a position which he despised and lost. We have here in Ezekiel a picture of the highest of God's creatures, perfect in wisdom, beautiful beyond description, a musician and on top of all that, he was given this high, exalted position. But this creation, with all of these wonderful attributes also had a free will. One day, God says to this marvelous creature, "*Iniquity was found in you.*"

What kind of iniquity was found of Satan? In the book of Ezekiel, God lets us see the origin and the creation of Satan. Look at **Isaiah 14:12**, which tells us of Satan's choice. "*I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon; I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.*"

Did you notice in this all of the "I will statements?" He said he would exalt his throne above the stars of God. The word "stars" here does not refer to what we see in the night sky. It refers to the angels of God. In other words, "I will take over heaven; **I will be God.**" This was Satan's sin and that was the iniquity that was found in him. He does not want to be God's servant. He does not want to do what he was created to do. He wants to be served and there are millions who have chosen to serve him. They have listened to his lies and chosen not to follow God. Eve believed the lie that she would be like God if she would eat the forbidden fruit. The reason Satan tempted Eve with being like God was because it was the very thing he wanted -- to be God.

EVE AND ADAM'S SIN

So sin started with Lucifer who's known as Satan and the Devil. Satan then lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden and we find this is **Genesis 2:9** where it says, "*And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and*

good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Here is where it all began for mankind. Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It tells from creation forward and in chapters 2 and 3 we see the story of creation and the introduction of sin on the Earth.

THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

1 *So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts (inhabitants). 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested (ceased creating) on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it [as His own, that is, set it apart as holy from other days], because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and done.*

4 *This is the history of [the origin of] the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day [that is, days of creation] that the [Lord God made the earth and the heavens— 5 no shrub or plant of the field was yet in the earth, and no herb of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground, 6 but a mist (fog, dew, vapor) used to rise from the land and water the entire surface of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body and spirit]. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden (oasis) in the east, in Eden (delight, land of happiness); and He put the man whom He had formed (created) there. 9 And [in that garden] the Lord God caused to grow from the ground every tree that is desirable and pleasing to the sight and good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the [experiential] knowledge (recognition) of [the difference between] good and evil.*

10 *Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four [branching] rivers. 11 The first [river] is named Pishon; it flows around the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 The gold of that land is good; bdellium (a fragrant, valuable resin) and the onyx stone are found there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the entire land of Cush [in Mesopotamia]. 14 The third river is named Hiddekel (Tigris); it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

15 *So the Lord God took the man [He had made] and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely (unconditionally) eat [the fruit] from every tree of the garden; 17 but [only] from the tree of the knowledge (recognition) of good and evil you shall not eat, otherwise on the day that you eat from it, you shall most certainly die [because of your disobedience].”*

18 *Now the Lord God said, “It is not good (beneficial) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him.” 19 So the Lord God formed out of the ground every animal of*

the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** And the man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for Adam there was not found a helper [that was] suitable (a companion) for him. **21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. **22** And the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He made (fashioned, formed) into a woman, and He brought her and presented her to the man.

23 Then Adam said,
"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed or embarrassed.

THE FALL OF MAN

GENESIS CHAPTER 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, **3** except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God said, 'You shall not eat from it nor touch it, otherwise you will die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die! **5** For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], and you will be like God, knowing [the difference between] good and evil." **6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise and insightful, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked; and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool [afternoon breeze] of the day, so the man and his wife hid and kept themselves hidden from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to Adam, and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** He said, "I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." **11** God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten [fruit] from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me—she gave me [fruit] from the tree, and I ate it." **13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled and deceived me, and I ate [from the forbidden tree]."

14 *The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all the cattle,
And more than any animal of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And dust you shall eat
All the days of your life.*

15 *“And I will put enmity (open hostility)
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed;
He shall [fatally] bruise your head,
And you shall [only] bruise His heel.”*

16 *To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth;
In pain you will give birth to children;
Yet your desire and longing will be for your husband,
And he will rule [with authority] over you and be responsible for you.”*

17 *Then to Adam the Lord God said, “Because you have listened [attentively] to the
voice of your wife, and have eaten [fruit] from the tree about which I commanded you,
saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’;
The ground is [now] under a curse because of you;
In sorrow and toil you shall eat [the fruit] of it
All the days of your life.*

18 *“Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you shall eat the plants of the field.*

19 *“By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread
Until you return to the ground,
For from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.”*

20 *The man named his wife Eve (life spring, life giver), because she was the mother of
all the living. **21** The Lord God made tunics of [animal] skins for Adam and his wife and
clothed them.*

22 *And the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us (Father, Son,
Holy Spirit), knowing [how to distinguish between] good and evil; and now, he might
stretch out his hand, and take from the tree of life as well, and eat [its fruit], and live
[in this fallen, sinful condition] forever” — **23** therefore the Lord God sent Adam away
from the Garden of Eden, to till and cultivate the ground from which he was taken.
24 So God drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He [permanently]
stationed the cherubim and the sword with the flashing blade which turned round and*

round [in every direction] to protect and guard the way (entrance, access) to the tree of life.

You might be asking yourself, why was God so angry at sin and punished Adam and Eve in such a big way? Remember, there had never been sin on the Earth and after creation, God looked at every thing and said, "It was good."

Sin caused the ground, the world and the people in the world to be under a curse because of Adam and Eve's sin. One original sin cursed the entire world! I'd say that was a big deal.

So sin came out of what was originally created without sin. Sin came through Satan in the Garden of Eden. He tempted Eve to eat and she ate and then gave to Adam the forbidden fruit that God said not to eat. And he ate too. Thus, sin was introduced into the world and it caused a curse upon it. See **Genesis 3:17**.

That changed everything and set the course for Jesus to come down from Heaven as fully man and fully God. His mission was to die on the cross and raise again conquering sin once and for all so that we can now come before God again and not be separated by sin.

Why is it so important to understand where sin came from and what sin is? If we fail to realize how sin brought a curse upon all of creation, we will never understand how the sacrifice of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins was necessary. Only when any sin is seen as huge will we ever understand how huge it was for Jesus to die on the cross and become the sin sacrifice in order to restore our relationship with God.

For sin to be fully understood it must be revealed for how big it is. To have true huge forgiveness we need to have huge sin and not small sin. Sin damaged everything but Jesus restores everything to those who trust and believe on Him.

SIN HAS NOT BECOME LESS WITH TIME...
IT'S AS BIG NOW AS IT'S EVER BEEN!

The Original Sin was HUGE and the sin today is just as HUGE! There was God and Adam and Eve. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God.

Today we have billions of people who don't even see or seek God because sin seems so small. This is Satan's lie.

When sin is nothing Salvation is nothing and unneeded.

We never needed Salvation until sin came...but since sin did come, we all need Salvation through Jesus Christ!

SIN DID NOT CHANGE GOD...
SIN CHANGED US AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

TEST - CHAPTER TWO

SIN...

How BIG Is IT?

1. Why is sin a big deal?

2. Finish this statement. When sin is HUGE...

3. It took a GREAT GOD to do what?

4. What did sin cause a curse to be put upon?

5. Where in scripture do we find written, *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God?"*

6. What is the lie that Satan is selling to the world today?

7. Who did sin start with?

8. Lucifer was to lead all of the heavens in what?

9. Why was Lucifer (Satan) cast out of heaven?

10. Where in scripture do we find written, *"How you have fallen from heaven,
You star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who defeated the nations!
But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.*

*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
 I will make myself like the Most High.'
 Nevertheless you will be brought down to Sheol,
 To the recesses of the pit.
 Those who see you will stare at you,
 They will closely examine you, saying,
 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
 Who shook kingdoms,
 17 Who made the world like a wilderness
 And overthrew its cities,
 Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'"*

11. In **Ezekiel 28** it says, Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD": "You _____ the seal of _____, Full of _____ and perfect in _____. _____ were in Eden, the _____ of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were _____. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

12. You were _____ in your ways from the day you were created, Till _____ was found _____ you.

13. Satan was a cherub and his position was to do what?

14. Satan had the _____ of all positions.

15. We have here in Ezekiel a picture of the highest of God's _____, perfect in _____, _____ beyond description, a _____ and on top of all that, he was given this high, exalted position. But this creation, with all of these wonderful attributes also had a _____ will.

16. One day, God says to this marvelous creature, " _____ found _____."

17. What kind of iniquity was found of Satan? In the book of Ezekiel, God lets us see the origin and the creation of Satan. Look at **Isaiah 14:12**, which tells us of Satan's choice. " _____ ascend to heaven; _____ raise my throne above the stars of God; _____ sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon; _____ ascend to the tops of the clouds, _____ make myself like the Most High."

18. The word "stars" here does not refer to what we see in the night sky but refers to what?

19. He does not want to be God's _____. He does not want to ____ what he was _____ to _____. He wants to _____ and there are millions who have chosen to serve him. They have listened to his lies and chosen not to follow God. Eve believed the lie that she would be like God if she would eat the forbidden fruit.
20. What was the reason Satan tempted Eve with being like God?

21. So sin started with _____ who's known as _____ and the _____.
22. Where in the Bible do we find the verse that tells of Satan lying to Eve in the Garden of Eden?

23. Where do we find written in the Bible, *"And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?"*

24. Where in the Bible do we find the verse that tells of Satan lying to Eve in the Garden of Eden?

25. Where do we find written in the Bible, *"And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?"*

26. Where do we find written in the Bible, *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely (unconditionally) eat [the fruit] from every tree of the garden; but [only] from the tree of the knowledge (recognition) of good and evil you shall not eat, otherwise on the day that you eat from it, you shall most certainly die [because of your disobedience]"*

27. Who said in the bible, *"It is not good (beneficial) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him?"*

28. Who said in the Bible, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

29. What is the first book of the bible?

30. Where in the Bible do we find the account or the creation and the introduction of sin on the Earth?

31. Now the serpent was more crafty (_____, _____ in _____) than _____ living creature of the field which the Lord God had _____. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not _____ from any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may _____ fruit from the trees of the garden,

32. ...**3** except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God said, 'You shall not _____ from it _____, otherwise you will die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die! **5** For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], _____, knowing [the difference between] good and evil." **6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise and insightful, she took some of its fruit and _____; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and _____. **7** Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked; and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

33. The Lord God said to the serpent,

34. To the woman He said,

35. Then to Adam the Lord God said,

36. "Both _____ and _____ it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the _____. "By the _____ of your face You will eat _____ Until you return to the _____, For from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall _____."

37. You might be asking yourself, why was God so angry at sin and punished Adam and Eve in such a big way? Remember, there had never been sin on the Earth and after creation, God looked at every thing and said, "It was good."
Sin _____ ground, _____ world _____ people

38. So sin came out of what was _____ created _____ sin. Sin came through Satan, in the Garden of Eden. He tempted Eve to eat and she ate and then gave to Adam the forbidden fruit that God said not to eat. And he ate too. Thus, sin was introduced into the world and it caused a curse upon it. See **Geneses 3:17**

39. That changed _____ and set the course for _____ to come down from Heaven as fully _____ and _____ God.

40. Jesus' mission was what?

41. If we fail to realize how _____ brought a curse upon _____ of creation, we will never understand how the _____ of Jesus dying on the cross for _____ sins was _____.

42. Only when _____ sin is _____ will we ever understand how _____ it was for Jesus to _____ on the cross, rise in three days and become the sin _____ in order to _____ our relationship with _____.

43. Sin damaged everything but Jesus _____ everything to those who _____ and _____ on Him.

44. The _____ Sin was HUGE and the sin _____ is just as HUGE! There was God and Adam and Eve. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God.

45. We never needed Salvation until _____...but since sin did come, we _____ need Salvation through _____ Christ.

46. Sin did _____ change God... Sin changed _____ and our _____ with God!

THE PRINCIPLE OF SURRENDER

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker's personal story

I don't know about you, or if you have ever considered the thought of suicide, but there was a point in my life where I considered and even attempted suicide.

I was at my lowest point in life and felt that my world had crumbled down all around me. My wife told me that she did not love me any more and threw her wedding ring at me and said that I would never see my new baby again. I had been living a life of deception and lies, my drinking was completely out of control and I had very public legal problems that were front-page news of a small town in Arizona.

I loaded my 357 revolver, made a deal with God and said I'm going to put this gun in my mouth and when I pull the trigger if it goes off, then I am too messed up to mess with, but if the gun doesn't fire, then I will let you God build me back the way You want to. So I put the gun in my mouth and pulled the trigger..... it went click, no fire. I figured for sure that I was going to be dead so like the addict that I am, I pulled the trigger a second time just to test God and again the gun went click and did not fire.

By the way, on a side note, I do not suggest you ever try testing God this way or ever attempt committing suicide!

At that point I stuck the gun in my pants and finished drinking the bottle of tequila and stumbled out the back door.

Before that, I had told my two young boys Jamie and Christopher goodbye as I had really intended to end it all. It was a sickening sweet goodbye full of tears, snot, and I'm sure some drooling, as I was getting drunk out of my mind.

The boys had run to their mother's house that was not too far from mine and their mother came over. She asked me for the gun and I turn to move away and fell down the rear deck stairs that were covered with snow. The boy's mother followed and very calmly said, "Tim, you have given me two of the most important things in my life, first Christ and secondly, our two boys Jamie and Christopher". She asked for the gun and I reached to pull it out of my pants and it went off... blowing a hole in my pants (missing everything else).

The boy's mother had already called the police and I could hear the sirens in the distance so I staggered up stairs to change my pants and deny the whole thing happened. Remember, my life had been a huge lie up to then so why change things now.

The police came and took me away. I spent three days in suicide watch and met the Psychiatrist I now refer most of my clients to. God has a nasty sense of humor in things like that.

Well, when I had finally let everything go, what other people thought of me, whether I would ever see any of my children again, what would the church think...EVERYTHING.... I had surrendered all. For a split second I had experienced full surrender and total peace.

*“When I was willing to take my life...
Is when I was finally ready to give my life away.”*

I knew what it felt like when people say “I can’t take this anymore”. The hurt, the shame and the guilt are so big that you are ready to give everything up and take your life.

Thinking back to that day I realized something I had never noticed before. At that moment that I was ready to commit suicide, I had finally surrendered all.

So how about you? Have you ever been or are you right now in life’s despair? Is your life out of control? Are you at the point where you want to take your life? If so, consider this, what do you have to lose (since you are willing to give it all away anyway) by giving your life and your all to Jesus Christ?

In suicide you were not worried about what other people thought. You were not worried about anything; you were going to end it all. Why not give it all to Jesus and trust Him to build you the way He wants you.

When you surrender all to Jesus you don’t bring any of the old you with you. Remember, when you kill yourself you don’t take any of you with you right? It’s the same thing when you give your life to Christ, you don’t bring any of you with you. He has made a “New Creation”. The “Old Is Gone” and “The New Has Come”.

I urge you to trust Jesus with the freedom to build you back the way He wants to. Make it a one-on-one with Him. Build the relationship one decision, one hour, one day at a time. Enjoy the process of being able to trust someone so completely, knowing that He will never let you down and loves you unconditionally.

Right now, right where you are would you surrender all to Him and ask Jesus into your life? He’s dying for you to ☺.

It was when I was willing to take my life that I was finally willing to give my life.... I now understand the principle of surrender.

God Bless and please email me at tjp.parker@yahoo.com letting me know that you have surrendered to Jesus. We will keep you in our prayers and will forward information that will help you in the process of growing in Christ.

• Have you ever gotten to the point in life where you considered suicide? If so, what was the situation that brought you to that point?

- What was it that kept you from following through with suicide?

- If you did attempted suicide, why are you still here?

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER THREE

SIN...TRANSGRESSION...INIQUITY (3)

By: Got Questions Ministries

What is the difference between Iniquity, Sin and Transgression?

www.gotquestions.org/iniquity-sin-transgression.html

Am I repeating the same sin over and over throughout my life?

Is there a difference between sin, iniquity, and transgression?

In **Psalm 32:5** the psalmist says, *"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.'"*

In this one verse, "sin," "iniquity," and "transgression" are all mentioned.

These three words communicate the same idea: evil and lawlessness, as defined by God (see **1 John 3:4**).

Each word carries a slightly different meaning.

*Sin means, "to miss the mark." (**Romans 3:23**)*

It can refer to doing something against God or against a person (**Exodus 10:16**), doing the opposite of what is right (**Galatians 5:17**), doing something that will have negative results (**Proverbs 24:33-34**), and failing to do something you know is right (**James 4:17**). In the Old Testament, God even instituted sacrifices for unintentional sins (**Numbers 15:27**).

*Sin is the general term for anything that "falls short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**).*

Sin leads to a downward progression that, without the restoring power of the Holy Spirit, we all tend toward. The **sin nature** is present in every human being born since the Fall of Adam (**Genesis 3:6-7; Romans 5:12**). If left unchecked, **continual sin** leads to a "reprobate mind," spoken of in **Romans 1:24**. Our **sin nature** causes us to gravitate naturally toward selfishness, envy, and pride, even when we are trying to do good. The apostle Paul alluded to his propensity to **sin** when he wrote, "For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my **sinful nature**. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." (**Romans 7:18**).

The sin nature leads to trespassing.

A trespasser is someone who crosses a line or climbs a fence that he should not cross or climb.

A trespass may be intentional or unintentional.

Trespass can also mean, “to fall away after being close beside.” Peter trespassed when he denied Jesus (**Luke 22:34, 56-62**). We all “cross the line” in thought, word, or attitude many times a day and should be quick to forgive others who do the same (**Matthew 6:15**).

Transgression refers to presumptuous sin. It means “to choose to intentionally disobey; willful trespassing.”

Samson intentionally broke his Nazirite vow by touching a dead lion (**Numbers 6:1-5; Judges 14:8-9**) and allowing his hair to be cut (**Judges 16:17**); in doing so he was committing a **transgression**. David was referring to this kind of sin when he wrote, “*Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered*” (**Psalm 32:1**).

When we knowingly run a stop sign, tell a lie, or blatantly disregard an authority, we are transgressing.

Iniquity is more deeply rooted. Iniquity means “premeditated choice, continuing without repentance.”

David’s sin with Bathsheba that led to the killing of her husband, Uriah, was **iniquity** (**2 Samuel 11:3-4; 2 Samuel 12:9**). **Micah 2:1** says, “*Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.*” In David’s psalm of repentance, he cries out to God, saying, “*Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin*” (**Psalm 51:2**).

God forgives iniquity, as He does any type of sin when we repent (Jeremiah 33:8; Hebrews 8:12).

However, iniquity left unchecked leads to a state of willful sin with no fear of God. (Hebrews 10:26)

The build-up of **unrepentant sin** is sometimes pictured as a “cup of **iniquity**” is filled to the brim (**Revelation 17:4; Genesis 15:16**). This often applies to nations who have forsaken God completely. Continued **iniquity** leads to unnatural affections, which leads to a reprobate mind. **Romans 1:28-32** outlines this digression in vivid detail. The sons of Eli are biblical examples of reprobates whom God judged for their **iniquities** (**1 Samuel 3:13-14**). Rather than repent, Eli’s sons continued in their abominations until repentance was no longer possible.

Regardless of how depraved a human heart may become, Jesus’ death on the cross was more than sufficient to cover all sin!

(**John 1:29; Romans 5:18**). **Psalm 32:5**, quoted at the beginning of this article, ends with these words: “*And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*”

The only sin that God will not forgive is the final rejection of the Holy Spirit's drawing to repentance—the ultimate fruit of a reprobate mind (Matthew 12:32; Luke 12:10).

Addiction is transgression based, as it is the intentional repetitive action of rejection of Christ!

Example: A good way to see the differences between Sin, Transgression, and Iniquity is to imagine you are driving your car and an officer pulls you over. He asks you, "Do you know how fast you were going"? And you say, "no I wasn't paying attention." This would fall in line with the definition of *sin*.... It is something you did that you were not fully aware of for one reason or another. Now carry this scenario out further. You now know driving faster than the speed limit is wrong but you continue to do so... this is **transgression**. It is the intentional continuation of the original sin. One final step is iniquity. **Iniquity** would be the arrogant and flagrant speeding and even an increased speed knowing it is wrong and flagrantly disregarding the laws and rules that you know say it is wrong. This is Iniquity.

What is the unforgivable sin?

Answer: The unpardonable/unforgivable sin or "*blasphemy of the Holy Spirit*" is mentioned in **Mark 3:22-30** and **Matthew 12:22-32**. Jesus said, "*Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter*" (**Mark 3:28**), but then He gives one exception: "*Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin*" (**verse 29**).

According to Jesus, the unpardonable sin is unique. It is the one iniquity that will never be forgiven ("*never*" is the meaning of "*either in this age or in the age to come*" in **Matthew 12:32**). The unforgivable sin is blasphemy ("defiant irreverence") of the Holy Spirit in the context of the Spirit's work in the world through Christ. In other words, the particular case of blasphemy seen in **Matthew 12** and **Mark 3** is unique. The guilty party, a group of Pharisees, had witnessed irrefutable evidence that Jesus was working miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit, yet they claimed that He was possessed by the prince of demons, Beelzebul (**Matthew 12:24**; **Mark 3:30**).

The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day committed the unpardonable sin by accusing Jesus Christ (in person, on earth) of being demon-possessed. They had no excuse for such an action. They were not speaking out of ignorance or misunderstanding. The Pharisees knew that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God to save Israel. They knew the prophecies were being fulfilled. They saw Jesus' wonderful works, and they heard His clear presentation of truth. Yet they deliberately chose to deny the truth and slander the Holy Spirit. Standing before the Light of the World, bathed in His glory, they defiantly closed their eyes and became willfully blind. Jesus pronounced that sin to be unforgivable.

The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, specific as it was to the Pharisees' situation, cannot be duplicated today.

Jesus Christ is not on earth, and no one can personally see Jesus perform a miracle and then attribute that power to Satan instead of the Spirit.

The unpardonable sin today is that of continued unbelief. There is no pardon for a person who dies in his rejection of Christ.

The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, convicting the unsaved of sin, righteousness, and judgment (**John 16:8**). If a person resists that conviction and remains unrepentant, then he is choosing hell over heaven. *“Without faith it is impossible to please God”* (**Hebrews 11:6**), and the object of faith is Jesus (**Acts 16:31**). There is no forgiveness for someone who dies without faith in Christ.

God has provided for our salvation in His Son (**John 3:16**). Forgiveness is found exclusively in Jesus (**John 14:6**). To reject the only Savior is to be left with no means of salvation; to reject the only pardon is, obviously, unpardonable.

Many people fear they have committed some sin that God cannot or will not forgive, and they feel there is no hope for them, no matter what they do. Satan would like nothing more than to keep people laboring under that misconception. God gives encouragement to the sinner who is convicted of his sin: *“Come near to God and he will come near to you”* (**James 4:8**). *“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more”* (**Romans 5:20**). And the testimony of Paul is proof positive that God can and will save anyone who comes to Him in faith (**1 Timothy 1:12-17**). If you are suffering under a load of guilt today, rest assured that you have not committed the unpardonable sin. God is waiting with open arms. Jesus’ promise is that *“he is able to save completely those who come to God through him”* (**Hebrews 7:25**). Our Lord will never fail. *“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation”* (**Isaiah 12:2**).

TEST - CHAPTER THREE

SIN...TRANSGRESSION...INIQUITY

1. Is there a difference between sin, iniquity, and transgression?
Yes ____ No ____
2. In **Psalm 32:5** the psalmist says, "I acknowledged my _____ to you and did not cover up my _____. I said, 'I will confess my _____ to the LORD.'"
3. These three words communicate the same idea: _____ and _____, as defined by God (see **1 John 3:4**).
4. Each word carries a slightly _____ meaning.
5. *Sin means what?*

6. Where do we find this in scripture?

7. It can refer to doing something _____ God or against a _____ (**Exodus 10:16**)
8. Doing the _____ of what is _____ (**Galatians 5:17**)
9. Doing something that will have _____ results (**Proverbs 24:33-34**)
10. And _____ to do something you know is _____ (**James 4:17**).
11. In the Old Testament, God even instituted sacrifices for what?

12. Sin is the general term for what?

13. *Sin* leads to what?

14. The sin nature is present in what?

15. If left unchecked, continual sin leads to what?

16. Where in scripture is this reprobate mind mentioned?

17. Our sin nature causes us to gravitate naturally toward three things, name them.

18. Which Apostle alluded to his propensity to sin when he wrote, *“For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”* (**Romans 7:18**).

19. *The sin nature leads to what?*

20. A trespasser is someone who does what?

21. *“Surely _____ is my salvation; I will _____ and not be _____. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my _____ and my _____; he has become my salvation”* (**Isaiah 12:2**).

22. *A trespass may be _____ or _____.*

23. *Trespass can also mean what?*

24. Which disciple trespassed when he denied Jesus? (**Luke 22:34, 56-62**)

25. We all “cross the line” in what

26. Transgression refers to what?

27. Presumptuous sin means

28. Samson intentionally broke his Nazirite vow by doing what?

29. David was referring to this kind of sin when he wrote...

30. When we _____ run a stop sign, _____ a lie, or blatantly _____ an authority, we are _____.

31. *Iniquity* is more deeply what?

32. *Iniquity* means

33. David's sin with who led to the killing of her husband, Uriah, was iniquity (2 Samuel 11:3-4; 2 Samuel 12:9).

34. Micah 2:1 says,

35. In David's psalm of repentance, he cries out to God, saying,

36. *God forgives _____, as He does any type of _____ when we _____ (Jeremiah 33:8; Hebrews 8:12).*

37. *However, iniquity left unchecked leads to what?*

38. The build-up of unrepentant sin is sometimes pictured as what?

39. This often applies to _____ who have _____ God completely.

40. Continued iniquity leads to _____, which leads to a _____ . **Romans 1:28-32** outlines this digression in vivid detail.

41. The sons of Eli are biblical examples of what?

42. Rather than repent, Eli's sons did what?

43. Regardless of how _____ a human _____ may become, Jesus' _____ on the cross was more than _____ to cover _____ sin!

44. Which three verses end with the following words... *"And you forgave the guilt of my sin?"*

45. The only sin that God will not forgive is what?

46. What is the unforgivable sin?

47. Where is this mentioned in scripture?

48. According to Jesus, the unpardonable sin is what?

49. The Jewish _____ of Jesus' day committed the _____ sin by _____ Jesus Christ (in person, on earth) of being _____ - possessed. They had no excuse for such an action. They were not speaking out of ignorance or misunderstanding.

50. The _____ knew that Jesus was the _____ sent by God to _____ Israel.

51. The unpardonable sin today is that of _____ . There is no pardon for a person who dies in his _____ of Christ.

52. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world doing what?

53. If a person resists that conviction and remains unrepentant, then he is doing what?

54. "Without _____ it is _____ to please God" (**Hebrews 11:6**), and the _____ of faith is _____ (**Acts 16:31**).
55. There is no forgiveness for someone who dies without what?

56. God has provided for our salvation in what?

57. Forgiveness is found exclusively where?

58. To reject the only Savior is to do what?

59. Many people _____ they have committed some sin that God _____ or will not forgive, and they feel there is no _____ for them, _____ matter what they do. Satan would like nothing more than to keep people laboring under that misconception.
60. God gives encouragement to the sinner who is what?

61. Where in scripture do we find written, "Where sin increased, grace increased all the more?"

62. Who's testimony is proof positive that God can and will save anyone who comes to Him in faith (**1 Timothy 1:12-17**).

63. If you are suffering under a _____ of guilt today, rest _____ that you have not committed the unpardonable sin. God is _____ with open arms. Jesus' promise is that "He is able to save _____ those who come to God through _____" (**Hebrews 7:25**).
64. Our Lord will _____.
65. "Surely _____ is my salvation; I will _____ and not be _____. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my _____ and my _____; he has become my salvation" (**Isaiah 12:2**).

A LITTLE IS NEVER ENOUGH

By: Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

I want to tell you a story about a 5-year-old boy who was playing in a field by his home.

It was a beautiful day and this little boy had played in the field many times, but this time was different than all the others. He had hit his baseball out of his yard and into the field by his home. It was a big field with lots of room for his ball to land.

So he left his back yard and went into the field to search for his ball but the more he looked, the less he remembered where he thought he had hit it. He searched and searched but could not find his ball, so he decided to look in an area of the field that he had never been in before. He didn't think much of it, this different part of the field, as he was so close to home and had been in the other parts of the field many times. He found his ball over in the corner by a tree that had fallen on the ground, and as he reached down to pick up the ball he was struck hard with the bite of a huge rattlesnake. He did not see the snake but the snake saw him and the snake had bit him hard on his little hand and had injected a full dose of venom.

Immediately, the boy pulled his hand back from the snake and ran for home. Not knowing any better, he ran as fast as he could to get to the safety of home and his mom but by doing so, the venom was being pumped through his little veins faster and faster. He was in real trouble!

When he got home his mother could see he was in shock and holding his hand tightly against his body. She saw the bite on his little hand and that the hand had swollen to two or three times its normal size and his arm were swelling also. She dialed 911 and explained to the operator what had happened, hung up the phone and put her little son in the car and drove toward the hospital.

The 911 operator called ahead to the hospital so they were preparing for this little man when he arrived and the doctors immediately went into action. One intern took his vital signs while another hooked up the different instruments that we needed to help this young boy. Finally, the head doctor came in and looking at the his hand, arm and now upper body that had swollen and the doctor determined that only a little part of the antidote was needed to counteract the venom and save this young man's life.

So much time had passed and so much of the poison was throughout his little body that sadly, the boy died.

What a tragedy. There was enough antidote, but the doctor decided to only use part of it thinking that some would be enough.

A few days later at the little boy's funeral his father, mother and friends gathered to say there last goodbyes and the pastor gave a beautiful eulogy, and then shared the

story about the antidote saying, "If only the doctor had given the entire amount of antidote this little boy's life would have been saved."

Just at that moment, a voice rose out of the back and it was the boy's older sister. His sister stepped up to talk and share with those who had come to the funeral.

She shared something that she and the family had been embarrassed to talk about. She said, "I have been addicted to heroin for the past five years and have been in and out of treatment most of the time. My addiction has stolen the time that I desperately wanted to spend with my little brother.

Tragically, through his death I realized that I too had been taking only part of the antidote." She went on to say, "I had been trying to live the life I had lived while using heroin, but been in treatment. I wasn't using, but I still thought that using in one way or another would be ok for me... when I could control it."

"Just like my little brother, I had taken only part of an antidote. I have been trying to stop using drugs and alcohol almost from the very moment I started using but was never able to quit. I had been taught about the 12-steps and many other "tools of sobriety" including calling my sponsor, but had little to do with or any desire for the 12-Step program and particularly step-three. I was fed up with God and angry with Him for allowing my life to turn out as it had. I followed all the advise that my counselor's had given me and even attended 90 meetings in 90 days but now I realize, that doing those things was just part of the antidote. I needed the entire antidote just like my little brother did."

She went on to say, "I had been injecting poison into my body for the past five years and was still doing so by thinking that some day I would be ok and able to use a little of something or have a drink like a normie. I realized I continued to take all of the poison while only taking part of the antidote; no wonder I continued to be sick!

A while back a girlfriend of mine introduced me to a lady who had some years of sobriety and she told me this... Until I truly accept Step-3 and **make a decision to turn My will and My life over to the care of God, as best as I could understood Him**, I would be continuing to take all the poison and only part of the antidote and eventually, I would die too.

At that moment, I felt overwhelmed. I felt God like I had never felt Him before. He was so real and caring, He comforted me through this whole horrible tragedy with my little brother, and then He let me know that I would be seeing him again in Heaven for eternity." What a relief!

I'm still in treatment for my addictions and know I still have a long way on the road to recovery, but this time, I've decided to take the entire antidote and quit taking any of the poison.

The crowd cried and so did mom and dad because that day, those parents had lost one child but had found one that had been lost for years.

So my question is this, How about you?

Are you continuing to take the poison by thinking you can live the life of addiction, sin and destruction, but are only willing to take part of the antidote? The outcome is always the same, death.

We can't live a double life, and we can't serve two masters. You and I both die when we continue to take the poison and only take part of the antidote. Jesus is the true antidote that heals all hurts and all we need to do is just trust in Him and do as the sister did... turn our will and life over to the care of God. Once we do this, the Holy Spirit will help us get to know and understand God better.

If you would like to know God, all you have to do is call out to Him, and say, I give You all of me, I'm sorry for all I have done but am so thankful for all that You have done on the cross and rising from the grave for me. Please take me into Your family. Thank you Jesus.

If you would like someone to just listen or someone to talk with, please email us at tjp.parker@yahoo.com or call me at (480) 353-1125 and I would love to pray with and for you.

Remember, quit taking the poison that this world is giving and take all of the one and true antidote, Jesus the Christ.

Fact: My new pattern starts when my old pattern ends!

- **W**hat was your big take away from this story?

- **H**ave you been holding back something in your life from Jesus?

- If so, what scares you most of giving it up to Jesus?

- Will you give it to Him right now?

Yes _____ No _____

- Why or why not?

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER FOUR

SALVATION BRINGS A NEW DNA (4)

WHAT DOES 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 MEAN?

<https://www.bibleref.com/2-Corinthians/5/2-Corinthians-5-17.html>

When we accept the rescue that Jesus freely offers through the work of Holy Spirit our DNA changes to that of Christ's line in the line of David. Let me explain... Our old DNA permanently changes when we believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ! It is changed forever. We are no longer, nor could we ever be put back to the old that is dead and gone! In **2 Corinthians 5:17** it says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in (with or among) Christ, he is a new creature (a new fresh creation and not a modification of the old sin-dirty self); the old things (from the age of origin) passed away (perished and are un-retrievable); behold, new things (fresh and unworn) have come (the beginning to being anew)."*

In **Colossians 3:3-17** it says, *"³For you have died (perished), and your life (the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God) is hidden (covered over to not be seen again) with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our (your) life, is revealed (to become known, to be plainly recognized, thoroughly understood), then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵Therefore, (put to death the parts of your body which are upon the earth and its attractions (see 1 John 2:15)) treat the parts of your earthly body (physical parts such as limbs or earthly body) as dead (like that of an impotent man) to sexual immorality (adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.), impurity (in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious impure motives), passion (a feeling which the mind suffers, an affection of the mind, emotion, passion; passionate desire), evil desire (craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust), and greed (greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice), which amounts to idolatry (the worship and or sacrifice to false gods). ⁶For it is because (the grounds or reason for) of these things that the wrath (anger exhibited in punishment, hence used for punishment itself) of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience (people opposed to God), ⁷and in them you also once walked (regulated and conducted your life), when you were living (among these) in them. ⁸But now you also, rid yourselves of all of them: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie (stop lying) to one another, since you stripped off the old self (person) with its evil practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it—¹¹a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian (uncultured), Scythian (unrefined), slave, and free, but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (forbearance (self-controlled and tolerant) toward others); ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also. ¹⁴In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts (be in control); and be thankful (show yourselves thankful). ¹⁶Let the word of Christ (the Lord) richly dwell within you, with all*

wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms (singing of psalms), hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

These changes can only come spiritually and not physically by behavior modification. Spiritual is eternal where physical is temporary.

Can we do these things correctly in our own power?

This is what our new life in the Lord Jesus Christ looks like. We've surrendered all of us to Him and He then through the work of the Holy Spirit puts our old sin nature to death. We've accepted His rescue from sin and are freed from the clutches of the world. From this point on, "we" must reach out to the world of sin for it to ever have held onto us again. We can sin, but we don't have to any longer! AMEN. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we can live this totally new life in the Lord Jesus Christ!

In Paul's letter to the church of Corinth, he writes that Christ's death for sin has changed the way he regards people. It should change us too. Instead of looking at each person as a mere human being, he must view these who are in Christ as something entirely different. Those who are "in Christ" are those who have faith in Him, credited with Christ's righteous life, and their sin forgiven by Christ's death in their place. Such people are "new creatures." Those "in Christ" have become something they were not before. Their identity has changed from being the fallen version of themselves, to being associated with the righteousness of Christ. That's who we are now! In fact, the old version of a Christian, who they were before they were "in Christ," is non-recoverable. The old is gone, Paul writes. The new has come. All the old dreams and ideas and agendas and purposes have ceased to exist and have been replaced by Christ's ideas and agendas and purposes in an entirely new creature called "Christian" or "Christ follower."

Paul's words are true in another way. The old way of humanity is also gone. The old way of the law is gone. Christ is the long-promised new Covenant that makes it possible for men and women to be made new once and for all, and for eternity, with no possibility of returning to the old.

(3) <https://www.bibleref.com/2-Corinthians/5/2-Corinthians-5-17.html>

By: Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

An obstacle of a life lived for Lord Jesus Christ is the attraction of the world and its ways. **1 John 2:15** help us understand what God is saying about being a follower of Lord Jesus Christ.

I John 2:15(NIV)

I John 2:15(NIV) says "Do not *love* the *world* or anything in the world. If anyone *loves* the world, the *love* of the *Father* is not in them."

Remember, when we know what the words of the Bible mean, we will understand the Bible. If we don't know what the words mean, we will add our own definitions and miss the true meaning, thus missing the true blessing as well.

When we add the definition of the words into the verse, it reads like this...

Stop Your continuous and repetitive action and desires for finding joy in the ungodly mass of men and women alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ. These things of earthly goods, riches, advantages, pleasures etc., they are hollow, frail and fleeting but seduce you from God and are the obstacles in your life that separate you from the cause of Jesus Christ. If you continue to do these things even after being instructed not to it only reveals that the true love of God, His guiding and instructing us to not do the ungodly things anymore, is not in you. You have chosen to continue to reject God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit and to follow Satan, the evil one, ultimately following him to eternal damnation and separation from the One True God. 1John 2:15

Unbelievers want all that the world has to offer and believe that God wants them to have all that the world offers as well. A follower of Jesus believes that God is more than the entire world could ever offer because they know God and *know what the world has is only a cheap imitation. What the world offers as good can never get close to what God has proven to be GREAT.* The only way you know a counterfeit is to know the original. God is the original and the world is the counterfeit. *A follower of Jesus is a copy of the original and an unbeliever is a poor counterfeit.*

A believer follows God's Word as it is the only Word. An unbeliever believes that you can follow God's Word and still love parts of the world.

TEST - CHAPTER FOUR

SALVATION BRINGS A NEW DNA

When we accept the rescue that Jesus freely offers through the work of Holy Spirit our DNA changes to that of Christ's line in the line of David. Let me explain. Our old DNA permanently changes when we believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ! It is changed forever. We are no longer, nor could we ever be put back to the old that is dead and gone! In **2 Corinthians 5:17** it says, "Therefore, if anyone is in (with or _____) Christ, he is a new creature (a new _____ creation and not a _____ of the old sin-_____ self); the old things (from the age of _____) passed away (_____ and are un-_____); behold, new things (fresh and _____) have come (the _____ to being _____)."

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IF WE WERE ALL BORN WITH CANCER...

By: Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

Just imagine that everyone was born with cancer. There was nothing that you did to get the cancer and nothing you could do on your own to cure it. Every body gets cancer no matter what, and it kills everyone in a horrible way.

Then, one day a man comes and says, "If you will just believe me and drink this antidote you will be cured of cancer, forever." What would you do?

Well, if you didn't believe you had cancer, you'd do nothing. But, if you believed you had cancer, you'd believe him, drink the antidote and be completely cured of cancer. Not only would you be cured of cancer, the cure would bring Righteousness. Yes, the cure not only removes the cancer once and for all but it also brings with it Jesus' Righteousness. How amazing would that be? It would be awesome and eternal-life changing.

There are two things I guarantee you would do if you took the antidote. **First**, you would tell everyone how this antidote cured you from cancer. Hear me clearly, you would tell EVERYONE and not just your friends and family... and **Secondly**, you would quit living your life like you had cancer and you'd start living life with it's Righteousness. (**Romans 3:22-24**)

Your life would look so different from everyone else.

So, why is it then when people ask Jesus to forgive their sin and take over their life (take the antidote) and He does that, they are so afraid to share the cure with others? Why do people keep living like they are not cured? Is it possible that they have only told people they took the cure, but they never really did?

If they had taken the antidote they would have quit living a life of cancer!

People who continue to live like they have cancer have not taken the antidote, because if they had, their lives would have been completely changed they would be telling everyone where to get the antidote.

Jesus is the antidote; sin and rejection of Jesus is the cancer. Will you choose right now to take the antidote and be cured forever?

There is only one choice. Remember, everyone is born with cancer; they did not choose cancer, it came with birth. The only choice is either to take the cure or not. If not, they will die from cancer (sin).

I am praying your answer is YES. Take the cure of Jesus!

- **What does cancer represent in this story?**
-

- What does the antidote represent?

- Have you been holding something in your life back from Jesus?

- What death will those who reject the antidote experience at the end of life?

- What will those who accept the complete antidote experience?

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER FIVE

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN UNBELIEVER? (5)

www.Gotquestions.org/unbeliever.html

A “believer” is a child of God, born again by faith in Jesus Christ (see **Acts 2:44**); and an “unbeliever” is someone who does not believe in Jesus. In the New Testament, the Greek word *apistou* is translated “unbeliever.” Its adjective form literally means “not faithful,” and it describes someone lacking in Christ-like faith.

There is a clear distinction throughout Scripture between those who follow Christ and those who do not follow Him. The word *unbeliever* was understood to represent everything opposed to Christian faith and godliness. In **2 Corinthians 6:14-15**, Paul writes, “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?” The understanding was that those who had come to faith in Christ were in the process of continually being transformed into the image of Jesus. **Romans 8:29** says, “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;” The further along they were in trusting their lives to Jesus, the fewer similarities they had with unbelievers.

In regards to *salvation*, the word *believe* always implies far more than mental agreement with truth. **John 3:16** says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. **John 14:1** says, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **John 3:23** says, “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”

Satan and the demons know more than any of us regarding the facts and truth about Jesus, the meaning of His death and resurrection, and the truth of Scripture. Look at **James 2:19**. “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” To believe for salvation requires more than that. **Romans 10:10** says, “...for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

A believer is one who has transferred ownership of his life and future to the lordship of Jesus. Jesus said, “You are my friends if you do what I command you” **John 15:14**. So a believer, in the biblical sense, is one who has responded to God’s calling and chosen Jesus as the Lord and Master of his or her life. A believer looks to Jesus alone for salvation from sin and hell (**John 14:6; Matthew 10:28; Romans 10:13**). By the same token, an unbeliever is someone who has not allowed Jesus to be the Lord and Master of his or her life. Religious-sounding words may have been spoken, but if the heart has not changed, it is not saving faith. **Matthew 7:21-23** says, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and

in Your name perform many miracles?’²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ The person claiming salvation while lacking evidence of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is still functionally an unbeliever.

When Scripture compares *believers with unbelievers*, it highlights the lifestyle differences. Believers are to be known by their love mentioned in **John 13:35**, their holiness mentioned in **1 Peter 1:15**, and their desire to be like Christ spoken of in **Ephesians 4:15**. According to the whole of Scripture, **it is not possible to be a true believer and continue the ungodly lifestyles** that warranted God’s wrath in the first place. Check out **Ephesians 5:5-7**. This is due to the fact that salvation results in a new nature (see our study in the previous chapter on **2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 3:13-17**). Just as a fish cannot remain on land for long due to its nature, so born-again hearts cannot remain in sin for long due to their new nature.

1 John 3:6 spells it out quite clearly: *“No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.”* Then **verses 8–10** clarify it even further: *“The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.”* The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: **“Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.”** (1 John 3:10)

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (**Hebrews 11:6**); therefore, unbelievers cannot please God. **They are still dead in their transgressions and sins** (**Ephesians 2:1**). Unbelievers still bear the full weight of all their sin, and the *“wrath of God remains on them,”* see **John 3:36**. They must be reconciled to God through Christ. **Romans 5:10** says, *“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* Faith makes all the difference. Only through faith and surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ can unbelievers become believers.

TEST - CHAPTER FIVE

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN UNBELIEVER?

1. A “*believer*” is a

2. What does **Acts 2:44** say about believers?

3. What is an “unbeliever?”

4. In the New Testament, the Greek word *apistou* is translated as?

5. Its adjective form literally means the same thing, what is it?

6. How does the word *apistou* describe someone?

7. What was the word *unbeliever* understood to represent?

8. The understanding was that those who had come to faith in Christ were what?

9. **Romans 8:29** says,

10. The further along they were in trusting their lives to Jesus, ...

11. In regards to *salvation*, the word *believe* always implies what?

12. **John 3:16** says,

13. Where in the Bible do we find written, *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me?”*

14. What does **1 John 3:23** say?

15. Satan and the demons know more than any of us regarding what three things?

16. Look at **James 2:19**. *“You _____ that God is _____. You do well; the _____ also believe, and _____.”* To believe for salvation requires more than that.

17. **Romans 10:10** says what,

18. A believer is one who has _____ ownership of his _____ and _____ to the _____ of _____. Jesus said, *“You are my friends if you do what I command you”* **John 15:14**.

19. So a believer, in the biblical sense, is what?

20. A believer looks to Jesus _____ for _____ from sin and _____ (**John 14:6; Matthew 10:28; Romans 10:13**).

21. By the same token, an _____ is someone who has _____ allowed Jesus to be the _____ and _____ of his or her life.

22. Religious-sounding _____ may have been spoken, but if the _____ has not _____, it is _____ saving _____.

23. **Matthew 7:21-23** says, "Not _____ who _____ to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will _____ the kingdom of heaven, but the one who _____ the will of My _____ who is in heaven _____ enter. ²² _____ will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not _____ in Your name, and in Your name cast out _____, and in Your name _____ many _____?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I _____ knew you; _____ ME, YOU WHO _____ LAWLESSNESS.'
24. The person _____ salvation while lacking _____ of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is still functionally an _____.
25. When Scripture compares *believers with unbelievers* it does something to the differences. What is it?

26. Believers are to be known by their _____ mentioned in **John 13:35**, their _____ mentioned in **1 Peter 1:15**, and their _____ spoken of in **Ephesians 4:15**.
27. According to the whole of Scripture, what does it say about a true believers lifestyle?

28. This is due to the fact that salvation results in what?

29. Just as a fish cannot remain on land for long due to its _____, so _____ - _____ hearts cannot remain in _____ for long due to their _____ nature.
30. **1 John 3:6** spells it out quite clearly: "No _____ who _____ in Him _____ on _____. No one who _____ to sin has either seen Him or _____ Him."
31. Then **verses 8-10** clarify it even further: "The one who _____ what is _____ is of the _____, because the devil has been sinning from the _____."
32. The reason the Son of God appeared was to _____ the _____.
33. No one who is born of God will continue to sin... Why?

34. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

_____ (1 John 3:10)

35. "Without _____ it is impossible to please _____" (Hebrews 11:6);

36. Therefore, unbelievers _____ please God. They are still _____ in their transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2:1).

37. Unbelievers still _____ the full _____ of all their _____, and the "_____ of God _____ them," see John 3:36.

38. Unbelievers must be reconciled to God through whom?

39. Where in the Bible do we find it to say, "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life?"

40. _____ makes all the difference. Only through _____ and _____ to the lordship of _____ Christ can _____ become _____.

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER SIX

WHAT MUST A PERSON BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE SAVED? (6)

By. John Piper

www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-must-someone-believe-in-order-to-be-saved

Paul says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." He says, "If you **confess with your lips** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead you will be saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

So let's look at what the Bible says and begin at the core—

1. Why did God raise Jesus from the dead??
 - a. **He died for our sins** "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) which means
2. I must **believe I am a sinner**
 - a. A person that doesn't believe he is a sinner can't be saved. If there is nothing to forgive, Jesus didn't do anything for me. If He didn't do anything for me, I won't believe in Him for salvation. If I don't believe in Him for salvation, then I'm not saved. **So you must believe you are a sinner.**
 - b. You must **believe that there is a God** who has created the possibility for sin. That is, sin by definition is falling short of the expectations of your Creator. So there has to be a Creator God out there Who has expectations of humans. God expects humans to trust Him, love Him and live for Him. And we fail.
3. Because we fail to trust, love and live for God we are under His holy judgment—His wrath.
 - a. You must believe that if you are a sinner and there is a holy God, and if you are defining sin as a falling short of what God expects, then in order to understand what He is doing to make things right, you must understand that God is angry about sin, but not about us. He is a good and just judge.
 - b. So, what has He done to solve the problem of our separation from Him? **He has sent his Son into the world.**
 - i. You must **believe in the deity of Jesus**. Psalm 49 says that no man can pay a ransom for another man. A few verses later, in **verse 15**, it says God will pay the ransom. He couldn't have used John, or Peter or Paul to die for us. He had to have the God-man Jesus die for us. So the deity of Jesus is essential.
 - ii. You also must acknowledge what Jesus did.
 1. He lived a perfect, sinless life. I don't think you can believe that Jesus sinned and still be saved. Because then the sacrifice He made for you was not what God required, and you aren't believing in what God did for you.

2. So **Jesus is the sinless Son of God** and He gives Himself up to die in my place.
 3. This substitutionary dimension of the **death of Christ for my sins** is necessary.
 4. **Jesus Christ, the only Son of God**, Who never sinned took my place and took the wrath of God for me. He died in my place.
4. If He had stayed dead, we would still be in our sins. So you must **believe He rose from the dead**. So now He has risen from the dead.
- a. But if someone asks, "What do I have to believe to be saved?" The answer is you must believe this cluster of things about yourself, about God, and about the cross.
 - b. One more thing. Since we are asking, "What do I have to believe?" we should make clear that you have to believe something about belief. Meaning, **you must believe that belief is required**. If you say, "I get all of what was said, but now I'm going to work so that God can make all of this count for me. I'm going to keep the law 85% so that all this redemptive work will count for me," then you've missed it. You're not saved.
 - c. For salvation you must **believe that instead of working for this salvation, Jesus has already done what needed to be done**. We simply acknowledge it and receive it. "*As many as received him, who believed in his name, he gave them the right to become the children of God.*" (**John 1:12**) So, here's the progression... **sin-God-Jesus-cross-death-resurrection and faith**.

So, if you have not done these things or do not believe these things, do you want to? If so, then pray this prayer to God your Father expressing it.

Heavenly Father, I agree with you: I am a sinner. I believe You sent Your one and only Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and die in my place for my sins and the sins of the world. I believe through His death on the cross that the penalty for my sin was removed and that on the third day Jesus rose from the grave. I believe that my faith in Jesus and all He's done makes all this count for me. Thank you, Father, for saving me and making me Your child. Amen.

TEST - CHAPTER SIX
WHAT MUST A PERSON BELIEVE
IN ORDER TO BE SAVED?

1. Who said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved?"

2. He says, "If you _____ with your _____ that Jesus is _____ and _____ in your _____ that God raised Him from the _____ you _____ be saved." **(Romans 10:9-10)**
3. Why did God raise Jesus from the dead?

_____ **(Romans 3:23)**
4. I must believe I am what?

5. A person that doesn't believe he is a sinner _____.
6. If there is nothing to _____, Jesus didn't do _____ for me. If He didn't do anything for _____, I won't _____ in Him for _____. If I don't believe in Him for _____, then I'm not _____. So _____ must _____ you are a _____.
7. You must believe that there is a _____ who has _____ the possibility for _____.
8. Sin by definition is what?

9. So there has to be what?

10. God expects what from humans?

11. Because we fail to trust, love and live for God we are under what?

12. You must believe that if you _____ a sinner and there _____ a holy God, and if you _____ defining sin as a _____ _____ of what God

- _____, then in order to understand what He is doing to make things right, you must understand that God is _____ about _____, but _____ about _____. He is a good and just _____.
13. So, what has He done to solve the problem of our separation from Him?

14. You must believe in what?

15. What does **Psalm 49** say?

16. In **verse 15 of Psalm 49**, it says what?

17. He couldn't have used _____, or _____ or _____ to die for us. He had to have the _____-man _____ die _____ us.
18. So the deity of Jesus is _____.
19. You also must acknowledge what?

20. Jesus lived a _____, _____ life.
21. You can believe that Jesus _____ and still be _____. Because then the sacrifice He made for you was not what God required, and you aren't believing in what God did for you.
22. So Jesus is the _____ of God and He _____ Himself up to die in _____ place.
23. This _____ dimension of the death of Christ for my sins is _____.
24. Jesus Christ, the _____ Son of God, Who _____ sinned took _____ place and took the _____ of God for _____. He died in _____ place.
25. If He had stayed dead, what would have happened?

26. So you must believe He rose from what?

27. So now He has risen from the dead. If someone asks, "What do I have to believe to be saved?" The answer is?

28. "What do I have to *believe*?" we should make clear that you have to believe something about what?

29. You must believe that _____ is _____.

30. If you say, "I get all of what was said, but now I'm going to work so that God can make all of this count for me. I'm going to keep the law _____ so that all this redemptive work will _____ for me," then you've _____ it. You're _____ saved. The law and doing is not what saves you. It is the result of being saved!

31. Where is it written, "*As many as received him, who believed in his name, he gave them the right to become the children of God?*"

32. So, here's the progression...

33. Pray this prayer and believe what you are praying and scripture says you shall be saved. Jesus will be your Savior and your Lord and Master! Heavenly Father, __ agree with ____: __ am a _____. _____. You sent Your one and _____ Son Jesus to earth to live a _____ life and die in _____ place for _____ sins and the sins of the _____. I believe through _____ death on the cross that the penalty for _____ sin was _____ and that on the _____ day Jesus rose from the _____. I believe that _____ faith in _____ and all _____ done makes all this count for _____. I want Him to be my _____, Lord and _____ of my life from today forward. Thank _____, Father, for saving _____ and making _____ Your _____. Amen.

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES _____ NO _____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER SEVEN

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A BELIEVER TO UN-BELIEVE? (7)

By: Jaya Mahesh

<https://pjera.com/questions/possible-believer-unbelieve/>

The question of whether a believer can become an unbeliever usually arises in an attempt to explain puzzling situations involving people we know. Someone who at one time made a profession of faith denies the faith. By all outward appearances, he was a believer involved in church life and perhaps even in ministry. So what happened? Is this a case of a believer becoming an unbeliever?

There are a number of possibilities that are often suggested.

1. The *first possibility* is to affirm that these people were and still are saved, born again, made part of the Body of Christ, and indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Since God's salvation is irreversible, once a person has been saved, he will always be saved regardless of any future state of unbelief or disobedience. It seems that parents often take comfort in this idea, for even though a child may be walking far from the Lord, the parent holds on to a specific time and place where the child "accepted Christ."
2. The *second possibility* is to agree that these people were once true believers but that, when they stopped believing, they lost their salvation. All of God's blessings have been reversed. The former believers have become unbelievers and unsaved.
3. The *third possibility* is that, although these people may have given outward signs of having genuine faith, their subsequent choices and statements reveal that they were never true believers. No matter what they say, they were never born again and sealed by the Spirit. True believers may experience times of doubt, uncertainty, disobedience, and momentary unbelief, but they will never renounce their faith. This idea is known as *the perseverance of the saints*—all who are truly saved will persevere (continue) in their faith, kept by the power of God. *We can only know if a "decision for Christ" was genuine by the fruit that it produced.* This is the approach that is most supported by Scripture.

Scripture and history are filled with examples of people who made an initial positive response to Christ only to fall away later. In *the parable of the sower and the seed*, some of the seed sprung up quickly, only to wither away or be choked out by weeds. *"As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful"* (Matt 13:20-22). But the seed (the Gospel) sown on good soil brings forth fruit for harvest.

In the initial stages, it might be very difficult to tell which plants will make it or not. ***Time reveals the truth.***

In **John 6**, Jesus calls himself the Bread from Heaven and makes some statements that were very hard to understand. **Verse 66** says, “*After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.*” There were people who had identified themselves as followers of Jesus, but they turned back when Jesus said something they disliked. It was not that they lost salvation; they never had it to begin with, and this incident is what showed their true colors.

Next in **John 6**, Jesus comments on Peter and Judas Iscariot. “Jesus said to the twelve, ‘*Do you want to go away as well?*’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.*’ Jesus answered them, ‘*Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.*’ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him” (**verses 67–70**). At the time Jesus spoke those words, Peter and Judas *looked* very much alike—both were disciples. On the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter and Judas *looked* very much alike—both denied the Lord. A few days later, however, they *showed* themselves to be very different. Judas, overcome with remorse, did not seek repentance and forgiveness but committed suicide (**Matthew 27:5**). Peter was filled with shame and wept (**Matthew 26:75**). Three days later Peter is still with the disciples and becomes an Apostle of the Risen Lord.

Neither Judas nor Peter lost his salvation. Judas’ true nature was that of an unbeliever. He liked Jesus well enough and dabbled with faith for a while, but he never really believed—we might say *he only pretended to be a believer*. Judas was the treasurer for the disciples, and **John 12:26** tells us that he was dipping into the money for himself. Peter, on the other hand, for a short period of time, “pretended” to be an unbeliever, but over the course of time his true, redeemed nature showed itself.

1 John directly addresses the issue of professing believers who seem to become unbelievers. Some false teachers, who had appeared to be true believers at one time, were troubling the church. **1 John 2:19** explains, “*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*” Although those who departed the faith had appeared to be genuine, John makes it clear that they had never actually been “of us”; one of the marks of a believer is that he “*continues with us.*” People may be able to “fake it” for a while, but they cannot sustain the part forever. Truth will out someone. **1 John 3:9** says, “*No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*” A genuine believer is kept from falling into continuous sin because he has been born of God—God keeps him safe.

A true believer may fall into disobedience and struggle with doubt, but a true believer will never renounce Christ. A person who has renounced Christ by his words or deeds has not lost salvation; rather, he is demonstrating that he never had

genuine faith. This is one reason why church discipline is so important. In **Matthew 18**, Jesus outlines the steps. If a person in the church sins, he should be confronted and given the chance to repent. Once all the steps in the process have been followed and there is still no repentance, then the unrepentant sinner is to be put out to the church and treated as an unbeliever (**verses 15-17**). This process is designed to get the sinner off the fence. Either he will see the error of his ways and be brought to his senses, or he will decide that the church and the Christian life are not that important and walk away—either way, church discipline allows a person’s true nature to come out.

A genuine believer can never become an unbeliever because he or she has been born again by the Spirit of God. It is not one’s faith that keeps one safe but the power of God that enables continual faith.

TEST - CHAPTER SEVEN
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A BELIEVER
TO UN-BELIEVE?

1. The question of whether a believer can become an unbeliever usually arises from what?

2. Someone who at one time made a profession of faith but then does what?

3. By all _____ appearances, he was a _____ involved in church _____ and perhaps even in _____.
4. Is this a case of a _____ becoming an _____?
5. *The first possibility* is to _____ that these people _____ and still _____ saved, born again, made _____ of the Body of Christ, and _____ and _____ by the Holy Spirit.
6. Since God's salvation is irreversible, once a person has been saved, he will _____ be saved regardless of any _____ state of _____ or _____.
7. Why is it that parents often take comfort in this idea?

8. *The second possibility* is to _____ that these people were _____ true believers but that, when they _____ believing, they _____ their salvation. All of God's blessings have been _____. The _____ believers have _____ unbelievers and unsaved.
9. *The third possibility* is that, although these people may have given _____ signs of having genuine faith, their _____ choices and _____ reveal that they were _____ true believers. _____ matter what they say, they were _____ born again and _____ by the Spirit.
10. True believers may experience times of what?

11. They will never renounce what?

12. This idea is known as what?

13. All who are truly saved will _____,
kept by the power of God.

14. We can only know if a “decision for Christ” was genuine by what?

15. This is the approach that is most supported by what?

16. Scripture and history are _____ with examples of _____
who made an initial _____ response to Christ only to
_____ away later.

17. In *the parable of the sower and the seed*, some of the seed did what?

18. *“As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who did what?”*

19. *As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who does what?”*

(Matt 13:20-22).

20. *But the seed (the Gospel) sown on good soil does what?”*

21. In the initial stages, it might be very difficult to tell what?

Time reveals the truth.

22. Where in scripture do we find written, Jesus calls himself the Bread from Heaven and makes some statements that were very hard to understand.

23. What does **Verse 66** say?

24. There were people who had identified themselves as _____ of Jesus, but they _____ back when Jesus said something they _____.
25. It was not that they _____ salvation; they _____ had it to begin with, and this incident is what _____ their _____ colors.
26. What did Jesus say to the twelve?

27. Simon Peter answered him and said what?

28. Jesus answered them, 'Did I not _____ you, the _____? And yet _____ of you is a _____.'
29. He spoke of _____, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him" **(verses 67-70)**.
30. At the time Jesus spoke those words, _____ and _____ looked very much alike
31. Both were _____.
32. On the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter and Judas *looked* very much alike. Both did what?

33. A few days later, however, they *showed* themselves to be what?

34. Judas, overcome with remorse, _____ but committed suicide **(Matthew 27:5)**.
35. Peter was filled with _____ and _____ **(Matthew 26:75)**. Three days later Peter is still with the disciples and becomes an Apostle of the Risen Lord.
36. Neither Judas nor Peter lost what?

37. Judas' true nature was that of an _____.
38. He _____ Jesus well enough and _____ with faith for a while, but he _____ really _____.

39. We might say _____. Judas was the treasurer for the disciples, and **John 12:26** tells us that he was dipping into the money for himself.
40. Peter, on the other hand, for a short period of time, “_____” to be an _____, but over the course of time his true, _____ nature showed itself.
41. **1 John** directly addresses the issue of professing believers who seem to become unbelievers. Some false teachers, who had appeared to be true believers at one time, were troubling the church. **1 John 2:19** explains, “*They went _____ from us, but they were _____ of us; for if they had been of us, they would have _____ with us. But they went _____, that it might become plain that they all are _____ of us.*”
42. Although those who departed the faith had _____ to be _____, John makes it clear that they had _____ actually been “*of us*”;
43. One of the marks of a believer is that he does what?

44. People may be able to “_____” for a while, but they cannot _____ the part forever. Truth will out someone.
45. Where is it written in scripture, “*No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*”

46. A genuine believer is kept from falling into continuous sin because _____—God keeps him safe.
47. *A true believer may fall into _____ and struggle with _____, but a true believer will never _____ Christ.*
48. A person who has renounced Christ by his words or deeds has not lost salvation; rather,

_____. This is one reason why church discipline is so important. In **Matthew 18**, Jesus outlines the steps.
49. If a person in the church sins, he should be _____ and _____.

50. Once all the steps in the process have been followed and there is still no repentance, then the unrepentant sinner is to be what?

_____ (Verses 15-17).

51. This process is designed to do what?

52. Either he will _____ the error of his ways and be brought to his _____, or he will _____ that the church and the Christian life are _____ that important and walk _____.

53. Either way, church discipline does what?

54. A genuine believer can never become an unbeliever. Why?

55. It is not one's faith that keeps one safe. What does?

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES_____ NO_____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

CHAPTER EIGHT

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH? (8)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-happens-after-death.html>

First, for the *believer* in Jesus Christ, the Bible tells us that after death believers' spirits are taken to heaven, because their sins are forgiven by having received Christ as Savior (**John 3:16, 18, 36**). For believers, death is to be "*away from the body and at home with the Lord*" (**2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23**). However, passages such as **1 Corinthians 15:50-54** and **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** describe believers being resurrected and given glorified bodies. If believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, *what is the purpose of this resurrection?* It seems that while the souls/spirits of believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, the physical body remains in the grave "sleeping." At the resurrection of believers, the physical body is resurrected, glorified, and then reunited with the soul/spirit. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the possession of believers for eternity in the new heaven and new earth (**Revelation 21-22**).

Second, for those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior or *unbeliever*, death means everlasting punishment. However, similar to the destiny of believers, unbelievers also seem to be sent immediately to a temporary holding place, to await their final resurrection, judgment, and eternal destiny. **Luke 16:22-23** describes a rich man being tormented immediately after death. **Revelation 20:11-15** describes all the unbelieving dead being resurrected, judged at the great white throne, and then being cast into the lake of fire. Unbelievers, then, are not sent to hell (the lake of fire) immediately after death, but rather are in a temporary realm of judgment and condemnation. However, even though unbelievers are not instantly sent to the lake of fire, their immediate fate after death is not a pleasant one. The rich man cried out, "*I am in agony in this fire*" (**Luke 16:24**).

Therefore, after death, a person resides in a "temporary" heaven or hell. After this temporary realm, at the final resurrection, a person's eternal destiny will not change. The precise "location" of that eternal destiny is what changes. Believers will ultimately be granted entrance into the new heavens and new earth (**Revelation 21:1**). Unbelievers will ultimately be sent to the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15**). These are the final, eternal destinations of all people—based entirely on whether or not they had trusted Jesus Christ alone for salvation as Lord and Master. (**Matthew 25:46; John 3:36**).

TEST - CHAPTER EIGHT

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

1. For the **believer** in Jesus Christ, the Bible tells us that after death believers' spirits are what?

2. For believers, death is to be what?

(2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23).
3. Scripture in **1 Corinthians 15:50-54** and **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** describe believers being resurrected and given what?

4. If believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, what is the purpose of this resurrection?

5. At the resurrection of believers, the physical body is what?

6. This reunited and glorified body/spirit will be the possession of believers where for eternity?
_____ **(Revelation 21-22).**
7. Second, for those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Master or **unbeliever**, death means what?

8. However, similar to the destiny of _____, unbeliever's spirit is sent _____ to a temporary _____ place, to await their final resurrection, _____, and eternal destiny.
9. **Luke 16:22-23** describes what?

10. **Revelation 20:11-15** describes all the unbelieving dead being what?

11. Unbelievers, then, are _____ sent to hell (the lake of fire) _____ after death, but rather are in a temporary realm of _____ and _____ (sheol).
12. However, even though _____ are not instantly sent to the lake of _____, their _____ fate after death is not a _____ one.
13. The rich man cried out...
_____ **(Luke 16:24).**
14. Therefore, after death, a person resides in a “ _____ ” heaven or hell.
15. After this temporary realm, at the final resurrection...

16. The precise “location” of that eternal destiny is what changes.

_____ **(Revelation 21:1).**
17. Unbelievers will ultimately be sent to _____
(Revelation 20:11-15).
18. These are the _____, eternal destinations of _____ people—based _____ on whether or not they had _____ Lord _____ Christ _____ for salvation as Lord and Master.
(Matthew 25:46; John 3:36).

LESSONS LEARNED

Q. What have you learned from this lesson?

Q. How has this NEW information inspired you to live DIFFERENTLY for Jesus Christ?

Q. Has this study addressed an old belief with a NEW, more biblically accurate BELIEF?

If so, would you SHARE what your new belief is?

Q. And finally, would you be willing to SHARE this new information with someone else?

YES_____ NO_____

Q. WHO did you share this with? And, what was THEIR response?

Name: _____

Response:

Our prayer is that through this study some OLD beliefs will be REPLACED with new ones: JESUS-filled beliefs, changing some OLD actions into NEW actions; and leading to NEW OUTCOMES for Christ JESUS.

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A COUPLE QUESTIONS...

DID YOU FIND THIS BIBLE STUDY HELPED YOU?

- Grow your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Yes: _____ No: _____
- Helped you better relate to life's challenges Yes: _____ No: _____
- Changed your life to trust God more Yes: _____ No: _____
- Grew your knowledge and understanding of what God's Word and words mean Yes: _____ No: _____

WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE DID THIS BIBLE STUDY EFFECT? (Please checkmark all that apply)

- Prayer _____
- Forgiveness _____
- Trust _____
- Faith _____
- Growing in the Bible _____
- Family _____
- Work _____

THE PRACTICALITY OF THE BIBLE STUDY

Please score the following questions from 1-10, with 1 being the least and 10 being the most.

1. Was I able to understand what was taught? _____
2. Am I willing to act on what I have learned? _____
3. Am I looking for and desiring Life Change? _____
4. Was this Bible Study clear in what the Bible is instructing us to do with what we have been taught? _____

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