

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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LESSON 1. A GIFT THAT SAVES

God says in His Word in Romans 5:8 that "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Salvation is the gift of God. It is the gift that saves! This is a gift saves us from the penalties of sin and brings forgiveness and peace.

(Read and fill in the blanks.)

I. Here Are Some Things Which Cannot Save Us:

A. Religion does not save us:

Incorrecx
Christ + Religion
= Salvation.

Religion is man's effort to get to God. According to Acts 26:5, What religion did Paul practice before following Christ? "According to the strictest sect of our _____ I lived as a _____." Pharisees were the religious leaders of Judaism. Later the apostle Paul considered his religion as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Please read Philippians 3:4-8.

Incorrecx

B. Good works do not save us:

Christ + Religion
+ Good works = Salvation.

The apostle Paul who gave testimony that religion does not save now tells us that neither do good works save us. Speaking of salvation, the apostle Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-9 "Not by _____ so that no man can boast."

Correcx

II. Here Is How We Are Saved?

Christ = Salvation

A. We are saved by grace:

The word "grace" means a gift, something we do not deserve and cannot buy. Salvation is the free gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 says . . . "For it is by _____ you have been saved through faith, and not from yourselves, it is the _____ of God."

B. We are saved by faith:

Faith is the empty hand extended to receive the grace (gift) of God. Ephesians chapter 2 verse eight declares . . . "For it is by grace you have been saved through _____." According to the Bible, faith implies a personal confidence that Jesus died for us in order to save us and forgive our sins. We acknowledge that we are **NOT** saved by religion or good works, but by the grace of God, which we receive by faith.

III. Personal Application:

A. Do you believe that you are saved? Yes _____ No _____

B. How do you know?

C. According to Romans 6:23, what were you saved from?

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LESSON 2. HOW TO RECOGNIZE SIN

The majority of people have a false concept of what sin really is.

I. What Is Sin?

A. A wrong way of understanding sin:

- Some say . . . "It's just the way I am, it's not my fault!"
- Others say . . . "Just as long as I feel good, it's not sin; it is only sin if it does harm to someone else, but I don't harm anyone!"
- Still others claim . . . "If everyone does it, it is not sin!" . . . etc. etc.

B. A right way of understanding sin: God teaches in the Bible in I John 3:4 we read "everyone who sins _____ the law, in fact sin is _____." In James 4:17 the Bible says "Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do, and does not do it, sins." Sin is **breaking** the law of God and also **failing** to do what God asks us to do.

II. What Is The Origin Of Sin?

In the book of Romans, chapter 5, verse 12, it says: "Just as _____ entered into the world through one man, Adam, and by _____ came death, and in this way death _____ to _____ men because _____ have sinned."

III. What Are The Consequences Of Sin?

A. Sin contaminates us!

Jesus says in Mark 7:15, "Nothing outside of a man can make him _____ rather it is what comes out of a man that makes him _____."

B. Sin enslaves:

Jesus also said in John 8:34 . . . "Everyone who _____ is a _____ of _____."

C. Sin separates us from God:

Romans 3:23 states . . . "For _____ have _____ and fall short of the glory of God."

D. Sin causes death:

Romans 6:23 declares that . . . "For the wages of _____ is _____." This is not only spiritual death, but physical death and eternal death (see also Revelation 20:14).

IV. What Is The Solution For Sin?

The answer is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He is God's gift for the salvation of humankind.

- I John 1:9 acknowledges that . . . "If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to _____ our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness."
- Ephesians chapter 1 verse 7 says, "In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins"

We have one of two options, - reject Jesus Christ or accept Him as our Savior.

V. Personal Application:

A. In what area of your life do you think that you have sin?

B. What do you think you should do with your sin?

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LESSON 3. WHAT IT MEANS TO REPENT FROM SIN

I. What True Repentance Is NOT:

Repentance is not remorse. It is not doing penance. It is not trying to make up for your sins by doing good deeds.

II. What Is Repentance?

Repentance is a turning from sin to God, it is a total change, it is having a new mind and a new goal for life. It is to live with one's back turned against sin, to go in the opposite direction.

- Read I Thessalonians 1:9 for an example of true repentance.
- Now read Luke 15:11-31.

A. Repentance starts with recognizing sin:

This is what occurred in the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:17. We read that . . . "When he came to his _____ . . ." he realized his true condition, his misery and his sin!

B. Repentance includes sorrow:

When the apostle Peter denied Christ three times, the Bible says in Luke 22:62 ". . . then Peter went outside and _____ bitterly". He wept because he realized he had sinned (see II Corinthians 7:9-10).

C. Repentance concludes by confessing and renouncing sin:

The young man in the parable of the prodigal son illustrates these steps:

- Luke 15:18 records his intention . . . "I will set out and go _____ to my father . . ." It is a '**turning around**'.
- Luke 15:18-19 ". . . and say to him, Father I _____ against heaven and against you. I am no longer _____ to be called you son." That is **confession of sin**.
- Luke 15:20 "So he got _____ and went to his father." That is **abandonment of sin** (renouncing sin).

III. What Is The Evidence Of Repentance?

A. Forgiveness:

Mark 11:25-26 says . . . "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, _____ him, so that your Father in Heaven may _____ you your sins."

B. Restitution:

In the Gospel of Luke chapter 19, verse 8 it says: "But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord: "Look, Lord, Here and now I _____ half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will _____ back four times the amount." Restitution is our greatest testimony to the world concerning the change that Christ has made in our lives.

IV. Personal Application: (Results or Fruits Luke 3:8-9)

- A. For what things in your life do you need to ask forgiveness of God?
- B. Pray to God, acknowledge those sins and ask Him for pardon.

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LESSON 4. HOW TO ENTER INTO THE NEW BIRTH

The Lord Jesus said in John chapter 3 verse 3: "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is _____ again."

I. What Is The New Life?

A. What the new life is not:

- Matthew 9:16,17 states that it is not a process, it is not a fixing up of the old life.
- John 1:12,13 observes that it is not something our parents give us.
- Philippians 3:4-8 makes it clear that it is not gained by rituals or regulation.

B. What the new life is:

God says in I Peter 1:4 says we are *born "into an _____ that can never _____, spoil or fade."* New life is the receiving of a new nature. It is the supernatural act of God, which generates in us new Life:

- II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation; the old has gone, the new has come."
- I John 3:14 . . . "We know that we have passed from _____ to _____, . . . " It is to pass from death to life.
- In John 3:16 we observe ". . . that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will not perish but have _____ lasting _____." This verse clearly states that it is so we can have eternal life!

II. What Does This New Life Consist Of?

A. A new security:

We read in Romans 8:39 . . . "Neither height, nor depth, nor

anything else in all creation will be able to _____ us from the _____ of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

B. Peace and joy:

We see in Romans 15:13 . . . "May the God of hope fill you with all _____ and _____ as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

C. An intimate relationship with God of love and obedience:

Read John 14:20-21, 23-24 . . . "On that day you will realize I am _____ the Father, and you are _____ me, and I am _____ you."

D. A hunger for God's Word, the Bible:

Look at I Peter 2:2. "Like newborn babes, crave pure _____ milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation"

E. Trials and struggles of the faith:

We observe in II Timothy 3:12 that "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus suffers _____."

F. The desire for the company of other Christians:

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

G. The desire to tell other of your faith in Christ:

Then again in Acts 4:20 it says: "For we cannot help _____ about what we have _____ and _____."

III. Personal Application:

What are some of the changes you have observed in your life since you received Christ as your personal Savior?

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LESSON 5. GOD IS YOUR FATHER

Introduction:

What are three characteristics of a bad father?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are three characteristics of a good father?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I. In What Sense Is God Our Father?

- A. Psalm 139:13-14 . . . God **created** us in our mother's womb . . .
- B. John 1:12-13 . . . God **made** us His children . . .
- C. Ephesians 1:3-5 . . . God **adopted** us as His children through Jesus Christ before the creation of the world in accordance with his love and will.
- D. Ephesians 3:14-15 . . . God **placed** us in His family in heaven.
- E. Philippians 4:19 . . . God **supplies** all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

II. God, Our Father Is:

A. Eternal:

- Ephesians 3:21 . . . observes that God is not limited or affected by the passing of time.
- God does not change. In James 1:17 we read that *"every good and perfect gift is from above; coming down from the Father . . . who does not _____, like shifting shadows."*

B. Holy:

Holy signifies to be separated, set apart from sin. God does not sin, nor does he tolerate sin as indicated in I Peter 1:16 . . .
". *be _____ for I am _____."*

C. Just:

God always acts in justice, and he always treats us justly. This gives us the security of having entrusted our lives into the hands of a just God. I John 1:9 states *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and _____ and will forgive us our sins."*

D. Love:

God cannot stop loving us, for He is Love. His love is unconditional. He loves us in spite of what we are. We love Him because he first loved us. The apostle John tells us in I John 4:16: *"And so we know, and rely on the love God has for us. God is _____. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him."*

E. Lord:

This term is based on the fact that God is the Absolute Owner of the Universe. He is the Ruler. Everything is under his council. When we accept him as Lord, we are acknowledging Him to be the Lord of our lives, and He is responsible for us. The Bible refers to God in I Timothy 6:15 as . . . *"The blessed and only ruler, the King of Kings and _____ of Lords . . . to Him be honor and might forever. Amen."*

The fact that God, is Lord in our lives is revealed in the following ways:

- Matthew 4:10 . . . It is God alone that we adore.
- Matthew 4:10 . . . It is God alone that we serve
- Romans 14:8 . . . and we live only for God, Amen!

III. Personal Application:

- A. What characteristics of God as Father do we enjoy? Why is this so?
- B. Express in a prayer your gratitude to Him.

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LESSON 6. WHO IS JESUS?

To begin this session, read Philippians 2:5-11.

I. Christ is Eternal: (Philippians 2:6)

A. Christ existed before everything:

John 1:1 says of Jesus . . . "In the _____ was the _____ and the Word was with _____." Christ has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit as God.

B. Christ is the creator of all humanity:

Read John 1:3 . . . Jesus, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, together created mankind.

C. Christ is the Savior of the world:

John 3:17 says "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to _____ the world through him."

II. Christ Became Incarnate: (Philippians 2:7)

A. Christ became man and lived as a man.

God says in His word in Philippians 2:7: "But made _____ nothing taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human _____."

B. Christ revealed the Father:

John 1:18 notes . . . "No one has ever seen God, but God, the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him _____."

III. Christ Was Surrendered: (Philippians 2:8)

A. He died on the cross:

Philippians 2:8 states . . . "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to _____, even _____ on a _____." He took our place, and died on the cross to save us.

B. He experienced separation from the Father, when punished for our sins:

This is a mystery! When he bore all our sins on the Cross, the Bible states in Mark 15:34 that Jesus cried out ". . . My God, My God, why have you _____ me?"

However, because of his death, he opened a new way to get to God.

IV. Christ Is Exalted: (Philippians 2:9).

A. He arose!

Acts 2:32 . . . "God has _____ this Jesus to _____, and we are all witnesses of the fact." God raised Jesus from the dead, as proof of his accepted sacrifice.

B. He is the only way to God:

I Timothy 2:5 records . . . "For there is one God and one _____ between God and men, the man _____."

C. He is the giver of Life:

Jesus said in John 14:19 "Because I live, you also will _____."

V. Christ The Coming King: (Philippians 2:9-11) Note the following . . .

- When Jesus came the first time, He came as a baby. He was despised and rejected.
- When He comes the second time, He will come with great power and glory!

VI. Personal Application:

A. How has this lesson changed your understanding of Jesus Christ?

B. Express in prayer what you thank Jesus the most for.

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LESSON 7. WHO WILL HELP ME?

I. Who Is The Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is God:

- Read . . . Romans 15:19 and Luke 1:35 . . . God is **all powerful**.
- Read . . . John 1:3 . . . God is **ever present**.
- Read . . . I Corinthians 2:10 . . . God is **all knowing**.

B. The Holy Spirit is not a force, or energy. For example:

- The Holy Spirit has a **will** (I Corinthians 12:11). He gives gifts as he pleases.
- The Holy Spirit has **emotions** (Ephesians 4:30). He is saddened if we disobey him.
- The Holy Spirit has **intelligence** (Matthew 28:20). All that He does has a purpose and a meaning.

II. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

A. In the life of the unbeliever in order to bring Him to God.

John 16: 8-11 states that the . . . "*Holy Spirit convicts of _____, of righteousness and of judgement.*"

B. In the moment we receive Christ.

Read . . . John 16:8-11

- The Holy Spirit incorporates us into the body of Christ, which is the Church.
I Corinthians 12:13 . . . "*for we were all _____ by one spirit into one body.*" The word baptize means to immerse. The Spirit immersed us into God's Church when we received Jesus.

- He came to live in us when we receive Jesus.
I Corinthians 3:16 "*Don't you know you are God's _____ and that God's _____ lives in you?*"
- He marked you as a child of God.
Ephesians 4:30 "*. . . do not grieve the Holy Spirit with whom you were _____.*"

C. In the course of the Christian Life.

- In John 15:26-27 we read that the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer in the following way: "*When the _____ comes, . . . He will _____ of me.*" The Holy Spirit helps us **know** Jesus!
- In Romans 8:26 states that . . . "*We do not know what we ought to _____ for, but the Spirit intercedes for us. . . .*" The Spirit **guides** our prayers!
- II Corinthians 3:18 asserts . . . "*And we are being _____ into His likeness, with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is _____.*" The Spirit helps us **become more like** Jesus!
- I Corinthians 12:4 declares. . . "*There are different kinds of _____, but the same Spirit.*" The Spirit gives us the **power and the means to serve!**
- Ephesians 5:18 cautions . . . "*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with _____.*" When we submit to the Spirit, He **fills our lives!**

III. Personal Applications:

- A. What has this lesson taught you about the Holy Spirit?
- B. Express in prayer what you most appreciate about the Holy Spirit.

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LESSON 8. WHAT GOD SAYS

II Timothy 3:16 states that the Bible is God's Word!

I. The Bible Is Our Only And Sufficient Authority:

A. The Bible is lasting.

God says in Matthew 24:35 . . . "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _____ will _____ pass away."

B. The Bible is trustworthy.

II Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-_____ and useful for teaching"

C. The Bible is truth.

John 17:17 states . . . "Sanctify them by the truth, your _____ is _____."

II. The Bible Is God's Voice For Our Lives:

A. The Bible shows us God.

The Bible was written so that we could understand who created us. It is the means by which God speaks to us. It is a letter of love, written for us. In it we learn what God is like!

B. The Bible directs our present life.

The Bible teaches us how to live, and gives us laws and guidelines for our own good.

C. The Bible reveals our future life:

The Bible shows us the way to heaven, that is to say, it shows us Jesus, who has gone to prepare a place for us. It tells us what is to come!

III. The Bible Is Our Spiritual Food:

Read I Peter 2:2 and Matthew 4:4.

A. The Bible keeps us healthy:

A balanced diet consists of . . . reading, studying, and meditation.

B. The Bible is for our instruction:

Set aside a specific time to be quiet and alone.

- In the reading of the Bible, it is good to have a plan, and the best plan is to begin with the Gospels.
- Once the portion is read twice over, we can ask ourselves questions concerning the Bible text...such as: "What is God teaching me about Himself, about the Holy Spirit, about myself, etc.?"
- Finally, choose a verse that has impressed you, and memorize it.
- End the time with prayer and thanks giving to God for what you have learned, and ask Him to help you to obey Him.

C. The Bible is for our growth.

The Bible is the Word of God, and He speaks to us as we read it. As we meditate on it, we establish a dialogue between God and ourselves. If we approach it with true spiritual hunger, we will profit by the reading of it. Remember, the Bible is a book to be obeyed! James 1:22 cautions . . . "Do not merely _____ to the Word . . . _____ what it says."

IV. Personal Application:

- Find a specific time and place each day to be alone with God.
- Choose a Gospel to read.
- Pray, asking God to give you the wisdom to understand His word.

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LESSON 9. HOW TO TALK WITH GOD

Since prayer is basically dialogue, it can be expressed in various ways.

I. What is Prayer?

Read Mathew 6:5-7

- Prayer is intimate communion between you and God.
- Prayer is simple and sincere conversation with God.

II. What Does Prayer Include?

A. Prayer includes adoration:

Matthew 6:9 . . . "Our Father in heaven _____ be your name." What this means is "may who 'You are' be lifted up."

B. Prayer includes gratefulness:

Ephesians 5:20 reminds us to be . . . "always giving _____ to God the Father for everything, . . ."

C. Prayer includes confession:

I John 1:9 asserts that . . . "If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness." It is important that you confess your sins to God daily. Be specific in your confession!

D. Prayer includes intercession:

I Timothy 2:1 . . . "I urge then, first of all, that _____, prayers, _____, and thanksgivings be made for everyone."

E. Prayer includes petition:

Philippians 4:6 . . . "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by _____ and _____ with thanksgiving present your _____ to God."

III. How Should We Pray?

A. Pray in the name of Jesus:

- John 14:13 . . . "And I (God) will do whatever you _____ in my _____." Jesus is your way to the Father's ear!

B. Pray according to the will of God:

- I John 5:14 . . . "This is the confidence that we have in approaching God; that if we ask _____ according to His _____, He will hear us." Do not ask God for something you know is wrong!

C. Pray with confidence:

- Matthew 21:22 . . . "If you _____, you will _____ whatever you ask for in prayer."

D. Pray without bitterness:

- Matthew 6:14 . . . "For if you _____ men when they sin _____ you, your Heavenly Father will also _____ you."

IV. Personal Application:

- As you reflect on this lessons, make a list of all the things that God has impressed on you that you should pray for today!
- Talk with God right now.

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LESSON 10. WALKING WITH GOD

Believers in Christ will show by their conduct and attitude, that they truly have new life!

I. What Does It Mean To Obey? Read I John 2:3-6 . . .

- It is not just knowing about Christ or completing a set of rules.
- It is obeying and living the Word of God (Verse 3).
- It is the evidence that we know God and dwell in Him (Verse 4-5).
- It is walking as Jesus walked (Verse 6).
- It is living the kind of life that God wants us to live.

II. What does the Bible teach about obedience? (John 8:31-32-36).

| <u>A. The Positive</u> | <u>B. The Negative</u> |
|--|--|
| 1. Colossians 3:23 . . . "Whatever you do, _____ at it with all your heart, as _____ for the _____ and not for men." | 1. Galatians 5:13 . . . "You my brethren . . . do not use your _____ (from the punishment of sin) to _____ the sinful nature." |
| 2. Ephesians . . . "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do _____ which God prepared in advance for us to do." | 2. I Corinthians 6:12 . . . "Everything is _____ for me, but not everything is _____ . . . I will not be _____ by anything." |

| | |
|--|---|
| 3. I Corinthians 10:24 . . . "Nobody should _____ his own _____ but the good of _____ ." | 3. I Corinthians 8:9 . . . "Be careful, however that the exercise of your _____ does not become a _____ block to anyone." |
| 4. Romans 14:22 . . . "Blessed is the man who does not _____ by what he _____." | 4. I Peter 2:16 . . . "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for _____. Live as servants of God." |

Read II Timothy 3:16-17.

- The Word of God establishes the principles that guide the way we should live, and it is necessary to obey those principles.

III. How Should We Apply The Biblical Principles?

A. Self Examination.

If you go shopping, and pay for the goods with a twenty dollar bill, but receive change as if you had paid with a hundred dollar bill— What should you do? The following questions will help you to examine your conduct and actions.

- What would Jesus do? (I Corinthians 11:1).
- Would this be pleasing to God? (Galatians 1:10).
- Would this give others the impression that I am doing something wrong? (I Thessalonians 5:22).
- Would this be a good example to other Christians? (I Timothy 4:12).
- Does this show more love for God? (I John 2:15).
- Would Jesus be pleased if He found me doing this when he returns? (I John 2:28).

B. Areas of life to be examined:

Vacation plans, material possessions, personal relationships, sexual life, looking after your health, work, pleasure, entertainment, and habits, etc.

Guidelines

- The spaces in the English version are based on the New International Version.
- Curricula designed for new believers with limited understanding of scriptures
- The verses are all found in the New Testament
- We are indebted to Lima Encounter with God material "Verdades Fundamentales" as a primary resource in the development of this discipleship material.

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