

It Matters What You

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Let me start with this idea: “that’s just what you believe.” Listen, **Truth is truth.** The idea that “you believe what you believe and I’ll believe whatever I want” is nonsense. Only when it comes to God do we accept such an absurd notion. Law, sports, medicine, etc... you can’t just believe whatever you want. There is the truth - and everything else is... NOT the Truth; and those things aren’t even that important compared to what you believe about God.

Only when it comes to God do we accept that two opposite ideas can both be true. No one would accept BOTH “the moon is made of rock” and “the moon is made of cheese,” as equally true. Yet, we’ll accept “God is a personal Creator we are accountable to” and “God is an energy force; we are all God” as equal truths.

Nonsense.

Either one is true and one is false; or both are false. Same thing with “there is only one way to Heaven: Jesus Christ” and “every religion leads you to God, just be sincere”; both cannot be true.

There is Truth concerning God. It can be known. If it IS TRUE, then it is exclusive; and, by default, all other incompatible ideas are false.

You’ll want to read this book because it discusses the most important topic we can consider: **eternity.**

If there is no eternity, then you've wasted a few minutes. If there is an eternal life after this one, then you've given some time to thoughtfully consider if there is Truth you need to learn and act upon.

You may not believe in life after death... but what if you are wrong? The truth about atheism is: you can't be 100% sure until AFTER you die.

You may choose to not even think about life after death, but one second after you die, you'll realize too late that was an eternal mistake.

By reading this little book, worst case, you've educated yourself a bit and done some good thinking. Best case, you'll come face to face with the most important questions you can ever contemplate.

If you never read past this opening personal note, I want to leave you with the most important Truth you'll ever need to consider:

- There is a God. He created you. This reality is written deep in the human heart by God. This is why every culture in history has some version of "god." It is also the reason why atheists have to work so hard to suppress a belief in God and convince people He doesn't really exist.
- You are accountable to God.

- Thinking you are “good” and God will accept you because you are good... is a lie (I write about this later).
- God loves you but He is also “just” (a perfect Judge); we have broken His law (“sin”) and owe a penalty for those violations.
- That penalty is eternal separation and punishment from our Creator God.
- If it sounds like we are in an awful dilemma, it’s because we are. However, God He loves us and sent His only Son Jesus to pay our penalty so that we no longer owe God a debt. All that is required of us is to accept the gift from Jesus on His terms.

I’ll explain those points more as we go along. For now, consider this: we have a problem and God has an answer. Your response determines your eternity.

THAT is Truth that really matters.

Life is short and unpredictable then comes forever. Doesn’t it make sense to take some time to consider your eternal destination?



We all have beliefs.

For many, beliefs are casual and loosely held, given little thought or evaluation... but they exist for every person nonetheless. They may be religious beliefs or purely personal beliefs derived solely from experience and feelings. Many people get their beliefs from what is currently popular in the culture because it's easy to just "go with the flow."

Every person should stop and consider what they believe, why they believe it, and if it is worthy of investing your life in those beliefs.

We filter our daily life through our beliefs. They control how we think, how we speak, how we treat people, the direction of our life in general; and on a deeper level, determine what happens to us AFTER this life.

The whole point of believing in something as important as "God" or "Christianity" is because of its effect on our life and the result of it. Christianity claims to address the most important and timeless questions about life itself: where do we come from? Why are we here? Is there life after death? Does God exist? Does God expect anything from me? Are Heaven and Hell real?

In the case of a belief in God, a belief in Christ, or a belief in the Bible, it literally answers the question of how one will spend in eternity... either in

Heaven with God, or in the punishing torment of Hell - separated from God with no chance of reprieve. Your life and mine are just a few short years... then we die.

If there is an ETERNITY that awaits us and life continues after this current body of flesh returns to the dirt, then we better give it some serious thought. Eternity is a long time!

What you believe about God and eternity is the most crucial belief you'll ever have, the most important conviction you'll ever arrive at, and the most valuable "thinking" you'll ever spend time on.

It's worth your time. It's worthy of your greatest effort and consideration. It's something every person should seriously struggle with and reach a conclusion.

Given its importance, the purpose of this little book then is to help others decide if those beliefs I profess might be theirs as well. I hope so.

One last thing before we get started... there is nothing in this book that is not based 100% on what the Bible says. I'm not making up things I prefer, I wish, or I imagine. I am simply taking the timeless TRUTH of God's Word and presenting them to you for your consideration. If God really is our Creator, and He really did divinely deliver His Word (the Bible) to us, then that is where we must look for Truth.

"Well, I don't believe in the Bible" is a very common response. So what? If the Bible IS TRUE, then it doesn't matter who decides they don't believe in it. It's still true. The Truth doesn't simply go away or stop being applicable because an individual say "I don't believe in that." If something IS TRUE, it's true no matter what, it's true even if you or I declare our disbelief.

If God is real, it doesn't matter if you say "I don't believe that." If God gave us the Bible to reveal to us His Truth, it doesn't matter if you say "I don't believe that." If the Bible is Truth and it tells us that there is life after death, and either Heaven or Hell is our destination, it doesn't matter if you say "I don't believe that." If it's true then is it Truth regardless of whether anyone chooses to believe it or not. That is why it is worth your time to consider.

Let's Start With the End First

This book ultimately deals with the simple yet eternal question: **what must I do to be saved?** (Saved from what? I'll answer that shortly.)

That question in essence determines your eternal destination; and given that, obviously there is no more important question we can ask. So let's start with the end first, and answer that question, then I'll go into more detail.

Do I need to be saved?

The question is not even relevant or important if I don't recognize that there is something unacceptable about me to God, something I need to be saved from. If I ran up to you and said "I have the cure! You are saved!" and you don't even know you are sick, the "good news of a cure" would be meaningless. So the first question you must wrestle with is "Do I need to be saved? Have I done something that will cause me to be unacceptable to God? If yes, why?"

Do you really need to be saved?

Yes, from an eternal punishment in Hell, according to God's Word. Why? Because someday you will stand before God and have to account for your sin (your "lack of goodness," falling short of God's perfect standard). This true for everyone, even

those who say “I don’t believe in God so I won’t answer to Him.”

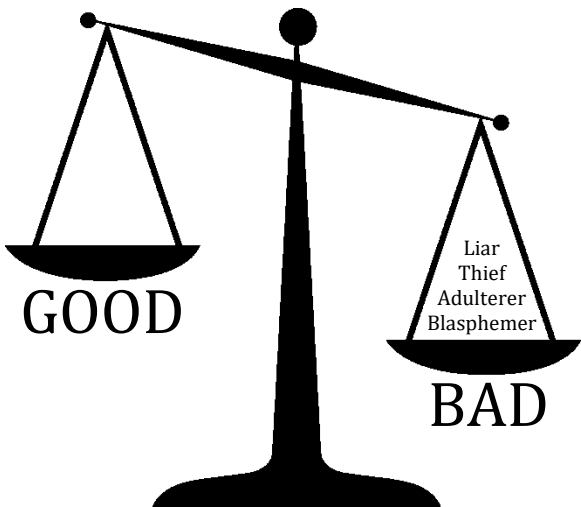
We all know that God exists, it is written on our hearts and that is why every culture in every land throughout all of human history has attempted find God or worship God. I don’t believe in flying pink unicorns and I spend ZERO time trying to prove it. You know why? Because they don’t exist. Atheists often spend their entire life trying to prove God does not exist. You know why? Because deep down in the depths of every human heart, God has written the truth about His existence and we have to fight and suppress that truth in order not to believe it (Romans 1:18-19).

Many people simply IGNORE God’s existence with the silly notion that by ignoring Him, it will make the reality of standing before Him to give an account for our life... simply vanish. Standing on train tracks and ignoring the coming train won’t make it disappear. God won’t disappear either.

But I’m a good person!

Let’s address the response that 99 out of 100 people will give at this point... “but I’m a good person.” If God does exist, and I do have to give account for my life, I’m in good shape because I’m a good person! Wrong. Need proof? A few simple questions will shatter that illusion.

Have you ever lied? What does that make you? A liar. Have you ever stolen, even once, even the littlest thing? Have you stolen time from your employer or cheated on your taxes? You're a thief. Have you ever lusted? Jesus says that is the equivalent of adultery. Have you spoken God's name as a cuss word, or irreverently or without the proper respect He deserves? That's blasphemy. So far you (and me) are lying, thieving, adulterous blasphemers. Still feeling "good"? Ops.



You may recognize those as part of the Ten Commandments. We've only asked about four of the ten. Truth is, we have all violated all ten of God's commands, countless times. That's why the Bible says "there is no one good, not a single

person” (Romans 3:10) and “all have fallen short of God’s holiness” (Romans 3:23). We don’t often speak about the 10 Commandments (“the Law”) today because we are more interested in telling people “how to be healthy, wealthy, blessed, - God only wants to give you your best day today!” but the purpose of the Ten Commandments is very clear: to show every person they are NOT “good” and they are in need of being saved.

Is that unloving? No! The greatest love we can have for anyone is to tell them the Truth.

Saved from what?

Saved from the penalty we owe God for our sin (sin is any violation of God’s commandments). The penalty for all sin is death, and God warned us about that from the very start. He told Adam and Eve, the first two humans: “if you sin, you will surely die.” They sinned (chose to do their own thing instead of obey God), and just like God said, they died. They instantly died spiritually (their eternal spirit was condemned to punishment and separation from God forever) and it immediately kicked off the process of dying physically (aging and diseases, leading to our fleshly bodies perishing).

The penalty for sin is death, plain and simple, both now and in Eternity. Sin brought death to us spiritually and physically in this life, and apart from God it will bring death to us eternally in the

next life in the form of punishment and separation in a place prepared for just that purpose: Hell.

A loving God would never send someone to Hell!

You're right. God doesn't send people to Hell.

They choose it.

God has responded to the problem of sin and Hell. He provides a way for our penalty to be paid on our behalf (we'll get to that shortly). God offers this solution to every person but He offers it on HIS terms, with HIS conditions.

It is a free gift, but it will cost us everything.

We give Him our life now; He gives us eternal life in exchange. No, God will never "send you to Hell" but if you ignore your sinful condition or you neglect or reject His offer of salvation - on His terms - then make no mistake my friend... you choose eternal Hell for yourself.

It doesn't matter if you "don't believe in Hell."

I can say I "don't believe in air" but air is still real. It doesn't matter if you ignore the reality of Hell. I can stand on the train tracks and ignore the

speeding train headed my way, but I'll still get run over and killed. Like a child who covers his ears and eyes and pretends the world around him no longer is real (but it is), it does you no good to simply declare "I don't believe in all that religious Bible stuff and God and Heaven and Hell and sin!"



God doesn't exist because
I don't believe in Him.

"Poof! God doesn't exist because I say he doesn't" is the stuff of pretend. It is childish thinking. God is real. He has written the reality of His existence and eternity on your heart. You are reading this today because He has mercifully brought this reality to your attention at this moment. Don't ignore Him!

Now that you understand your need to be saved, and what you need to be saved from, let's answer the question "what must I do to be saved?"

What Must I Do To Be Saved? The Good News of Jesus Christ

Every person needs to have a right relationship with the God who created us. (Do not believe the lie that you came from a monkey or goo. God

created you, loves you, and is now trying to get your attention.)

Perhaps in your own heart you have tried to explain away spiritual things, convincing yourself it is all superstition or fairy tales, but the questions just will not go away. Do you know why they will not go away? Because God created in every person the need and desire to know the answers... this need is evidence that God exists, and is reaching out to you.

You are a sinner. Me too.

The nutshell is this: **you are a sinner**. The God who created you does not tolerate sin. Like a righteous human judge doing his duty, pronouncing punishment and penalty on wrongdoing, the Judge of the Universe – God – must pronounce eternal judgment on all those who have violated His perfect Law. That is the bad news. The good news is that God also has provided a way for us to be forgiven for those violations (sin).

God mercifully provided a way for us to be saved. You cannot earn it; you cannot be good enough to merit it. You cannot demand it or obligate God to give it. It is a free gift manifested in God's love, mercy, and sovereignty. Our salvation is unattainable except that God chose in eternity past to provide it for us because He loves us.

Here are several truths to help you find true Christian faith for yourself, based upon what God says in His Word – the Bible:

- **God Loves You:** ...God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- **You Are in Trouble:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” — “You [God] are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with You the wicked cannot dwell.
- **Sin Brings Disaster:** The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **God Has Provided the Answer – a Savior:** God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Repent of Your Sin and Believe in Jesus Christ:** Turn to God in repentance and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. To all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God. To repent means to “turn away from.” It means to be sorry for your sin and truly not want to do it anymore.
- **Believe in Jesus and place your Faith* in Him:** This is what the Bible says – God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, Jesus. It is by grace (an undeserved gift) through faith that we are saved. He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life — If you confess

with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, place your faith in Him, you will be saved.

- **Now Is the Time to Receive Him and Respond in Obedience:** Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Obedience is the evidence of **true** repentance, faith, and belief. We must respond to God’s gift of salvation ON HIS TERMS by obeying what He commands, by making Him Lord (master) of our life.
- Confess that you are a sinner publicly to other Christians. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the ONLY way to salvation. Place your faith in Him. Be baptized (immersed in water) which symbolizes your old life of sin and defiance being put to death in a grave of water, and a new Godly person being born to a new life of righteousness and good.
- Find a group of Believers with whom you can serve, pray, and worship the God of the Universe. Read your Bible. Love others. Obey God. **Obedience is the EVIDENCE of GENUINE salvation.**

Look up the previous points in the Bible:
John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Psalm 5:4, Romans 6:23,
Romans 5:8, Acts 20:21, John 1:12, I John 5:11-12,
Hebrews 3:7-8, Romans 10:9; Acts 2.38.

Faith is Like a Parachute

- Faith is a combination of Belief & Trust & Response.
- Belief: the parachute exists, it is real.
- Belief & Trust: The Parachute exists and it is functional and high quality – your life depends on it!
- Belief & Trust & Response: The Parachute exists and it is able to do what it claims it will do, and I am going to pick up the parachute and put it on. Your belief and trust is useless otherwise!
- The appropriate Response: The Parachute exists and it is able to do what it claims it will do, and I am going to pick up the parachute and put it on... **and jump.**



If you don't need to jump, intend to jump, and ultimately take the "leap of faith" (jump), then belief and trust and response have not reached the level of "faith."

To jump with faith means to trust and believe that the only way you can stand before God and be accepted is because of Jesus Christ.

Again, what must I do to be saved?

- Believe and have faith in Jesus Christ, who was God's Son that lived a perfect life as a true man, was put to death as a punishment for OUR sins, and rose from the dead after three days to show that he has power over death.
- Admit your sin, confess it, and turn away from it!



- Respond in trust and obedient faith by “putting Him on” and jumping out of the fires of eternal condemnation (Hell... the plane is going down!) into Eternity with Him (Heaven).

How does belief and faith happen?

- In the Bible, Romans 10:17 - Then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Good news! You've done that today! You've heard the Word of God and can now respond in faith.

Truths to think about:

- Jesus is the Son of God. He was born a real man, human in every way except the sinful nature; and He lived a sin-free life (unlike us, see Romans 3:23). He freely gave His life on the Cross and paid my penalty for my sin.
- Jesus died on the Cross but three days later rose from the dead defeating the power of death.
- We are all sinners, justly and eternally condemned for violating God's holy standards.
- Faith is trusting that Jesus Christ alone can **atone** (satisfy God's requirement for justice) for my sins and save me from an eternity in Hell that I deserve.
- Faith is responding in humble obedience (God is right, I am wrong) by confessing my sins, **repenting** (turning away from sin, "God be merciful to me a sinner"), and "putting on" Jesus Christ (like a person would believe in, trust, and put on a parachute to save himself from a burning airplane that was going down).
- An obedient response to God's gift of salvation and the resulting changed life (from a lover of sin to a lover of righteousness and God) is the evidence and authentication of true salvation in a person's life.

- **Do you know what “praying” is?** It just means talking to God. If you have finally realized you are a sinner and need to be saved, talk to God and ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him you believe Jesus died to pay for your sins, and you want to stop sinning. Tell God you are willing to trust Jesus to save you (have faith in Him). Thank God for giving you the gift of salvation.

What do I do after I’ve believed in Jesus, trusted Him, and placed my faith in Him for salvation?

- Go and find some other Christians who are serious about their faith in God and who believe the Bible. Ask them to show you what God would have you do next. The Bible says we prove (authenticate) our salvation by our obedience – doing what God says. Other mature Christians can show you what God would have you do now, such as being baptized and meeting with other Christians regularly.
- Your decision of what relationship you want with God is the most important decision you will ever make in your life. Don’t put it off. Don’t ignore it. Don’t think “there is time later.” You are not promised another second on this earth. There is a thousand ways you (or me) could die today. That is a fact.

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Christian Stuff In a Nutshell

If the Bible is true, then it contains the MOST TRUE and MOST IMPORTANT information that anyone can ever consider, evaluate, and act on. The Bible is the truth about REALITY. Every single person without exception will die. What happens after than is the most real thing there is.

Here is a short list of major Biblical beliefs:

- **The Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God** and is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- **There is one true God** (Dt 6:4), eternally **existing in three persons**: The Father (John 4:24), Son (John 1:1,14), and Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3,4)
- **Jesus Christ was born of a virgin** (Isa 7:14), He is **God incarnate** (God in human form), (John 1:1,14), and He **came to earth** for the express purpose of paying the penalty for our sins (John 1:29), making for Himself **His very own people**. (Titus 2:14)
- **Jesus died for our sins**, was buried, and **raised from the dead** (I Corinthians 15:3,4); was exalted to God’s right hand (Ephesians 1:20); and **there is no other name under heaven by which man can be saved.** (Acts 4.12)

- **Every person is a sinner;** and, without Christ, they are guilty before God and are under His condemnation. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
- **Salvation is God's merciful gift** (we don't deserve it and can't earn it) and **possible only by faith** (belief + trust + response) **in Jesus Christ alone.** (No other person, religion, or personal idea; Ephesians 4: 2-4, 8)
- All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who respond in genuine obedient faith, are supernaturally **born again** (John 3:3,7; 1 Peter. 1:3,23; Titus 3.5), **sealed** by God and **given the Holy Spirit** as a guarantee (2Corinthians 1:22), **adopted** as children of God (John 1:12), and eternally **saved.** (John 6:47)
- All who come to saving faith in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47-48), are **commanded to be baptized** (Matthew 28.19; Acts 2.38; Mark 16.16, Galatians 3.27); to **observe the Lord's Supper** until His return (Luke 22.19; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26); and are to **be a part of a local assembly** of Believers (i.e., a home or community meeting of fellow Christians for worship, service, and fellowship; Hebrews 10.25; The Book of Ephesians).
- Live in expectation of the personal and imminent **return of Jesus Christ** for His church. (I Thessalonians 4:16,17)
- Believe in the bodily **resurrection** of the saved and unsaved; the saved will live eternally in **Heaven,** (Philippians 3:20) and the unsaved will

tragically be sent to everlasting punishment in **Hell**. (Revelation 20:15)

- Every believer is endowed with **spiritual gifts** for the building up of the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:4,11)
- Believers are called to **live a life of holiness** apart from all worldliness and sinful practice. (Romans 12:1,2)

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Truth About Some Big Stuff

If you are ready to learn more, in this section, categorized for your convenience, is some of what the Bible says concerning a few fundamental Christian topics. It doesn't matter what I personally think; or frankly, what you think. It matters what GOD THINKS. That is the essence of Truth.

The Bible is objective and divinely inspired TRUTH that is not subject to the whims and fickleness of man, political correctness, culture, or majority vote. It is timeless Truth that does not change. It is Truth you can stake your eternity on. It is Truth that transcends MAN so is not subject to be changed, ignored, or revised by man... aren't you glad?

The Bible

The Bible is God's written revelation, supernaturally delivered to man through divine inspiration of the writers; and thus the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the true and trustworthy Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

The Word of God is an objective and divine revelation (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13), verbally inspired in every word (2 Timothy 3:16), absolutely without error in the original documents, infallible, and God-originated.

The Bible constitutes the only absolutely perfect standard of faithful Christian living (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

In the Bible, while there may be several applications of truth for any given passage, there is one true interpretation. Except for a very few difficult verses, the meaning of Scripture is plain. The idea that "there are many interpretations" of everything we read in the Bible is false and only meant to cause confusion and cast doubt. The meaning of Scripture can be known through study and the Holy Spirit enlightening us (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20).

It is the responsibility of believers to ascertain carefully the true intent and meaning of Scripture, recognizing that proper application is binding on all generations.

Mankind is always subject to the timeless unchangeable Truth of the Bible; but the Bible is never subject to change because of the discovery, opinion, or majority consensus of humanity.

God

There is only one living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4), an infinite, all-knowing Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)—each equally deserving worship and obedience.

God the Father

God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, orders and ordains all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Corinthians 8:6). He is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1-31; Ephesians 3:9).

As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36).

In one sense God is Father to all persons because He physically creates us (Ephesians 4:6). Spiritually, He is the Father who saves us from our sin only to believers who put their faith in Jesus. (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18).

He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (1 Chronicles 29:11). In His sovereignty, He is neither author nor approver of sin (Habakkuk 1:13; John 8:38-47), nor does He make exception for the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures (1 Peter 1:17).

He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; He adopts as his own all those who come to Him (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5-9).

God the Son – Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine attributes of God, and in these He is equal in all ways with the Father (John 10:30; 14:9).

God the Father created the universe and man according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2).

The incarnated Christ (God becoming man) set aside for a period, the exercise of His Godly rights

while giving up none of His divine essence, in degree or kind. In His incarnation, the eternally existing second Person of the Trinity (Jesus) accepted all the essential characteristics of humanity and so became the “God-Man” (Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9).

Jesus Christ represents humanity and deity in indivisible oneness (Micah 5:2; John 5:23; 14:9-10; Colossians 2:9).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was virgin born (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:26-35); He was God incarnate (John 1:1, 14); and the purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God, redeem men, and rule over God's kingdom (Psalm 2:7-9; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:29; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 7:25-26; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

In the incarnation, Jesus laid aside His right to the full rights of coexistence with God and took on an existence appropriate to a servant, while never removing from Himself those divine attributes (Philippians 2:5-8).

The Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross. His death was voluntary, vicarious (on our behalf), substitutionary (it should have been us), propitiatory (satisfying God's justice), and redemptive (saved us from being lost) (John 10:15; Romans 3:24-25; 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24).

On the basis of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the believing sinner is freed from the punishment, the penalty, the power, and one day the very presence of sin; the sinner is declared righteous, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God (Romans 3:25; 5:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18).

Our justification is made sure by Christ's literal, physical resurrection from the dead; and Jesus is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He currently mediates as our Advocate and High Priest (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:38-39; Acts 2:30-31; Romans 4:25; 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave is a historical and literal fact. God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God the Father has accepted the atoning work (making restitution; paying the penalty for a crime) of Christ on the cross. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers (John 5:26-29; 14:19; Romans 1:4; 4:25; 6:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23).

Jesus Christ will return to receive the church and reward Believers with eternal life (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20).

Jesus Christ is the One through whom God will judge all mankind (John 5:22-23): Believers (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10), living inhabitants of the earth at His glorious return

(Matthew 25:31-46), and the unbelieving dead at the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15).

Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), the Head of His Body the church (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18), and the coming universal King, who will reign on the throne of David (Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:31-33), He is the final Judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior (Matthew 25:14-46; Acts 17:30-31).

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity, including intellect (1 Corinthians 2:10-13), emotions (Ephesians 4:30), will (1 Corinthians 12:11), eternity (Hebrews 9:14), omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10), omniscience (Isaiah 40:13-14), omnipotence (Romans 15:13), and truthfulness (John 16:13). In all the divine attributes, He is equal with the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; and Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17).

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will of God with relation to all mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in creation (Genesis 1:2), the incarnation (Matthew 1:18), the written revelation (2 Peter 1:20-21), and the work of salvation (John 3:5-7).

The work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ (John 14:16-17; 15:26) to initiate and complete the building of the Body of Christ, which is His Church (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ; and transforming believers into the image of Christ (John 16:7-9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:22).

The Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption (Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).

The Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher, who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit (John 16:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).

The Holy Spirit determines and provides the spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith (John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:1-4).

The Truth About Man

In the last 50 years, psychology, psychotherapy, psychiatry, and humanism have risen to claim total authority and infallibility concerning the nature of man. An average person armed with God's Word is seen as a simpleminded hayseed... mocked, marginalized, and patronized by the vast industry of doctors, counselors, pharmaceutical companies, and even Scripturally deficient Christians/Churches. A 24-year-old "psych major" fresh out of college is seen as scientific, educated, trained, authoritative, and credible, while a seasoned, mature Christian communicating what the Bible says about "life" is dismissed as ineffective at best, and a bumbling fool at worst.

For Christians, we must face a huge decision about who/what we trust because modern humanist psychotherapy is based on an understanding of human nature that is utterly opposite of Scripture.

- Modern psychology holds to the basic goodness of man. The Bible says the opposite.
- Modern psychology does not recognize or believe that man is born with a sinful nature. The Bible says we are.
- Modern psychology presents the cause of bad behavior as chemical imbalance, external influence, or disease. The Bible says it originates in our sinful nature.

Those are just a few examples. Even those leave each Christian facing a decision: is the Bible right, or are the “mental health experts” right? They can’t both be right because the fundamental premises are obviously incompatible.

It is a question of authority and credibility. I’ll take God’s proven, inspired, timeless and unchanging Truth over the ever-evolving theories of God-rejecting (and often God-hating) humans. (The recognized originators of modern psychology openly rejected God and the Bible).

It’s a matter of authority and credibility.

What the Bible plainly says about “man”:

Man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man was created originally free of sin with a rational nature,

intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Genesis 2:7, 15-25; James 3:9).

God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship, live his life in the will of God; and by this, accomplish God's purpose for man in the world (Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11).

Because Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God ("thou shall not..."), man lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, became subject to the wrath of God, and became corrupt by nature. With no ability to save himself, man is hopelessly lost.

Man's salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-19; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; 1 John 1:8).

Because all men are descended from Adam, Adam's sinful nature has been transmitted to all people of all ages - Jesus Christ being the only exception. All humans are thus sinners by nature and by choice (Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18, 23; 5:10-12).

Salvation – Rescued

Definition: to be rescued from eternal condemnation that is rightly deserved because of sin, and given instead a pardon from punishment and the gift of eternal life in Heaven with God.

Salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Regeneration – “Born Again”

Definition: the supernatural and divine occurrence of a person’s sinful eternal spirit being re-created (i.e. “reborn”) into a new sinless eternal spirit.

Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given (John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24) when the repentant sinner responds in obedient faith to the divine offer of salvation.

Good works and obedience are the proper evidence and fruit of genuine regeneration (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:10), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life

through faithful obedience to the Word of God (Ephesians 5:17-21; Philippians 2:12b; Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:4-10).

This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming (Romans 8:17; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2-3).

Justification – Sin is Paid For

Definition: being made right, having an account "paid in full", a deserved fine or penalty paid.

Justification before God is an act of God (Romans 8:33) by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6-7) and confess Him as sovereign Lord (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Philippians 2:11).

This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man (Romans 3:20; 4:6) and involves the imputation (the placing upon) of our sins to Christ (Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24) and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Sanctification – How to Live

Definition: living a holy life, a diminishing desire for and practice of sinful behavior, the active effort to become more pure and sinless.

Every believer is sanctified (set apart) to God and commanded to live differently than unbelievers.

“Progressive sanctification” is the process of living our current life with increasing holiness and decreasing sinfulness. “Positional sanctification” has to do with the believer's standing before God. With regards to eternity, upon being saved, the Christian is immediately sanctified and pure before God – our position before Him (Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 2:11; 3:1; 10:10, 14; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:2).

Progressive sanctification is the daily process of moving closer and closer to our positional sanctification. Through obedience to the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:17,19; Romans 6:1-22; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23).

Every saved person is involved in a daily conflict—the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh (the sinful nature of the human

body)—but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

This struggle stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended until the next life. Total eradication of sin during this life is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin (Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:12; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9; Galatians 5:16-25).

Separation From Worldly Living

Separation from sin is clearly called for throughout the Old and New Testaments, and the Scriptures clearly indicate that in the last days apostasy and worldliness shall increase (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Out of deep gratitude for the undeserved grace of God granted to us, and because our glorious God is so worthy of our total dedication, the Saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our adoring love to God and so as not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior.

We should reject all religious false teaching, as well as worldly and sinful practices (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

Believers should be separated (live differently than unbelievers) to our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-2) and affirm that the Christian life is a life of obedient righteousness that reflects the teaching of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:2-12) and a continual pursuit of holiness (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:1-10).

Security About Salvation

All the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 7:25; 13:5; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24).

It is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an excuse for sinful living (Romans 6:15-22; 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13, 25-26; Titus 2:11-14).

The Church

All who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13), the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8), of which Christ is the Head (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18).

The formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47).

The church is a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born-again believers in this present age (Ephesians 2:11-3:6).

The establishment of local autonomous churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28) and that the members of the one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (1 Corinthians 11:18-20; Hebrews 10:25).

The one supreme authority for the church is Christ (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated positions serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called bishops, pastors, and pastor teachers; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

These leaders lead or rule as servants of Christ (1 Timothy 5:17-22) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

Discipleship is extremely important (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2), for mutual accountability of all believers to each other (Matthew 18:5-14).

The Bible declares the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations (Titus 1:5; Acts 15:19-31; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

The purpose of the church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Ephesians 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by baptizing and observing the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

The Church calls all saints to the work of service (1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 4:12; Revelation 22:12). Two specific things have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:38-42).

Christian baptism by immersion (Acts 8:36-39) is the solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:1-11). It is also a sign of fellowship and

identification with the visible Body of Christ (Acts 2:41-42).

The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28-32).

The elements of the Lord's Supper (the Bread and the Cup) are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, while the observance is an actual spiritual communion with the risen Christ who indwells every believer, and so is present, fellowshiping with His people (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Holy Angels

Angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshipped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they are created to serve God and to worship Him (Luke 2:9-14; Hebrews 1:6-7, 14; 2:6-7; Revelation 5:11-14; 19:10; 22:9).

Fallen Angels

Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19), by taking numerous angels with him in his fall (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:1-14), and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:1-15).

Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Isaiah 14:13-14; Matthew 4:1-11; Revelation 12:9-10); he is the prince of this world, who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 16:20); and he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

Death

Physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness (Revelation 6:9-11). In death, the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ (Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8), and there is a separation of soul and body (Philippians 1:21-24). For the redeemed, such separation will continue until the time when soul and body is reunited to be glorified forever with our Lord (Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-44, 50-54). Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8).

There will be a bodily resurrection of all men; the saved to eternal life (John 6:39; Romans 8:10-11, 19-23; 2 Corinthians 4:14), and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:13-15).

The souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second resurrection (Luke

16:19-26; Revelation 20:13-15), when the soul and the resurrection body will be united (John 5:28-29). They shall then appear at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) and shall be cast into hell, the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41-46), cut off from the life of God forever (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

The Judgment of the Lost

Christ, who is the Judge of all men (John 5:22), will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne Judgment. This resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment (John 5:28-29), they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15).

Eternity

The saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, after which the elements of this earth are to be dissolved (2 Peter 3:10) and replaced with a new earth, wherein only righteousness dwells (Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 20:15, 21:1-27; 22:1-22). Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven (Revelation 21:2) and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another (John 17:3; Revelation 21-22).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28), that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever (1 Corinthians 15:28).

What It Means to Be a Christian

Being a Christian is more than identifying yourself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation. Consider the following truths found in Scripture.

God Is Sovereign Creator

Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Therefore, He also owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

God Is Holy

God is absolutely and perfectly holy (Isaiah 6:3), therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil (James 1:13). God requires holiness of us as

well. First Peter 1:16 says, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Mankind Is Sinful

According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46). That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own (Romans 3:10-12).

Sin Demands a Penalty

God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death (Ezekiel 18:4). That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

Jesus Is Lord and Savior

The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (Colossians 1:16). Therefore He owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's holiness (2 Corinthians 5:21), thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (Romans 3:26).

The Character of Saving Faith

True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin (Luke 13:3, 5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9) and pursue Christ (Matthew 11:28-30; John 17:3) and obedience to Him (1 John 2:3).

It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (James 2:19), but they don't love and obey Him. True saving faith always responds in obedience (Ephesians 2:10).

100 Important Verses to Help You Know the Bible

1. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Jer 29:11: 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.
3. Rom 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.
4. Phil 4:13: I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.
5. Gen 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
6. Prov 3:5: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
7. Prov 3:6: in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
8. Rom 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— His good, pleasing, and perfect will.
9. Phil 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
10. Matt 28:19: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
11. Eph 2:8: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

12. Gal 5:22: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
13. Rom 12:1: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship.
14. John 10:10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
15. Acts 18:10: For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."
16. Acts 18:9: One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.
17. Acts 18:11: So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.
18. Gal 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
19. 1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
20. Rom 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
21. John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
22. Matt 28:20: and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely

I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

23. Rom 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
24. Phil 4:8: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
25. Phil 4:7: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
26. Josh 1:9: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
27. Isa 40:31: but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
28. Eph 2:9: not by works, so that no one can boast.
29. Rom 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
30. Gal 5:23: gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
31. Isa 53:5: But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us

peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

32. 1 Pet 3:15: But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
33. 2 Tim 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
34. Matt 6:33: But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
35. Heb 12:2: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
36. 1 Pet 5:7: Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.
37. Eph 2:10: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
38. 1 Cor 10:13: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
39. Matt 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

40. Heb 11:1: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
41. 2 Cor 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
42. Heb 13:5: Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
43. 2 Cor 12:9: But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
44. Rom 10:9: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
45. Isa 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
46. Gen 1:26: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
47. Matt 11:29: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
48. John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world

you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

49. Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
50. 2 Tim 1:7: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.
51. Isa 53:4: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
52. 2 Cor 5:21: God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
53. Rom 15:13: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
54. John 11:25: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;
55. Heb 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
56. John 5:24: “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.
57. Jas 1:2: Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

58. Isa 53:6: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
59. Acts 2:38: Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
60. Eph 3:20: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us,
61. Matt 11:30: For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
62. Gen 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
63. Col 3:12: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
64. Heb 12:1: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
65. Jas 5:16: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
66. Acts 17:11: Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great

- eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.
67. Phil 4:19: And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
 68. John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 69. 1 Cor 6:19: Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
 70. 1 John 3:16: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
 71. Ps 133:1: How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!
 72. John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
 73. Heb 4:12: For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
 74. John 15:13: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
 75. Mic 6:8: He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of

- you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
76. Rom 10:17: Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
 77. John 1:12: Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—
 78. Jas 1:12: Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.
 79. Jas 1:3: because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
 80. Rom 8:38: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
 81. Rom 8:39: neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 82. Heb 10:25: Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
 83. 2 Pet 1:4: Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

84. Phil 1:6: being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
85. Ps 133:3: It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.
86. Heb 4:16: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
87. Ps 37:4: Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.
88. John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.
89. Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
90. Isa 26:3: You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.
91. 1 Pet 2:24: He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.
92. Josh 1:8: Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

93. Matt 28:18: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
94. Col 3:23: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,
95. Matt 22:37: Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
96. Ps 133:2: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.
97. Matt 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
98. Isa 55:8: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
99. Heb 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

John 13:35 - By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

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