

GOD & MAN

HOW TO BE SAVED FROM SIN



Written by Don & Marian Starks

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D O N & M A R I A N S T A R K S

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Don & Marian Starks
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Don & Marian Starks and their family traveled throughout the Caribbean in the 1970's and 1980's.
Their goal was to bring the Gospel to all nations, to seek and save the lost,
and teach them to observe all the things that Jesus commanded.
Because of their tireless efforts and great personal sacrifice,
many souls were baptized and added to God's kingdom.
Don Starks died at 62 years of age on January 1, 1994.
Presently Marian Starks is 91 and living in Tyler, Texas.

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Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the
New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Emphasis added to key words by use of bold type.

GOD AND MAN

1. "In the beginning God . . ." (Genesis 1:1)

In the beginning God was; today He is; and when time is no more,
He ever will be.

2. **But what of man?** "God **created** man . . ." (Genesis 1:27)

". . . of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the
breath of life and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

3. **Why did God create man?**

for His **glory** (Isaiah 43:7)
for His **pleasure** (Revelation 4:11)

God created man with the freedom to choose to obey or disobey.
In the beginning, God spoke directly to man and told him what
would please Him. (Genesis 2:16-17)

4. **Today God also tells man what pleases Him.**

"But without **faith** it is impossible to **please** Him, for he that
comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of
those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

5. **Where can man find this faith?**

"So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the **Word of
God.**" (Romans 10:17)

THE BIBLE

ITS ORIGIN “All scripture is given by **inspiration** of God and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, that the man of God may be **PURPOSE** **complete**, thoroughly equipped for every **good work**.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

HOW DID GOD REVEAL SCRIPTURE TO US?

“ . . . holy **men of God** spoke as they were moved by the **Holy Spirit**.”
(2 Peter 1:21)

“ . . . God has revealed them to us through **His Spirit**.”
(1 Corinthians 2:10)

WHO DID GOD USE AS HIS SPOKESMEN?

“God, who . . . spoke in time past to the **fathers** by the **prophets**, has in these last days spoken to us by **His Son** . . .”
(Hebrews 1:1-2)

1. **Fathers** – God spoke directly to Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.
2. **Prophets** – God spoke to the people through Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, Amos, etc. and they wrote down what God said in the Old Testament.
3. **His Son** – God speaks to us today by His Son through the Holy Spirit which was sent to guide the writers of the New Testament.
(see page 4 for details)

DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD? Yes – No

TWO TESTAMENTS – TWO COVENANTS

GOD HAS MADE MORE THAN ONE COVENANT WITH MAN

1. The First Covenant was given to Israel through Moses.
(Exodus 34:27-28)
 2. A New Covenant was prophesied by Jeremiah.
(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-12)
 3. God's Son came: "He takes away the **first** that He may establish the **second**."
(Hebrews 10:9)
 4. Today man is under the **New Testament**. (2 Corinthians 3:6)
– the **Law of Christ** (Galatians 6:2)
- The **Old Testament** has been done away. (2 Corinthians 3:14)
- the **Law of Moses** (Acts 13:39)

THE VALUE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT TODAY

Romans 15:4 – "For whatever things were written before were written for our **learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have **hope**."

- We **learn** from God's dealings with the people of the Old Testament that God always says what He means and means what He says. (Genesis 2:17)

1 Corinthians 10:6 – "... these things became our **examples** ..."

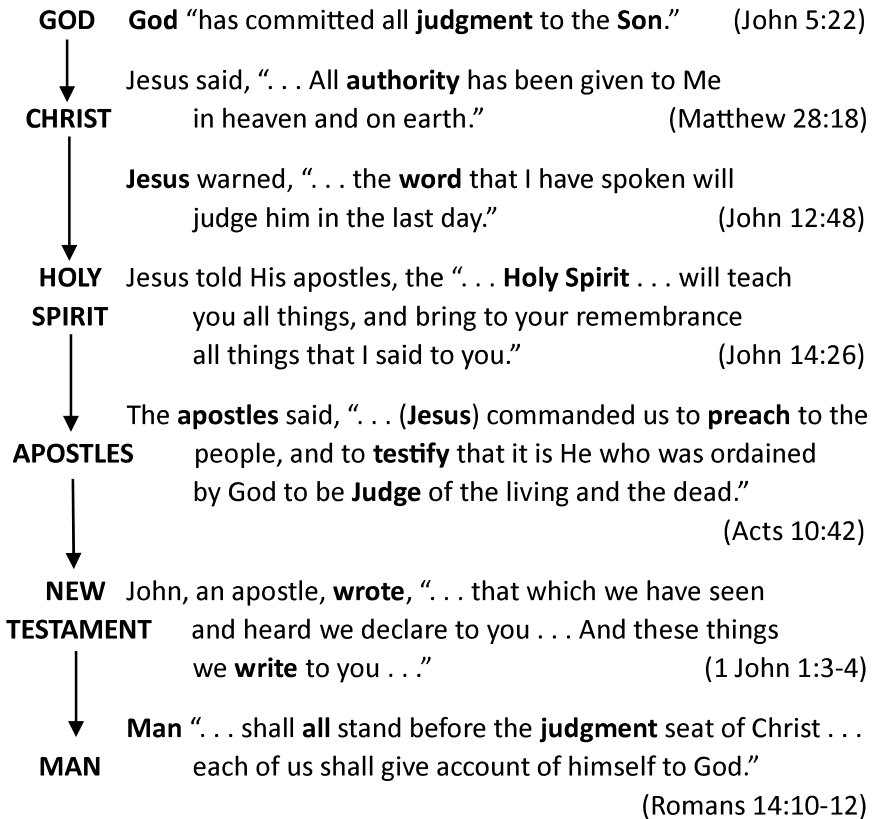
- We **learn** that God **blesses** those who **obey**.

1 Corinthians 10:11 – "... these things ... were written for our **admonition** ..."

- We **learn** that God **punishes** those who **disobey**.

WE ARE BOUND TODAY UNDER THE NEW COVENANT. Yes or No?
(See pages 26-27)

NEW TESTAMENT – OUR AUTHORITY TODAY



THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTAINS EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW TODAY – Yes or No

2 Peter 1:3 – God “. . . has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness,”

John 20:31 – “but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

THE BIBLE – THE TRUTH

GOD WARNS AGAINST CHANGING HIS WORD

Revelation 22:18-19 – “. . . If anyone **adds** to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life,”

Galatians 1:8 – “But even if we (**apostles**), or an **angel** from heaven (or any **man**, vs. 9), preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

RESULT OF FOLLOWING ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 15:3 & 9 – “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your **tradition**? . . . in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the **commandments of men**.”

Colossians 2:8 – “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

THEREFORE, WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS THE ONLY SOURCE FOR TRUTH – Yes or No

Acts 17:11 – They “. . . **searched** the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13 – “. . . when you received the **Word of God** which you heard from us, you welcomed it **not** as the **word of men**, but as it is in **truth**, the **Word of God** . . .”

John 8:32 – “And you shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you free.”

THE TRUTH CONCERNING RELIGION

1. How many different religions are in this area? _____

- a. Have you ever wondered where all these churches came from?
Yes – No
- b. Is this confusing to you? Yes – No
- c. Did God cause all this confusion? Yes – No

(See 1 Corinthians 14:33)

2. How many churches did God promise to build? _____

(Matthew 16:18)

- a. Why is it “**His**” church?

Answer: the same reason my clothes are mine.

- Jesus **purchased the church** with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

- b. What is the “**church**”? a building or a group of people?

- “Now you (Christians) are the **body** of Christ . . .”

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

- c. The “**church**” (Greek word **ecclesia**) is a “called out” **body** of people.

(1 Peter 2:9)

- 1) What does the Bible say that body is? _____

(Ephesians 1:22-23)

- 2) How many bodies does the Bible say there are? _____

(Ephesians 4:4)

- 3) Therefore, how many churches does the Bible speak about? _____

- d. How many **bodies** (churches) is Christ the Head of? _____

(Ephesians 5:23)

3. Where did all the denominations

(division or part of the whole) **come from?**

God or Man

- a. Acts 20:30 – “from among yourselves **men** will rise up, speaking perverse (different from the truth) things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”
- b. 1 Timothy 4:1 – “. . . some will depart from the faith . . .”
- c. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires . . . they will turn their ears away from **the truth** . . .”

THE TRUTH CONCERNING RELIGION

4. Is church division (denominations) approved by God?

- a. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** (denominations) among you, but that you be perfectly **joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**."

(1 Corinthians 1:10)

- b. Should I be a member of a denomination (division)? Yes – No

5. Jesus wanted all his disciples to be one.

- a. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be **one** . . . that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20-21)

- b. How can all Disciples (followers) of Christ be ONE?

1) By "not giving heed to . . . commandments of men who turn from the **truth**." (Titus 1:14)

2) "**Beware** lest any man cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

3) See (1 Corinthians 1:10) above

– **All** use the **same source of truth** (John 17:17)

6. The Word of God tells us about the one church.

- a. Do you agree that Jesus has only one church? Yes – No
- b. Should we be members of that one church? Yes – No

THE TRUTH CONCERNING SALVATION

1. In the beginning (Genesis 2:16-17)

God gave man a **choice** – **to obey** or **to disobey**
(not to eat) (to eat)

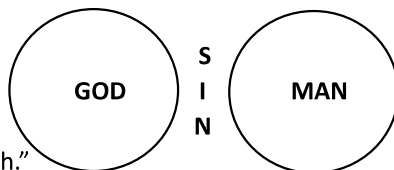
God told man the **consequences** – **life** or **death**
(Fellowship with God) (Separation from God)

2. When man chose to disobey, he was separated from God

(Genesis 3:22-24)

Isaiah 59:2 – “But your iniquities
have separated you from your God
and your sins have hidden His face
from you, so that He will not hear.”

James 1:15 – “sin . . . brings forth death.”



Man's Condition

Bad News

Romans 6:23a – “For the wages of sin is **death** . . .” **DEATH PENALTY**

James 2:10 – “. . . stumble in one point . . . **guilty** of all.” **GUILTY**

Ephesians 2:12 – “. . . without Christ . . . having **no hope** . . .” **LOST**

Romans 8:7 – “. . . the carnal mind is **enmity** against God . . .” **ENEMIES**

Isaiah 59:2 – “. . . **separated** you from your God . . .” **SEPARATED**

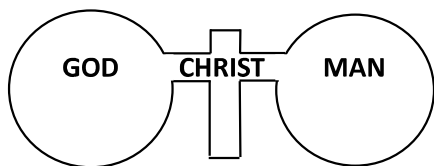
1 Corinthians 6:9 – “. . . **unrighteous** will not inherit . . .” **UNRIGHTEOUS**

THE TRUTH CONCERNING SALVATION

1. God had a plan

Ephesians 1:9-10 – God purposed “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ . . .”

2. God’s plan of reconciliation (making friends again) with man



2 Corinthians 5:19 – “. . . God was in **Christ**, reconciling the world to himself . . .”

Romans 5:10 – “. . . we were **reconciled** to God **through** the **death** of His Son . . .”

Good News

God’s Remedy

Penalty Paid

Romans 5:8 – “. . . Christ **died** for us.”

Innocent

Romans 5:9a – “. . . **justified** (just-if-I’d never sinned) by His blood . . .”

Saved

Romans 5:9b – “. . . **saved** from wrath through Him.”

Reconciled

Romans 5:10 – “. . . **reconciled** (made friends again) . . . through the death of His Son . . .”

Together

Romans 5:11 – “. . . received the **reconciliation**” (atonement-KJV: at-one with God).

Righteous

Romans 5:19 – “. . . by one Man’s obedience many will be made **righteous**.”

SIN – MAN’S PROBLEM

1. “The wages of sin is death . . .”

(Romans 6:23a)

A “**wage**” is earned, deserved, and something that **must be paid**.

2. What is sin?

“All **unrighteousness** is sin . . .” (1 John 5:17; see Romans 1:29-32; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Rom 14:23 – “. . . whatever is **not from faith** is sin.”

James 4:17 – “. . . to him who knows to **do good**, and **does not do it**, to him it is sin.”

1 John 3:4 – “Whoever commits sin also **commits lawlessness** . . .”

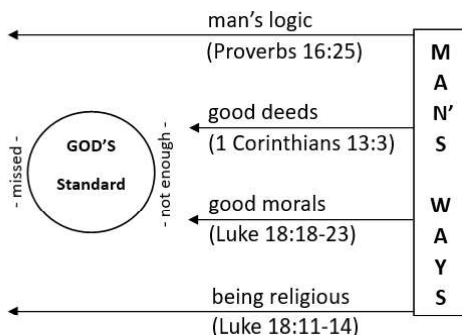
When we fail to measure up to (fall short of) God’s standard, we sin.

3. The problem:

Man tries to solve the problem of separation from God but –

“ . . . the **way of men** is not in himself . . . to direct his own steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23; see Isaiah 55:8-9)

“all have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)



4. The penalty:

Matthew 25:41 & 46 – “Depart from Me

. . . into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels . . .

And these will go away into everlasting punishment . . .”

LOVE – GOD’S SOLUTION

1. “. . . **The gift of God** is **eternal life** in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23b)

A “**gift**” is unearned, undeserved, not owed, awarded out of **love**.

2. **The cost** – “God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son...”

(John 3:16)

Leviticus 17:11 – “. . . it is the blood that makes atonement (at-one with God) for the soul.”

Hebrews 9:22 – “. . . without shedding of **blood** there is no remission. ”

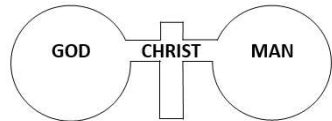
“God demonstrates (shows) His own **love** toward us, in that . . . **Christ died** for us.”

(Romans 5:8)

3. **Jesus paid the price we could never pay**

1 John 2:2 – “He Himself is the propitiation (**payment**) for our sins . . .”

1 Peter 2:24 – “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree . . .”



4. **Why the blood of Christ?**

- a. The blood of animals could not take away sins.

(Hebrews 10:4-5)

- b. The blood of a sinful, guilty person cannot pay the price of another’s sins.

(Example: If two murderers are condemned to die, one cannot die in the place of the other. Both are guilty, both condemned, both must pay, both must die.)

- c. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the **just for the unjust**, that He might bring us to God, being put to **death** in the flesh . . .”

(1 Peter 3:18)

GOD'S GIFT MAN MUST RECEIVE

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

"He who rejects Me, and does not **receive My words**, has that which judges him – the **word** that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
(John 12:48)

Jesus' Words

HEAR " . . . he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me
(John 5:24) has everlasting life."
+ must do more than just **hear** (Matthew 7:24)

BELIEVE " . . . if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins."
(John 8:24) + must do more than just **believe**
(James 2:19; John 12:42)

CONFESS " . . . whoever **confesses** Me before men, him I will also
(Matthew 10:32) **confess** before My Father who is in heaven."
+ must do more than just **confess** (Romans 10:9-10)

REPENT " . . . unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish."
(Luke 13:3) + must do more than just **repent** (Acts 2:38)

BE BAPTIZED "He who believes and **is baptized** will be **saved** . . ."
(Mark 16:16) + must do more than just **be baptized** (Acts 8:37)

BE FAITHFUL "**Be faithful** until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
(Revelation 2:10) + must do more than just **be faithful** (see above)

RESPONSE TO JESUS' WORDS

Jesus told His apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the **gospel** (Death, Burial, Resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) to every creature. He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be **saved**; but he who does not believe will be **condemned**." (Mark 16:15-16)

WHAT WAS THE RESULT WHEN THE APOSTLES DID AS JESUS COMMANDED THEM?

JEWS ON PENTECOST
(Acts 2:37-47) "... **heard** (the **gospel**) ... were cut to the heart (**believed**), and said ... what shall we do? Then Peter said ... '**Repent** and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins' ... who gladly **received** his word were **baptized** ... that day ... and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being **saved**."

SAMARITANS
(Acts 8:5-12) "... Philip ... preached Christ (**gospel**) to them ... when they **believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were **baptized**."

EUNUCH
(Acts 8:35-39) "Philip ... preached ... Jesus (**gospel**) ... the eunuch said, 'See here is **water**. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' ... he ... said (**confessed**), 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' ... both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **baptized** him ... he went on his way **rejoicing**."

NOTE THE RESPONSE OF THESE PEOPLE TO THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

__ HEARD __ BELIEVED __ REPENTED __ CONFESSED __ WERE BAPTIZED __ SAVED

FACTS ABOUT REPENTANCE

1. **To repent** is to “. . . be converted . . .” (**changed** – Acts 3:19)
For example:
 - a. Acts 8:27 – “. . . eunuch . . . had come to Jerusalem to worship.”
(Here was a man who had to change his religion.)
 - b. Acts 9:6 – “. . . Lord, what do You want me to do?”
(As soon as Paul realized it was Jesus, he changed his mind about Him.)
 - c. Acts 16:33 – Jailer had them beaten, then “washed their stripes.”
(Here was a man who changed his actions.)
 - d. Acts 19:18-19 – The change in these people caused them to destroy possessions that were of evil influence.
2. Notice **how long** it took these people **to repent**.
 - a. Acts 2:38 & 41 – Jews on Pentecost obeyed the commands the
“same day.”
 - b. Acts 16:33 – Jailer changed “same hour of the night”
3. **To repent** is to make a **commitment** (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 4:1-2)
 - a. To **change** your way of life (not live like people of the world).
 - b. To **change** your thinking
 (“renewing your mind” with God’s Word as a guide).
 - c. To **change** from living for self to living for the Lord.

FACTS ABOUT CONFESSION

1. **Not** “confessing sins” – but to “confess with your mouth
the Lord Jesus” (Romans 10:9)
2. **Not** “praying through”; **not** praying for forgiveness of sins.
– Prayer for forgiveness reserved for child of God. (1 John 1:9; 1 Peter 3:12)
3. **Saying**: “I believe that Jesus Christ is
the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37; 1 John 4:15)
4. **Showing** by my life (“before men” – Matthew 10:32)
that I am following Him. (Luke 9:23)

FACTS ABOUT BAPTISM

1. **Baptism** is **burial** in **water**.

- a. Acts 8:38 – “And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the **water**, and he baptized him.”
- b. Romans 6:4 – “. . . we were **buried** with Him through baptism into His death . . .”

2. **Salvation** always came **after baptism**.

- a. Mark 16:16 – “He who believes **and** is baptized will be **saved** . . .”
- b. Acts 2:38 – “Repent, **and** . . . be baptized . . . **for** the remission of sins . . .”
- c. Acts 22:16 – “. . . Arise and be baptized, **and wash away** your sins . . .”

3. Those **baptized** were **adults**.

- a. Acts 8:37 – “. . . If you believe with all your heart, you may . . . and he answered and said . . .” (person had to believe; person had to confess with his mouth – Romans 10:9).
- b. Can a baby **hear** and **understand the gospel? Believe? Repent? Speak?**
(See page 29)

4. Those converted were baptized **immediately**.

- a. Acts 2:41 – “. . . those who gladly received his word were baptized . . . that day . . .”
- b. Acts 16:33 – “. . . the same hour of the night . . . all his family were baptized.”

5. Further teaching came **after baptism**.

- a. Jesus said, “Go . . . make disciples (**teach**) . . . baptizing . . . teaching them to observe . . .” (Matthew 28:19-20)
- b. Acts 2:41-47 – “. . . were baptized . . . and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (**teaching**) and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and in prayers . . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being **saved**.”

HOW IMPORTANT IS BAPTISM?

BAPTISM AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST CAN NOT BE SEPARATED

If the Lord's Supper (Communion) is separated from the cross,
it has no meaning.

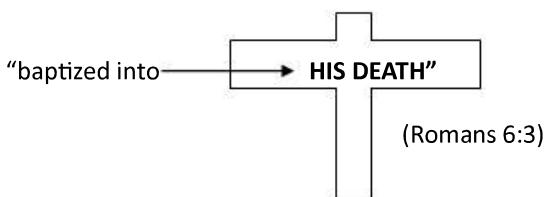
(Lord's Supper = Body and Blood of Christ shed on the cross
– Matthew 26:26-28)

If **baptism** is separated from the **cross** it has no meaning.
(baptism = **death + burial + resurrection** of Christ – Romans 6:3-4)

Romans 6:3-4 – “Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**? Therefore we were **buried** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

BAPTISM AND THE BLOOD CAN NOT BE SEPARATED

Baptism gives access to
His blood which He shed
In **His death** on the cross.



Benefit of His blood → **Received by me when?**

Matthew 26:28 – **Remission of sins**

Baptized for “remission of sins” – Acts 2:38

Hebrews 9:14 – **Cleans conscience**

Baptism is “answer of a good conscience” – 1 Peter 3:21

Revelation 1:5 – **Washes away sins**

Be baptized and “wash away your sins” – Acts 22:16

THEREFORE BAPTISM AND SALVATION CANNOT BE SEPARATED

OBEY THE GOSPEL

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 “. . . when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What is the gospel?

- (Good News)
- a. Christ **died** for our sins.
 - b. Christ was **buried**
 - c. Christ **rose again**
- (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

THE GOSPEL IS THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

How can I obey the gospel?

Romans 6:3-4 – “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His **death**? Therefore we were **buried** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

IN BAPTISM, WE EXPERIENCE THE DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION

We are, therefore, “**born again**”. (John 3:3)

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

Have you “obeyed that form of doctrine (**death+burial+resurrection**)?”

(Romans 6:17)

ARE YOU “IN CHRIST”?

WHY IN CHRIST?

“Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of **reconciliation** . . . God was **in Christ** reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them . . .

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

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

The Bible tells us only one way to get into Christ.

BAPTIZED INTO →

Romans 6:3 – “. . . as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ . . .”

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

IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:17 – “New Creation”
Ephesians 1:3 – “**Every Spiritual Blessing**”
Ephesians 1:7 – “Redemption”
Ephesians 1:11 – “Inheritance”
Ephesians 2:16 – “Reconciliation”
Philippians 2:1 – “Comfort”
Colossians 1:14 – “Forgiveness”
1 Thessalonians 1:3 – “Hope”
2 Timothy 2:10 – “Salvation” Ephesians
1 Timothy 1:14 – “Faith and love”
Romans 8:1 – “No condemnation”
Revelation 14:13 – “blessed are the dead who die **in the Lord**”

ARE THERE ANY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OUTSIDE OF CHRIST?

Yes – No

QUESTIONS

1. **Can a person be saved outside of Christ?** Yes – No
 - a. Are you **in Christ** before you are baptized? Yes – No
 - b. Are you **saved before** you are baptized?
Yes – No
2. **Are you ready to be judged by the words of Jesus** (Page 12)?
Yes – No
3. Have you **obeyed the gospel** in the **same way** those in the Bible did?
Yes – No
 - Was your baptism a **burial** (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)
in **water** (Acts 8:38-39)? Yes – No
4. Have you **been baptized** for the **same reason** those in the Bible did?
Yes – No
 - a. Was your baptism “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38);
to have your sins “washed away” (Acts 22:16)? Yes – No
 - One cannot be taught wrong and be baptized right –
(If you were taught that you were saved before baptism,
you could not possibly have been baptized for the right reason.)
 - b. If you have been baptized for the **wrong reason**, should you be
baptized again (Acts 19:1-7)? Yes – No
5. **Are you ready** to be baptized in the **right way** for the **right reason**?
Yes – No
 - a. After hearing, believing, confessing, and repenting, how long did
these in the Bible wait before being baptized?
Acts 2:42 _____ Acts 8:36 _____ Acts 16:33 _____
 - b. **Are you ready now** (2 Corinthians 6:2) to be baptized and wash
away your sins? Yes – No

AFTER BAPTISM THEN WHAT?

1. You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) **Born again**

- a. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word . . ." (1 Peter 2:2)
- b. Lay aside "... all malice . . . deceit . . . hypocrisy . . . envy . . . evil speaking." (1 Peter 2:1)
- c. Grow in "... faith . . . virtue . . . knowledge . . . self-control . . . perseverance . . . godliness . . . brotherly kindness . . . love." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

2. Study (2 Timothy 2:15)

- a. "... be ready to give a defense . . . for the hope that is in you . . ." (1 Peter 3:15)
- b. That you may "... be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

3. Love one another (John 13:34)

4. Do good works (Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 6:10)

5. Be faithful unto death (even if dying for your faith) (Revelation 2:10 - KJV)

6. When a Christian sins –

- a. You have "... an Advocate (go-between) with the Father, Jesus Christ . . ." (1 John 2:1)
- b. You must **confess**
 - 1) "If we (**Christians**) confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
 - 2) Who has this privilege?
 - a) Those who have access to the **blood of Christ** that **cleanses** (1 John 1:7)
 - b) Those who have access to God by being **in Christ** (Ephesians 2:18; 3:12)
- c. You must **repent and pray**. (Example: Acts 8:22)
- d. A Christian can have confidence in prayer. (Read 1 John 5:14-15)

AFTER BAPTISM THEN WHAT?

7. Assemble with Christians

(Hebrews 10:25)

a. **When?** “. . . on the first day of the week . . . disciples came together . . .”
(Acts 20:7)

b. **Why?** John 4:24 – to worship God “in spirit and truth”

- 1) Preaching and teaching (Acts 20:7; 2:42 – “Apostles’ Doctrine”)
- 2) Communion
(1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-29; Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7)
- 3) Prayer (1 Corinthians 14:15a; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 4) Singing Praises (1 Corinthians 14:15b; Ephesians 5:19;
Colossians 3:16 – see also page 32)
- 5) Collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Note: Worship that is not “in spirit and truth” is **vain worship**.

(Matthew 15:8-9)

c. **Where?** or with whom? Ans: with those of “like precious faith”

(2 Peter 1:1)

- 1) **A church** whose **head** is **Christ** (Ephesians 1:22)
- 2) **A church** whose **members** are called:
“Christians” (Acts 11:26) “Saints” (Philippians 1:1)
“Priests” (1 Peter 2:5,9) “Children of God” (1 John 3:1-2)
- 3) **A church** that glorifies the **name** of its owner, designer, builder
(Matthew 16:18)
 - a) “Church of God” – 1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 20:28
 - b) “Body of Christ” – Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:23
 - c) “Bride of Christ” – Romans 7:4; Revelation 21:9
 - d) “House of God” – 1 Timothy 3:15
 - e) “Churches of Christ” – Romans 16:16
 - f) “The Church” – Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:24-25

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

The church of Christ is composed of people around the world who meet together in congregational groups to worship, some consisting of just a few members, others numbering in the hundreds or even over a thousand.

NAME

Calling ourselves simply “Christians,” we are dedicated to Christ and to a restoration of His church as outlined in the New Testament. The term “church of Christ” simply designates ownership. Rather than being the name of another denomination (a practice condemned in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13), we plead for religious unity based upon the teaching of Christ (John 17:20-21) and the apostles (Ephesians 2:20).

RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

The **unity** of teaching and practice enjoyed is due to our acceptance of Christ as “all authority” (Matthew 28:18). Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and we must not lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5), we conclude that anything not authorized by the Word of God is not approved of God. We must therefore exclude any teaching or practice not found in the **Word** and we must include any found therein.

(Revelation 22:18-19)

ORGANIZATION

Christ being **head** of the **church** (Ephesians 1:22), there are no earthly headquarters anywhere. Each congregation is self-ruled and independent of every other congregation. Officers of each are chosen according to qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 and serve in capacities outlined in 1 Peter 5:1-4.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

WORSHIP

In worship, we conform to the pattern outlined by Christ (John 4:24) that “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth,” spirit being from the heart, truth being according to that authorized in the Word. The church written about in the New Testament engaged in five items of worship: Preaching (the apostles’ doctrine, Acts 2:42), eating the Lord’s Supper (“breaking bread”), singing, praying, and giving. We have a specific example of the church coming together to break bread (Acts 20:7) and to take a collection from the members (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) on the first Day of the week, Sunday.

MEMBERSHIP

Those we read about in the New Testament, who obeyed the commands of the Lord which He had outlined to the apostles (Mark 16:15-16), were added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). Today Christians have no right to demand anything more or anything less of those wishing to become a child of God than that which we can read about in the New Testament.

MISSION

Since Jesus sent His disciples out into all the world to share the Good News –Gospel– (Matthew 28:19-20), we likewise recognize our responsibility to take the message to every creature today that all might have the opportunity to receive the blessing which He made possible by His death at Calvary.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO CONSIDER THE TRUTH CONCERNING RELIGION AND
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH YOU CAN READ ABOUT IN THE BIBLE.**

WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

God's Way or Man's Way

1. Is there anything in this study that you do not believe is the **truth**? Yes – No
2. Is there anything in this study that you do not understand? Yes – No
3. Is there anything in this study that you do not agree with? Yes – No
4. If I had taught you from a Denomination's creed book, and you decided to follow such teachings, what would that make you?
Christian – Other
5. If you decide to follow the teachings of the New Testament, what will that make you? Christian – Other
6. When should you **obey the gospel**? (See 2 Corinthians 6:2) NOW – Later
7. Why not delay?
 - a. James 4:13-17 – "... you do not know what will happen tomorrow . . ."
 - b. 2 Peter 3:9-12 – "... The Lord . . . is longsuffering . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night . . ."

WILL YOU BE READY?

- Yes – No
- c. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 – If you have not **obeyed the gospel, are you ready?** Yes – No
 8. **Are you ready to obey the gospel now?** Yes – No

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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UNDER WHICH COVENANT (LAW) ARE WE BOUND TODAY?

OLD (Hebrews 8:13)

OR

NEW (Hebrews 8:13; 9:15)

Given to Israel (1 Kings 8:9; Deuteronomy 5:1-3)

To all nations (Matthew 28:19-20)

Given through Moses (Exodus 34:27-28)

Given through Christ (Hebrews 9:15)

Dedicated by animal blood (Hebrews 9:18-19)

Dedicated by Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:12)

Sacrifices temporary (Hebrews 10:3)

Sacrifice forever (Hebrews 10:12)

Unable to purge conscience (Hebrews 9:9)

Purges conscience (Hebrews 9:14)

Could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:11)

Took away sin (Hebrews 10:12)

Done away (2 Corinthians 3:11, 14; Colossians 2:14)

Remains (2 Corinthians 3:11)

Abolished (2 Corinthians 3:13; Ephesians 2:14-15)

Everlasting (Hebrews 13:20)

1. **Why was the First Covenant** (Hebrews 9:1) **given?** (Galatians 3:19 & 24)

2. **Did the Old Covenant that was taken away include the Ten Commandments?**

2 Corinthians 3:7-15 – "... written and engraved on stones ... was passing away."

Hebrews 9:1-4 – "... ordinances of divine service ... tablets of the covenant ..."

Romans 7:6-7 – "... we have been delivered from the law (that said) ... you shall not covet."

Ephesians 2:15 – "having abolished ... the law of commandments ..."

3. **Are we then not bound to keep the Ten Commandments?** (Romans 8:2)

a. Ten Commandments **found** in the New Testament

1 – Ephesians 4:6

5 – Ephesians 6:1

8 – Ephesians 4:28

2 – 1 Corinthians 10:14

6 – 1 John 3:15

9 – Colossians 3:9

3 – James 5:12

7 – Hebrews 13:4

10 – Colossians 3:5

b. Other references: (Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 13:8-9)

– Jesus said: **"A New Commandment** I give ... that you **love one another** ..."

(John 13:34)

UNDER WHICH COVENANT (LAW) ARE WE BOUND TODAY?

4. What about the sabbath day commandment?

- a. Was a sign between God & Israel **only** (Exodus 31:16-17) **Who?** – Israel
- b. Was to “remember” their deliverance from bondage
(Deuteronomy 5:15) **Why?** – Remembrance
- c. Gentiles were **never under the law** (Romans 2:14)
– See Acts 15 – Note they were **not** commanded to “keep the Sabbath Day.”

5. Why do Christians today worship God on the first day of the week?

- a. Jesus arose from the dead on the **first day** (Mark 16:1-9)
- b. First appearance to assembled disciples was on **first day** (John 20:19)
- c. Next appearance during 40 days was on **first day** (John 20:26)
- d. Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on **first day** (Acts 2)
- e. First Gospel sermon was preached on **first day** (Acts 2)
- f. Disciples assembled on **first day** to break bread (Acts 20:7)
- g. Collection was taken on **first day** of week (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- h. John, an apostle, considered one day special – the **Lord’s Day**
(Revelation 1:10)
- i. Under the **New Covenant** there was an imposing list of **new things**:
 - 1) New **name** (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 4:12; 11:26)
 - 2) New **institution** – The **church** (Daniel 2:44; Acts 2:47)
 - 3) New **doctrine** – The **gospel** (Isaiah 2:3; Luke 24:47)
 - 4) New **Covenant** – **love** (John 13:34)
 - 5) New **priesthood** (Hebrews 7:24-28)
 - 6) New **feast** – **Lord’s supper** (Matt. 26:26-29)
 - 7) New **day** – **Lord’s Day** (Revelation 1:10)

6. Warnings:

Colossians 2:16 – “. . . let no one judge you . . . regarding . . . **sabbaths**,”
Galatians 5:4 – “. . . you who attempt to be justified by law; you have
fallen from grace.”

Read 2 Corinthians 3:14-16 – Whose mind is blinded?
Upon whose heart does the veil remain?

WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

1. Was he saved?

- a. Yes, Jesus told him, “. . . Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”
(Luke 23:43)
- b. Jesus had all authority including “to forgive sins” while He lived on this earth and forgave people their sins for various reasons:
(Faith of friends, Mark 2:5-12; Was son of Abraham, Luke 19:7-10;
Person’s own faith, Luke 7:48-50; No reason, John 8:3-11)
- c. However, no example of pardon before the Lord’s death can be our example today.

2. When did Jesus forgive the thief?

- a. Before He, Himself, died on the cross; therefore, the Old Testament Law was still in force. (Colossians 2:14)
- b. Before He completed His offering for the sins of the world.
(Hebrews 9:12)
- c. Before the **gospel** was fact.
(Death, Burial, Resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- d. Before Jesus issued the specific terms of pardon relative to His blood and the cross. (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20)
- e. Before the New Testament Will went into effect. (Hebrews 9:16-17)
- f. Before the terms of salvation were announced to the world. (Acts 2)

3. Conclusions

- a. The thief could not have been baptized for the remission of sins because the blood had not been shed; Christ had not yet “died for our sins.”
(Romans 5:8)
- b. The thief could not “**obey the gospel**” because the death, burial, and resurrection had not occurred.
- c. This is not true for those living **this side of the cross**.

WHEN DOES ONE BECOME A SINNER?

1. Is one “born in sin”?

Psalm 51:5 – “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity (into a sinful world), and in sin my mother conceived me.”

– What David inherited from his parents was a weakness of the flesh toward sin (See Romans 7:18). He did not inherit their sin.

Ezekial 18:20 – “The soul who sins (the soul who disobeys God) shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father . . .”

– Sin itself is not inherited. Each person comes under the penalty because of his own actions.

2. When does one become a sinner?

a. When old enough to **know** what God’s Way is:

James 4:17 – “. . . him who **knows** to do good and does not do it . . .”

Romans 14:23 – “. . . whatever is not from faith is sin.” – Romans 10:17

b. When old enough to **commit** sin; that is, to lust and yield to the lust:

James 1:15 – “. . . when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin . . . death.”

1 John 3:4 – “Whoever **commits** sin also commits lawlessness . . .”

c. When old enough to **choose** between God’s Way and man’s way:

Romans 6:16 – “. . . to whom you present yourselves . . . sin . . . or . . . obedience . . .”

3. What about children?

Jesus said:

“Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God.”
(Mark 10:14)

“Unless you are converted and become as little children (innocent), you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3-4)

HAVE MIRACLES CEASED?

1. Purpose of miracles – To confirm truth

- a. Moses spoke God's truth, then confirmed it with signs. (Exodus 4:1-9, 29, 30)
- b. Jesus' miracles were to confirm his Divine Sonship.
(Matthew 11:2-5; John 20:30-31)
- c. Apostles given power to perform miracles for "... confirming the word ..."
(Mark 16:17-20)

The truth has been confirmed – Hebrews 2:3-4

2. Power to perform miracles – Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- a. Received by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5; 2:4, 43; 11:16-18)
 - 1) Holy Spirit Baptism was not commanded and was not "for remission of sins"
 - 2) **Today** there is **one baptism** (Ephesians 4:5) – **water baptism** (1 Peter 3:20-21)
- b. Received by laying on of apostles' hands
(Acts 8:14-18; 19:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:12)
 - 1 Corinthians 12 lists "gifts of the Spirit";
 - 1 Corinthians 13 tells "duration of gifts"

Power has ceased – Apostles all dead – "But when that which is perfect (**Word**) has come, then that which is in part ("gifts", vs. 9) will be done away."
(1 Corinthians 13:10)

3. Miracles have ceased

- a. Miracles in the Bible were genuine (supernatural)
 - 1) Speaking in unknown tongues
(unlearned languages – Acts 2:4-8; 1 Corinthians 14:19)
 - 2) Nature changed
(Matthew 8:26; 14:15-21; 17:27; 21:19; Mark 6:48-50; Acts 13:11)
 - 3) Sick healed immediately (Matthew 4:24; 8:3; 8:14-15; Acts 5:12, 15)
 - 4) Lame and blind made whole
(John 9:1-25; Luke 7:22; Matthew 15:31; Acts 3:2-11)
 - 5) Dead raised
(Lazarus – John 11; Dorcas – Acts 9:36-43; Eutychus – Acts 20:9-12)
- b. Such miracles do not occur today.
 - 1) When failing to perform "miracle", "healer" claims afflicted lacks **faith**.
(See Mark 2:3-5 – friends had **faith**; Matthew 17:20-21 – healers lacked **faith**)
 - 2) Those who claim to perform "miracles" today are liars.
(See Mark 16:18 – Jesus said snakes and poison "**will by no means hurt them**")

Beware of false teachers and fake healers (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; 1 John 4:1)

CAN A PERSON ONCE SAVED FALL FROM GRACE?

1. Warnings against falling are numerous

1 Corinthians 10:12 – “. . . let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he **fall**.”

Galatians 5:1-4 – “. . . do not be entangled again . . . you who attempt to be justified by law . . . have **fallen from grace**.”

Hebrews 3:12 – “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in **departing** from the living God.”

Hebrews 3:14 – “For we have become partakers of Christ **if** we hold . . . steadfast to the end . . .”

Hebrews 6:4-6 – “For it is impossible . . . if they **fall away**, to renew them again . . .”

Hebrews 10:26 – “For if we sin willfully **after** we have received the knowledge of the truth . . .”

Hebrews 10:38 – “. . . if anyone **draws back**, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

James 5:19 – “Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from** the truth . . .”

2 Peter 1:10 – “. . . if you do these things you will never **stumble** . . .”

2 Peter 2:20-22 – “For if, after they have escaped . . . they are **again entangled** in them and **overcome**, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way . . . than . . . to **turn** . . . (as) a dog returns to his own vomit . . .”

2 Peter 3:17 – “. . . beware lest you . . . **fall from** your own steadfastness . . .”

2. Examples of those who did

a. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), both Christians, were destroyed by God for lying and trying to deceive the church.

b. Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:13-23) “believed and was baptized” (thus saved, Mark 16:16) yet returned to be “bound by iniquity” because he tried to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit with money.

CAN A MAN WORSHIP GOD ACCEPTABLY USING INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC?

1. If so, it would be without New Testament authority (command or example).
 - a. God has authorized only singing in the New Testament.
(1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
 - b. The only examples of musical praise in the New Testament are singing.
(Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; James 5:13; Romans 15:9; Hebrews 2:12)
2. Historically, musical instruments were not used in Christian worship until the 6th Century A.D. and then at the cost of division between Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholicism. Reformation leaders John Calvin (Presbyterian), John Wesley (Methodist), and Charles Spurgeon (Baptist) opposed instrumental music because of its absence in the New Testament.
3. Didn't God allow musical instruments in the Old Testament?
 - a. Yes; (2 Samuel 6:5; 2 Chronicles 7:6; Psalm 98)
even commanded it. (2 Chronicles 29:25)
 - b. Remember also: The Old Testament is not our guide (authority) today.
4. Does the New Testament forbid the use of musical instruments?
 - a. No, but this does not allow us to use them.
 - b. We are not free to do everything the Lord does not forbid
(such as orange juice and cake for the communion).
5. Does it really make that much difference **how** we worship God?
 - a. Example: In Leviticus 10:1-2 the sons of Aaron offered unauthorized fire before the Lord contrary to His command. Fire went out from the Lord and devoured them.
 - 1) They were worshipping God
– God had not authorized **what** they did
– Since God did not authorize it, He did not accept it
– and they suffered **death**.
 - 2) Such stories are examples to us. (1 Corinthians 10:11)
 - b. When we worship God as **we like**, it is called “**self-imposed religion**”.
(Colossians 2:22-23)
 - c. When we worship God according to the traditions or commandments of men, Jesus says it is “**vain**”.
(Matthew 15:3,9)

