

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

**Book 2:
Lessons 5-8**

Bible Study Center, Box 189, 6000 Cebu City
Tel# 414-6311 Cell # 0927-482-6921
Email: Info@biblestudycenter.net

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Bible Study Center

“Jesus: Lord of Our Lives”

Book 2 - Lessons 5-8

Welcome Back!

We have graded and returned your **Book 1** Answer Sheet. Please take some time to review any mistakes and comments made by your teacher. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your teacher personally.

Now that you have completed **Book 1**, you are ready for **Book 2**. With this material, we will continue our study of the “Scheme of Redemption”, and then begin an investigation into the instructions God left for people to be able to join the **NEW AGREEMENT!** The study that you begin now will continue through **Book 3** of the course.

You will be asked to find, read, and carefully think about a large number of passages from the Bible. Remember how important it is always to place each passage into its proper **context**. Use your notebook to record your findings for each and every verse you study and if at any time you do not understand what you are supposed to do, contact our office and we will assist you. If you apply the Bible study skills you have learned you should have no trouble finding the answers to the test questions.

The procedure for **Book 2** is the same as **Book 1**. You will study through each lesson and then proceed to the test questions. As you move along through the material, you will notice that some lessons have worksheets for you to accomplish. These have been designed to help you research through lists of passages that form the evidence from which the points of the lesson are taken. Any time you encounter a ✧ sign then simply follow the special instructions found there.

We know that you will learn much from this study. If you happen to encounter some things that seem “different” from what you have grown up believing, please remember that we are not demanding that you agree with anything we present in the course. All that we ask is that you study through all of the evidence presented in the course material, establish the context, and then combine the facts together as you make your conclusions. What you do with the conclusions is for you to decide.

Remember that if at any time in the study you have questions about the content of the material or the procedures, please feel free to contact us. There is space on the back of the “Answer Sheet” for you to use. We will do our very best to help you find the answers you seek. As we said in the letter we sent with the first booklet, if you have friends that you think might like to study with us, please send us their names and mailing addresses. We will be happy to send them our **FREE** course **Jesus: Man of the Bible**, so that they can get started in their own search for the truth!

Enjoy your study!

-- The Bible Study Center Staff

LESSON FIVE

GOD'S JUSTICE!

Having a good relationship with God is the ultimate goal of man. Some people describe this as a journey to return to Eden! To recover that close relationship with God that Adam and Eve had back in the beginning. Sin came into their lives and destroyed that relationship just as sin has continued to destroy it for all their children ever since! We discovered how sin happens as well as the consequences we face if we sin. We learned about the separation and our becoming “**spiritually dead**”, “**lost**”, and “**separated from God**”. The simple fact is that **SIN destroys a person's relationship with God and the only way to restore it is to get rid of the sin!** We studied the **PLAN** that God made to help mankind get rid of sin and we saw that God brought his **PLAN** into action—in stages—beginning with some promises to Abraham and, later, through the use of the **TWO special agreements** found in the Bible. Upon closer investigation of the **first agreement** we learned that the animal sacrifices were never intended to be the end of man's problem of sin but only a **temporary measure**, which **symbolically pointed to the final solution** which would come about only when Christ died on the cross.

We specifically noted that the animal sacrifices and rituals of the **OLD AGREEMENT** were:

- 1) For Israel **ONLY!** (We **GENTILES** were excluded from the agreement.)
- 2) Not adequate to satisfy the **demands of JUSTICE!**

We learned that it is only in the **NEW AGREEMENT** that these problems are solved. Christ's **sinless human blood** was shed in order to fulfill the price for sin!¹ When Jesus died, he started the much-awaited **NEW AGREEMENT** between God and man; an agreement in which **all men everywhere CAN BE included!**

However, we still have several questions that remain unanswered at this point. In our lesson today, we are going to learn the meaning of some very important words, which we have all heard spoken in religion, and perhaps read in our Bibles, but most of us would have a difficult time explaining what they really mean.

RIGHTEOUSNESS!

The first word we will look at is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, which is a very BIG English word! It is an important word because it is included in the Bible discussions about salvation and living the Christian life. As with all the words in the New Testament, this English word is a translation from a Greek word.² One of the first interesting things we learn if we study the background of this Greek word is that it was not a “religious” term. This means that it was not specifically created and used for religious discussions. It was used in “everyday” language by the people of the New Testament and it had **two primary areas of use**.

One area of use was in the **financial world**, where the term was used to communicate **the idea that something “added up” or was “balanced”**. An accountant would use this word to describe the books of a company if they were “balanced.” The other area of use during that time was in the **judicial system** (the courts of law) where it was used to indicate that **a person was “not guilty”**, or “**RIGHT in the eyes of the law**”. The people of that time would use the adjective form of this word to suggest that someone or something was “**just**” or “**fair**” and they would use the noun form of the word to represent the idea of **JUSTICE** or **FAIRNESS!**

For some reason, the Bible translators have traditionally chosen the English word **RIGHTEOUSNESS** to represent this Greek word. However, you will sometimes see another very big English word, **JUSTIFICATION**, (or one of its various forms) in the verses of your English Bible to represent these same Greek words! This can be confusing because while we would not necessarily see a connection between the words **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **JUSTIFICATION**, the fact is that they **BOTH represent the very same Greek word in the original Greek!**

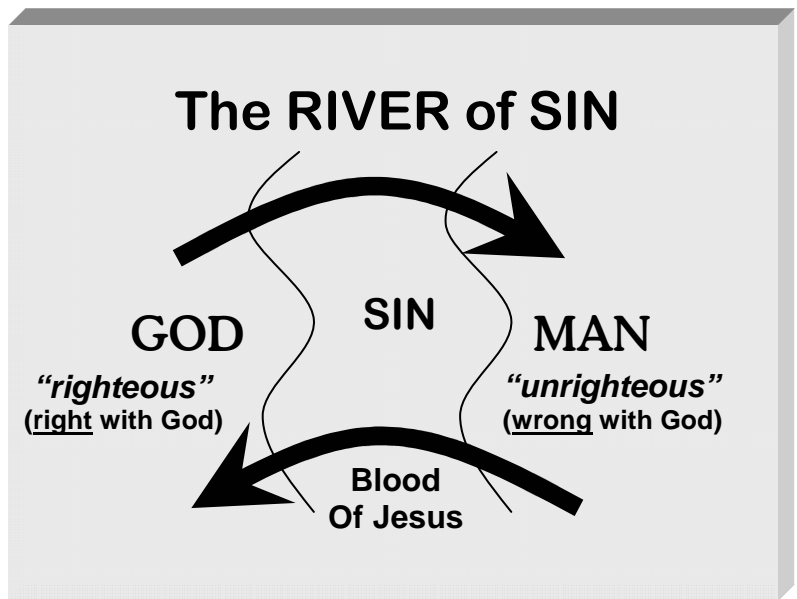
¹ Remember that **only blood** can take away sin! **Hebrews 9:22**

² The word is **DIKAIOS** (pronounced **dē'-kī-ōs**) for the adjective form, and **DIKAIOSUNE** (pronounced **dē-kī-ō-sūn'-ā**) for the noun form.

Whenever this Greek word was used to describe someone's relationship with another, it communicated the idea of "being **RIGHT** with the person" as opposed to "being **WRONG** with the person." Therefore, whenever we see the words **righteous** or **justified**, speaking about mankind and his relationship with God, we are speaking about the idea of mankind **being right with God**—as opposed to him **being wrong with God**.

We can put this idea into our "River of Sin" diagram so that we can get a better understanding of what the passages about **RIGHTEOUSNESS** are really trying to communicate to us. When man sins he becomes **UNRIGHTEOUS** or "**WRONG** with God". He is guilty, and so he becomes separated from God.

When man receives the **blood of Jesus**, he becomes **RIGHTEOUS** or "**RIGHT** with God". Since only Jesus' blood can take away sin then **ONLY JESUS' BLOOD can make a person "right with God"**!



When we look at the picture it all seems so simple. In actuality, the situation could not be more complicated.

To get a better understanding of what we mean we need to go to the book of Romans in the New Testament. In **Romans 1:18** we are told that the **anger of God** will be revealed **against ALL people who do not follow him**. This anger being mentioned here, which is coming, is one of the many ways the New Testament writers spoke about what we more commonly know of as "Hell!"³ This simply brings back to our minds the reality that for a person to be separated from God, on the other side of the river, is a very bad and dangerous situation! Therefore, we can easily see that **SIN PLACES MAN IN A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION!**

God's Difficult Situation

Believe it or not, **OUR SIN ALSO CREATES A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR GOD!** At first, this statement might sound hard to accept, but it IS true! Consider what we know about God from our study so far.

- 1) God **does NOT tolerate sin**. (Isaiah 59:2) He has made a **system of JUSTICE** where **ALL who disobey him** will receive his anger - the Judgment Day's "eternal punishment" - HELL!
- 2) We know that God is **FAIR!** He only punishes those who do wrong, but, on the other hand, he **MUST punish ALL** who disobey him. He cannot show favoritism. **Judgment MUST BE FAIR!**
- 3) Since **ALL people have chosen to disobey him**, then by the terms of his own rules he **MUST send ALL of us to HELL!** (Justice demands this!)
- 4) But **God DOES NOT WANT to send us all to Hell!** He **wants to FORGIVE** us! Just look at passages like **Ezek. 18:23!** However, the problem of **JUSTICE** remains. **We are guilty and MUST be punished!**

Here is where God's difficult situation becomes very clear to us. How can God be **JUST** and punish us, and, at the same time, accomplish **HIS DESIRE** to forgive us? Is it **possible** to forgive and punish someone **AT THE SAME TIME**? No it is not! **To FORGIVE someone means to RELEASE him or her from whatever is owed!** However, **PUNISHMENT demands that the criminal RECEIVE what he is owed!** Therefore, if God is going to forgive us, then he must release us from the punishment we deserve, but **JUSTICE demands that the GUILTY people MUST get what they deserve!** If he releases us from what we owe (eternal punishment in hell) then what happens to **JUSTICE**? It is a **VERY** difficult situation!

³ For a more detailed explanation of this punishment, please look at **2 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Hebrews 10:26-27, 2 Peter 3:7-12, Jude 14-16, and Revelation 21:8.**

What is the answer? How do we (**BOTH MAN AND GOD**) get out of our respective difficult situations? We certainly **DO NOT WANT to go to Hell** and God certainly **DOES NOT WANT to send us there!**

There **IS** an answer to the problem! Here is where **JESUS** and God's **SCHEME OF REDEMPTION** fit into the picture!

We know, from the hundreds of verses in the Bible, that Jesus came here to give us a way **to be SAVED** – a way for us to be taken out of our difficult situation! **John 3:16**, perhaps the most well known passage in the whole Bible, tells us that God sent Jesus to die for us, but **HOW** does it work? How can **Jesus' ONE death** pay the price for **ALL** the sins of **ALL** the people and how can **JUSTICE** accept an innocent sinless Jesus dying as a substitute in the place of guilty mankind? Do you remember the problem we saw with the animal sacrifices in **Hebrews 10:1-4**? **Justice would not accept payment by substituting an innocent victim in place of the guilty one who is sentenced to die!** That would not be **FAIR** and so how can we say that Jesus simply **substituted for us** and took our place?

We left you thinking about this question at the end of Lesson 4!

The solution is a bit complicated... Looking at it from the point of justice, **the guilty person ALONE** must bear the punishment. Therefore, **the problem we have is that Jesus IS NOT GUILTY, and so HOW can he die and justice accept his death?** An **innocent person cannot die** and so Jesus cannot die **for us** because **JUSTICE will not allow a substitution.**

GOD Found A Way!

Fortunately, God **found a way to help us! He made a PLAN!** Here is where the situation becomes interesting. God did not let Jesus simply take our death!

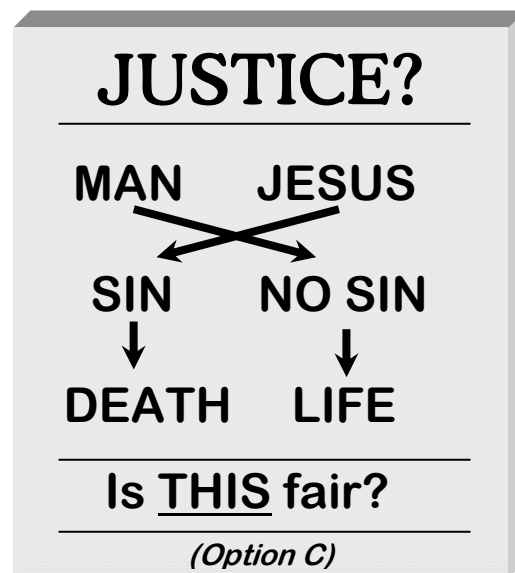
Please read **1 Peter 2:24** very carefully, take your piece of paper, and write the main points. What does Peter say about Jesus' death? It **specifically says** that Jesus **TOOK OUR SINS** on his body at the cross. Now please read **2 Corinthians 5:21** and write the main points on your paper. What does this passage say about Jesus' death? It says that **God MADE JESUS TO BECOME SIN** so that we could become "right with God". Another passage we need to look at is **Hebrews 9:28**. Write the main points down on your paper. It also points out specifically that Jesus **TOOK THE SINS** of many people.

Look at the diagram "Option C" to the right. **Jesus did NOT simply TAKE OUR DEATH!** God's **PLAN WAS FOR JESUS TO TAKE OUR SIN** and **MAKE IT HIS OWN SIN!** In doing so, Jesus **WOULD BECOME GUILTY** and **IF he BECAME GUILTY then he HAD to die** - because that is what **JUSTICE** demands. This may sound a bit strange, but let us look at these things from the viewpoint of **JUSTICE**. Justice asks, "Was sin committed?" The answer is, "Yes". "Was the punishment carried out?" "Yes." "Was the one that received the punishment guilty?" "Yes!" Then **JUSTICE IS SATISFIED!**

WOW! That is truly amazing!

HOW was Jesus able to take all of the sins of other people, put them on himself, and **MAKE THEM** his own? The answer goes back to what we just read in **2 Corinthians 5:21**. It was **God who MADE Jesus become sin**. The only requirement for Jesus in this was that he be a sinless human because if Jesus personally made his own sin, then he could not have taken the sins of other people. If that had happened then he would **ALSO** have needed someone to pay for his own personal sins! However, since he committed no sin of his own this qualified him to take the sins of everyone else and **MAKE THOSE SINS** his own sins.

Doesn't this create a difficult situation for Jesus? Yes it does. It means that, aside from taking the sins and making them his own, **he MUST die and experience the separation from God** that every sinner deserves! With this thought in mind, let us look at a very interesting passage. Please read **Matthew 27:46**, get your paper, and write down the main points. What is happening in this passage? Jesus is hanging on the cross in the process of dying when all at once he shouts out "My God, my God, why have you **left me alone?**" Why would Jesus shout out something like that? Do you remember **Isaiah 59:2** - the place we learned about "separation from God" as "the wages of sin"? Well, **AT THAT VERY MOMENT**, Jesus took the sins of the world upon his body, God turned his back on his own son, and



JESUS WAS ALONE! Then the shedding of Jesus' sinless blood (the death of Jesus' sinless PHYSICAL body) paid the price for those sins, freeing both himself and any person who is covered by THAT BLOOD from the separation of eternal punishment!

GOD Lets Us EXCHANGE OUR SIN FOR CHRIST'S BLOOD

The **FINAL RESULT** was the completion of **God's PLAN** - a way for **HIM** and the people to escape their difficult situations! However, this escape is not automatic for every person who will live! **God can only escape being FORCED - BY JUSTICE - to send a person to hell IF, and ONLY IF, that person's sins are included in those that Jesus paid the price for ON THAT CROSS!** At the same time, a person can only escape paying for his own sins **IF, and ONLY IF, his sins are among the ones Jesus TOOK and paid the price for!** This means that **SALVATION is CONDITIONAL** and a person **IS NOT** automatically saved just because Jesus died on the cross!

Therefore, we now have a way to escape our sin problem! We can **become RIGHTEOUS (JUSTIFIED) because of Jesus, and what HE did!** It is very important that we remember that a person is helpless to do anything to save himself! There is absolutely nothing a person **can DO to remove even one sin from his or her own life!** Why is this so? Do you remember what we learned about getting rid of sin? There is **only ONE THING** that removes sin and that is **BLOOD/DEATH!** (**Leviticus 17:11** and **Hebrews 9:22**) Now we added to that knowledge the fact that **ONLY THE BLOOD OF JESUS** can take away our sins and make us righteous—"right with God." **This is God's JUSTICE!** There are a number of passages that speak about this "justice". One of the better ones is **Romans 5:9-11**. Please read it, take your paper, and write down the main points. Paul explains that we are "made right" with God **by the blood (death) of Jesus**. Remember that being right with God (righteous) requires the removal of our sin - because our sins made us "wrong" with God to begin with. The Bible is very clear in stating that **ONLY JESUS' BLOOD** can take away our sins.

Another important passage about God's justice is **Romans 6:17-18**. Please read it, take your paper, and write down the main points. Here we learn that a Christian has been set free from slavery to sin - through the death of Jesus - and has become a new slave.... **A SLAVE to JUSTICE**—to being right with God.

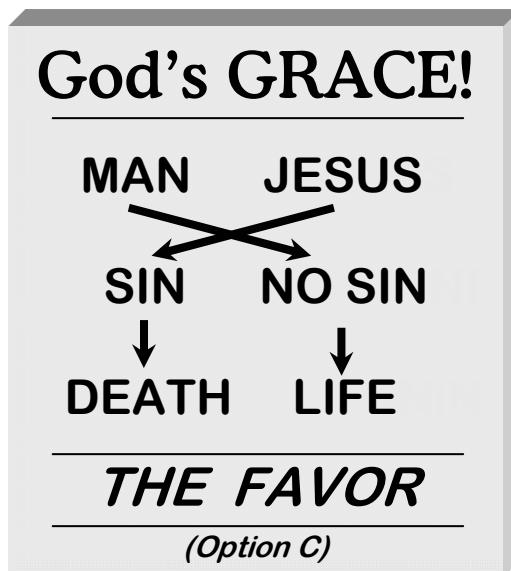
Amazing GRACE!

There is another important religious word we often hear people speak of that we need to understand; **GRACE**. It is used many times in the New Testament in connection with the topic of "salvation". A good example of this is **Ephesians 2:8-10**. Please read it, take your paper, and write down the main points. Here we find that people are **saved by GRACE** and so we need to find out exactly **what GRACE**⁴ really is. If we go to the original Greek language, we find that **GRACE** represents the idea of a favor someone does for someone that they do not deserve to receive.

What does it mean when we read that people are "saved by grace"? If we apply the definition for "grace", then it is saying that people are "saved by a favor which someone did for them which they did not deserve". That makes sense! Didn't God do a favor for all people? Yes, we call it "**Option C**" - letting Jesus take all sins and die to pay for them! Does this favor save people? Yes it does! Do the people **deserve** to receive this favor? No, they certainly do not. They deserve punishment and death!

Therefore, the **UNDESERVED FAVOR** God did for us all was letting Jesus take our sins, make them his own, and then shed his own blood to pay for them. This is the favor and the thing that actually saves us! We must never be confused about this!

The **Ephesians 2:8** passage is often misquoted and many people have the wrong understanding of how God's **PLAN of salvation** works. You will commonly hear people read **Ephesians 2:8** and then say that this passage teaches that a person is saved "**BY**



⁴ It comes from another ordinary Greek word, **CHARIS** (pronounced **kār'-is**) which simply means **an undeserved favor!**

FAITH and **NOT BY WORKS**". However, what did you write down as the first main point for verse 8? It should have been that that we are "**SAVED BY GRACE**". The passage **does not** say that we are saved by faith. It says that we are saved **BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH**.⁵ We are not saved **by faith**, because **FAITH cannot take away sins. Only BLOOD can take away sins**. In addition, **FAITH is something that YOU DO**, and we must never forget there is nothing we **can do** to remove our sin!

This is the **GOOD NEWS** of the **NEW AGREEMENT**! We have a way to get rid of our sins so that we can come back to God! A **FAVOR** has been done for us by God, which we did not deserve, and he offers its benefits to anyone from any nation on the earth!

As we close this lesson, let us consider a few facts;

First, every person **IS NOT** saved simply because Jesus died! There are certain conditions that apply. We expect these conditions to be present because the **GRACE** we have learned about was given in order to bring man into an **AGREEMENT** with God. All agreements have conditions.

Second, is the fact that God **offers** salvation to anyone who wants it, and it is **FREE! It is a gift!** Therefore, a person must **receive it** in order to benefit from it.

Finally, we must remember that **RECEIVING** the gift of God's grace into our lives (or **ANY gift** for that matter) involves our **DOING something**. There are always actions involved in receiving a gift. Let us say that it is your birthday, you invite some friends over for a party, and each friend brings you a gift. Do you deserve these gifts? No. Did you do anything to earn these gifts? Again, the answer is NO. In order to **receive** these gifts, do you need to **DO** anything? Yes you do. You must reach out and pick them up, use your hands to unwrap the gift and then you must remove the items from inside of the wrappings. These are all acts that are done **to RECEIVE or take possession** of a gift. Would you say that by completing these actions you have now "earned" these gifts? Of course not and while they were in fact **ACTIONS**, they were only being done for receiving.

In **Romans 6:17-18** we find a very interesting note written to people who were Christians. It describes their being transformed from being "slaves to sin" to being "slaves to God". It states that the way they did this was by being set free from their sins. It also tells that they became set free from their sins by "**being obedient" to the teaching they received**". The context seems to be pointing to teachings that they "obeyed" in order to receive salvation. Therefore, it seems that receiving the gift of God's grace for salvation is going to involve our doing something! However, in doing these things, we are not earning our salvation, but only receiving it. Salvation cannot be earned because it is a gift!

Now that we know what **God's JUSTICE** is, the next topic we need to study is the instructions about **how we can receive Jesus' death** into our lives. This will be the topic for the remainder of the lessons of this course. To prepare for these discussions please study through all of the passages in the **WORKSHEET** for Lesson 6 and bring the results of your research to our next class meeting.

⁵ A good parallel illustration for this is to think of how water satisfies your thirst. The water satisfies your thirst, but the water gets inside your house **through** a pipe. However, you would never say that **THE PIPE** satisfied your thirst. The pipe is simply what the water passes through. This is the way GRACE and FAITH work. GRACE is like the water because IT "satisfies the thirst" and FAITH is like the pipe because it is what the GRACE **passes through!** Faith **DOES NOT** pay for sins because **ONLY BLOOD** pays the price for sins! We are saved **by the FAVOR** and **NOT by our BELIEVING** the FAVOR! **FAITH is something WE DO**, and we know that nothing **WE DO** can take away sins? **ONLY BLOOD** can take away sins! Do not forget that the passage **DOES NOT** say that we are **saved BY FAITH!** It says that we are **SAVED BY GRACE – BY THE FAVOR GOD DID FOR US THAT WE DID NOT DESERVE!**

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 5:

Each of the following questions has several possible answers. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and fill in the CIRCLE for that answer on the answer sheet.

1. The meaning of the word **righteousness** is
 - a) Balanced – as in bookkeeping.
 - b) Not guilty – as in a court.
 - c) Being right as opposed to being wrong.
 - d) All of the above.
2. TRUE or FALSE: The **Greek word** for righteousness is best represented by our word JUSTICE.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
3. TRUE or FALSE: The Greek word for righteousness was used only for religious discussion.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
4. When referring to our relationship with God, **righteous** means
 - a) Living a good life.
 - b) Being right with God.
 - c) Going to church to get your sins forgiven.
 - d) None of the above.
5. TRUE or FALSE: When a person sins they are considered **unrighteous**.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
6. Once a person has sin, the **only thing that can make them righteous** is
 - a) Confession and penance.
 - b) Animal sacrifices.
 - c) The blood of Christ
 - d) Going to visit a priest.
7. TRUE or FALSE: The English words RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTIFICATION in our Bibles come from **different** Greek words.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
8. JUSTICE will **not accept a substitute** victim because
 - a) It would not be fair.
 - b) The one who did the crime should be the one suffering the punishment.
 - c) The innocent person did nothing wrong.
 - d) All of the above.
9. TRUE or FALSE: **When Jesus died** on the Cross, he was guilty!
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
10. The passage that mentions the earth and sky **burning up** is
 - a) Revelation 21:8
 - b) Jude 14-16
 - c) 2 Peter 3:7-12
 - d) 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
11. The passage that mentions **evil people being thrown into the lake of burning sulfur** is
 - a) Revelation 21:8
 - b) Jude 14-16
 - c) 2 Peter 3:7-12
 - d) 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
12. The passage that mentions Jesus **coming back and giving punishment to those who did not obey** him is
 - a) Revelation 21:8
 - b) Jude 14-16
 - c) 2 Peter 3:7-12
 - d) 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
13. The **way out** of God's difficult situation was
 - a) To destroy all of the people and start over.
 - b) To let the people continue making animal sacrifices for their sins.
 - c) To let Jesus take the sins of the people and make them his own sins.
 - d) None of the above.
14. The main point of **1 Peter 2:24** is
 - a) Jesus became a man like us in every way.
 - b) Jesus took our sins on his body on the Cross.
 - c) Jesus made his sacrifice in heaven itself.
 - d) All of the above.
15. What is the meaning of “Eli Eli lama sabachthani”?
 - a) My God, My God, why have you left me alone?
 - b) Elijah, Elijah, Please come help me!
 - c) My God, My God, must I go on alone?
 - d) None of the above.

16. TRUE or FALSE: When Jesus took the sins of the whole world on himself, his Father **did not** leave him alone.
- True.
 - False.
17. Why did Jesus **not remain separated** from his Father when he took the sins of the world on himself?
- Jesus is God and he cannot stay dead.
 - The sinless blood in Jesus' physical body paid the price for all those sins.
 - His punishment was only to last for 3 days.
 - Jesus sacrifice was perfect.
18. Which of the following is from **Romans 5:9-11**?
- God so loved the world that he gave his only son.
 - Sin makes us separated from God.
 - Jesus as a priest.
 - We have been made right with God by Jesus' blood.
19. TRUE or FALSE: **Ephesians 2:8** says that we are saved **by faith**.
- True
 - False
20. The word **grace** actually means
- An undeserved favor.
 - A prayer you say before eating.
 - Elegance, style, and beauty.
 - None of the above.
21. In the lesson material, the diagram that **best illustrates God's grace** is
- Option A.
 - Option B.
 - Option C.
 - None of the above.
22. TRUE or FALSE: You **can do something** to take away your own sins.
- True.
 - False.
23. TRUE or FALSE: Receiving a gift requires you **to do** something.
- True.
 - False.
24. TRUE or FALSE: Everyone is **already saved** just because Jesus died!
- True.
 - False.
25. In **Romans 6:17-18** the people became slaves to God because
- They simply believed that Jesus is the Savior.
 - They asked Mary to help them.
 - They did what the priest told them to do.
 - They obeyed the instructions they received.

LESSON SIX

Receiving The Gift (Part 1)

In our last lesson we focused on **HOW Jesus' death can satisfy JUSTICE and pay the price for OUR sins**. Putting everything into perspective, you should now be able to see why **Jesus IS the only hope for man**. Do not forget that **only blood** takes away sin and that **only Jesus' blood** satisfies the requirements for the blood needed to accomplish **God's PLAN for a sinner to become right with him again!** We also learned that Jesus taking our sin and dying is what the Bible refers to as the **GRACE of God** - the favor God did for us and **THIS FAVOR ALONE** saves us!

Ephesians 2:5-10 - "5 Even when we were dead through our trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), 6 and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace you have been saved** through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- 9 not because of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

These words were written to people who **were already Christians** and they show us very clearly that salvation **cannot be earned by man** - it is offered to us as a gift. However, as we discussed in our last lesson, even **a gift must be RECEIVED** and this involves action! This brings us then to perhaps the most important question we can ask. "**How do we receive the gift of God's grace for our salvation?**" Traditional lessons on this topic simply take you to a few **SELECTED** verses that are then explained in many different ways leaving most people confused.

Some of the more popular such passages are...

Matthew 11:28 - "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**"

Revelation 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; **if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in** to him and eat with him, and he with me."

Notice that while these verses **DO contain INVITATIONS from Jesus** for the listener to **COME to him, they DO NOT** tell readers exactly **HOW this is to be done**. They simply point out the **importance** of coming to Jesus. Therefore, since there are **no details given** does this mean that **we are free to make OUR OWN answer** about **HOW we come to Jesus and become a part of the NEW AGREEMENT?** Of course, we cannot! Only God can answer that question.

Do you remember our "How to Study The Bible" lessons back at the beginning of the course, **Jesus: Man Of The Bible?** It was there we learned that the correct way to handle a situation like this is to look at all the available evidence before making any conclusions. The purpose of this lesson is to research the **instructions for HOW a person receives Jesus' blood and becomes part of the NEW AGREEMENT**. This lesson has a **WORKSHEET** containing all the verses for this lesson with the instructions to read each passage carefully, put them into proper context, and then record a short summary of any instructions that are found in the passage relating to the matter of **HOW** a person can make the journey back across the "River Of SIN" to be **righteous** once again. After completing your research, you will be asked to come up with at least 5 summary statements that form the basic instructions God has given to man.



PLEASE STOP HERE AND WORK THROUGH THE ASSIGNMENT "**WORKSHEET #1**". After completing your study of the list of passages then you may continue with the lesson material.

Now that you have completed your study of all the verses in the worksheet, we will work through each verse and see what you found.

Passages That Speak Of "ENTERING THE KINGDOM"

The list of passages was created based upon common word phrases found in the New Testament that represent **the idea** of a person going from the wrong side of the river back to being on the right side! The first phrase we look at is "**entering the kingdom**". This phrase applies to our study because God's side of the river is **HIS KINGDOM**. The other side of the river is the kingdom of the Evil One! Verses that tell us **HOW to get into God's kingdom** are telling us **HOW to get from one side of the river to the other!**

In **Matthew 5:20** we read that **IF we are not better people than the religious leaders of Jesus' time**, then we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. We know that these leaders **CLAIMED to be religious**, but they were not faithful to God. They had substituted their own beliefs and traditions in place of the true teachings God gave the people. Because of this, Jesus called them hypocrites! The point here seems to be that **we must be genuine** if we want to go back to be with God!

In **Matthew 7:21-23** we find a passage we have visited several times before in this course. What was the point of the lesson Jesus was giving here? He shows that it is **not enough** for a person to be sincere in their heart when it comes to being religious. It is **not enough** to be active and to **CLAIM** to be a devoted person to God! In fact, we learned that this passage teaches us that **it is possible for a person to FEEL close to God, to DO so many wonderful things for God, and to GIVE God all the credit, but STILL BE LOST!** The only way to get from one side of the river to the other is to **DO those things that GOD says to do – HIS will!** ⁶

⁶ Do you remember **Romans 6:17-18**? It says that those people **OBEYED the teachings they received from God!** That was **HOW** they became Christians.

In **Matthew 18:3**, we find that unless **we become LIKE small children, we will never** enter the kingdom of heaven. The context here helps us understand that Jesus is speaking here about the characteristics and attitudes of a child. A child trusts the adults in its life and is willing to obey without question. This is how we also must be toward God if we are to make it from one side of the river to the other.

Our final passage in this section is **John 3:3-5**. The statement “enter into the kingdom” is found twice here, in verse 3 and in verse 5. In verse 3 most Bibles says that we must be “born again” to enter into the kingdom. However, this is a wrong translation. The original language actually says, “born **from above**”, not “born **again**”.⁷

If we summarize what we found in this section, then **IF** we want to enter the kingdom, we **must be genuine, we must do the will of the Father, we must become like children, and we must be born from above!**

Passages That Speak Of “FORGIVENESS OF SINS”

The next phrase we will study about is “forgiveness of sins”. This one definitely fits into our study because you cannot get from one side of the **river OF SIN unless you get your sins forgiven**.

The first passage we have is **Acts 2:38**, in which we read that if we want forgiveness of sins we **must do TWO things**. First, it says that we must do something called “**repent**”. Second, it tells us that we must “**be baptized**”. There are no explanations for these words in the verse, but they are clearly important things.

In **Acts 10:43**, we see that **anyone who believes in Jesus** will receive forgiveness of their sins.

Acts 26:18 mentions **turning from darkness to the light** and that seems to represent a person **turning from the power of Satan to God**. A person who does this will be forgiven of their sins.

Romans 3:25 says that God gave Jesus as a way for people to receive forgiveness of sins, **through faith**.

Ephesians 1:7 tells us that we can have forgiveness of sins through Christ’s blood **IF we are IN him**.

In the same way, **Colossians 1:14** tells us that **if we are IN him** we have forgiveness of our sins.

If we summarize what we found in this section, then **IF** we want to have our sins forgiven, we must **repent and be baptized, believe in Jesus, turn from Satan to God, and be IN Christ!**

Passages That Speak Of “BEING SAVED”

The next section of passages in the list is composed of those that speak of “being saved.” Again, this is an obvious fit for our research because being saved is definitely going from one side of the river to the other!

We begin with **Matthew 10:22**, which speaks about difficult times for anyone who decides to become part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**. Here, Jesus says that only those who **remain faithful to the end** will be saved!

Matthew 24:13 is a restatement of the same thing in a different place and time. The one who **remains faithful to the end** will be saved.

Mark 13:13 contains another reference to the idea of **remaining faithful to the end**.

In **Mark 16:16**, we have one of the passages that is often called the “Great Commission” by religious scholars. In it, Jesus gives orders to his disciples to preach the Good News of the **NEW AGREEMENT** as they go into all the world. Jesus says that the ones who **believe and are baptized** will be saved!

In **Luke 8:12** Jesus is explaining the meaning of a parable that he had earlier told to the people about a man who planted seed and he mentions here that people must **hear God’s teaching and believe it** so that they can be saved.

⁷ There is a specific Greek word for “born again” and this is **NOT** the word found in this verse. It **REALLY SAYS**, “born **from above**”. Therefore, we must be **BORN FROM ABOVE** if we want to enter into the kingdom. What does it mean? We will discuss this in detail a little later in the study.

In **John 10:9**, Jesus speaks figuratively about himself and says that **he is the DOOR/GATE** and that **anyone entering through him will be saved** and will come in and go out and find pasture (grass to eat). This is part of Jesus' larger figurative discussion about his being the **GOOD SHEPHERD**, and so we can understand his references to enclosures, gates, and pasture. The point here is that **IF** a person comes to God through him, he will be saved!

In **Acts 2:21**, when you first hear this quotation, you might think you are hearing something that was made up by the apostle Paul.⁸ However, the phrase, "and anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved", is actually a quotation from the Old Testament!⁹ Although this **IS NOT** a passage where someone is giving people instructions about entering into the **NEW AGREEMENT**, the idea of **calling upon the name of the Lord** is a very old one. God wants to help his people and so listens to their cries for help.

In **Acts 11:14**, we find Peter making a report to the church leaders in Jerusalem about how God brought him to the house of a Gentile soldier named Cornelius. Cornelius was the first person from a Gentile background who became a Christian and Peter was the one God chose to help him. Cornelius was told that he should send for Peter and that he would **tell him things he needed to do to be saved**. The **context demands** that Cornelius had to do these things.

In **Acts 16:31**, we have the story of Paul and his companion Silas when they were in jail in Philippi. An earthquake shakes the prison so that the entire jail was opened. The jailor thought everyone had escaped and was about to kill himself when Paul told him that everyone was still there. The jailor was so amazed, and Paul then told him **to believe on the Lord and he would be saved**.

In **Romans 10:9-13**, Paul writes to people who are already Christians. He tells the people about **being made right and being saved** and he mentions that **if a person BELIEVES in their heart and if that person also CONFESSES the Lord Jesus, then that person will be saved**.

In **1 Corinthians 15:2**, we find that Paul is once again writing to people who are already Christians. He is discussing the idea of how he brought them the message of the Gospel, how they received it, how they stand firm in it, and how they are **saved by it, IF THEY CONTINUE** to hold fast to their original commitment, otherwise, that original commitment becomes useless!

In **2 Thessalonians 2:9-13**, Paul speaks to people who are already Christians and he is speaking about problems that will come in the future. He makes a very remarkable statement when he says that God will help people to believe that the wrong things they want to believe are true. God will do this because these people **do not want to love the truth so that they can be saved**.

In **1 Timothy 4:16**, Paul is writing to one of his co-workers, Timothy, who has been sent to the town of Ephesus to take care of some problems facing the Christians in that place. He is speaking about how Timothy needs to be an example to these people and how he needs **to continue to live and teach right things so that BOTH he and the people he is sent to help will be saved!**

In **Titus 3:5**, Paul is also writing to another of his co-workers, Titus, who is a Christian. He tells him that **God saved us by his mercy and by a washing of regeneration and a renewal of a special spirit!**

In **James 2:14-26**, we find James discussing the topic of having a **kind of faith that will save a person**. He shows that this faith is a combination of believing in God and doing what God tells a person to do.

In **1 Peter 3:21**, we find Peter talking about being baptized and he compares it to the story of Noah and the Ark, and then says in very plain words that **"baptism saves you"**.

If we summarize what we found in this section, then **IF** we want to be saved, we must **remain faithful to the end of our lives, believe in Jesus, confess Jesus, be baptized, follow instructions, and love the truth!**

⁸ Paul uses this phrase in **Romans 10:13**.

⁹ The quotation is from **Joel 2:32**. However, you can trace the idea of people calling on the name of the Lord back to the book of **Genesis in chapter 4:26**. Today, many religious groups try to say that this phrase is associated with people saying a prayer to receive Jesus as their Savior, through what many refer to as "the Sinner's Prayer", but context will show that "calling upon the name of the Lord" stands for an idea that more accurately represents a person asking God for guidance and promising him loyalty and obedience.

Passages That Speak Of “HAVING ETERNAL LIFE”

The next section of passages in the list is composed of those that speak of “having eternal life.” This is also a match for our research because having eternal life also represents the idea of going from one side of the river to the other!

Our first passage is **Matthew 19:29**, where Jesus speaks about **the cost of a person following him**. He states that a follower must be willing **IF NECESSARY** to sacrifice all earthly possessions and relationships that he has **in order to gain eternal life**.

John 3:15-16 stresses that a person **must believe in Jesus** in order to receive eternal life.

John 3:36 states that a person **must believe in AND OBEY** Jesus in order receive eternal life!

John 5:24 clearly says that a person **must listen to what Jesus says and believe in the one who sent him (God)** in order to receive eternal life.

John 6:40 again stresses the idea of **believing in Jesus** in order to receive eternal life.

In **John 6:47**, Jesus states that **the one who believes** has eternal life.

In **John 11:25-26**, we again see Jesus emphasizing that a person **must believe in him** in order to have eternal life.

John 12:25 speaks again about the cost of being a follower and says that a person **must hate his own life** in this world in order to keep it for eternal life!

In **John 20:31**, we read the writer’s purpose for writing his book. He says that he wrote all the things he did so that a person might **believe that Jesus is the Christ** so that he can have eternal life!

In **Romans 2:7**, Paul speaks of God giving eternal life to people **who are always seeking to do those things that are good and honorable**.

The passage **Romans 6:22** states that if you want eternal life, then you **must become a slave to God!**

Galatians 6:8 speaks figuratively about planting and harvesting crops. It states that if you want eternal life you **must plant seeds that are into the ways of the spirit**. This is in contrast to planting seeds into the ways of the world. “Planting” in this sense is used to represent the kinds of things a person chooses to devote their lives to doing.

If we summarize what we found in this section, then **IF** we want to be receive eternal life, we must **believe in Jesus, believe in God, obey Jesus, become a slave of God, and make Jesus the most important thing in our lives!**

Passages That Speak Of “BECOMING CHILDREN OF GOD”

The next section of passages in the list is composed of those that speak of “becoming a child/children of God.” This is a match for our research because becoming a child of God also represents the idea of going from one side of the river to the other!

John 1:12 states that God gives people **who believe in Jesus** permission to become his children!

Galatians 3:26-27 says that people become children of God **through their faith because when they are baptized they put on Christ**.

Philippians 2:14-15 states that people will become God’s children if **they do what God says to do without arguing or complaining**.

1 John 3:10 states that people **must do what is right and love their brother** if they want to be children of God.

1 John 5:1-2 says that to be a child of God a person **must love the father AND do what he says!**

If we summarize what we found in this section, then **IF** we want to become children of God, we must **believe in Jesus, be baptized into Christ, love God and do what he says, and love God’s other children!**

Passages That Speak Of “BEING BORN AGAIN”

This section in the list is composed of just one passage and, as we pointed out in the section about “entering the kingdom”, actually a **mistranslation of the original text!** The actual wording should read “**BORN FROM ABOVE**”, and **NOT** “**born again**”. However, “being born from above” is also a match for our research because it also represents the idea of going from one side of the river to the other!

John 3:3-5 is a very interesting passage. Context helps us see that **there are TWO births being discussed here**. The first is the one we **ALL** experienced from our mothers. It was a physical (water) birth¹⁰ and we know that **this IS NOT** the one that Jesus is speaking about here. Nicodemus proves that because he asks how it can be possible for a person to go back inside his mother and be born a second time after he is already old! To this, Jesus responds by saying that there is a physical birth and a spiritual birth. A person must experience BOTH of these if they want to enter the kingdom! The problem here is that **Jesus DOES NOT give the details about HOW a person is born from above**, except to say that it is a spiritual birth!

If we summarize what we found in this section, then we have to admit that **there IS NO summary**, except to say as we did in the earlier section, that a person **must be born spiritually (from above)** to get into the kingdom of God.

Passages That Speak Of “JOINING WITH JESUS”

The next section of passages in the list is composed of those that speak of “having eternal life.” This is also a match for our research because having eternal life also represents the idea of going from one side of the river to the other!

The first passage in this section is one of the most informative of the entire research project. In **Romans 6:3-4**, we find the context gives us so much data in itself. The people that Paul is writing to are already Christians. They are having difficulties in keeping their commitment to the **NEW AGREEMENT**, and especially regarding the idea of eliminating sin from their lives. Paul asks a hypothetical question, “Shall we continue sinning so that we can get more and more grace?” His response takes the readers back to their experience when they became Christians and Paul brings up their experience when they were baptized. He says that **they were JOINED with JESUS’ death, burial, and resurrection through this baptism**. Just as Jesus died, **they died TO SIN**, and just as Jesus was buried, **they were buried IN BAPTISM**. Then, just as Jesus was raised up out of death, they also were **raised to have NEW LIFE!** If **THIS** is not what Jesus was talking about when he spoke of being **BORN FROM ABOVE** then what was he speaking about?

Colossians 2:12 also is written to people who are already Christians. Like the Romans, they also struggle with keeping their commitment to the **NEW AGREEMENT**. Here Paul speaks to them about how **they were JOINED with Jesus’ death and resurrection**, once again, through baptism. Notice how he says that when they were baptized, their old self died and was buried with Christ and that while their old dead self was being buried in baptism, **they were TRUSTING in God’s power** to make them clean.

In **Galatians 3:27**, we again see the idea of being joined to Jesus. This time the wording is like “putting on” a shirt or other piece of clothing and that **Jesus is PUT ON through baptism**. When this is accomplished, the person becomes a son of God through faith!

If we summarize what we found in this section, then IF we want to join with Jesus then **we must be baptized and trust in God’s power to give NEW LIFE!**

Passages That Speak Of “BEING RIGHT WITH GOD”

The next section of passages in the list is composed of those that speak of “being right with God”, which also matches our search because becoming right with God represents the idea of going from one side of the river to the other!

The first few passages are from the book of Romans. These people were already Christians, and were being approached by false-teachers who were trying to confuse them into thinking that it **IS NOT THE FAVOR** God did for us

¹⁰ Biology teaches us that an unborn baby is encased in a bag of water and that when the baby is born that the process begins with the breaking of the water bag and a gush of water! This is all part of the process of physical birth!

that makes us right with God, but rather they were teaching that a person can become right with God by doing good things for God – such as the good things God told the people of Israel to do in the **OLD AGREEMENT**. Paul devotes a large portion of this book to fighting against this man-made idea. He brings out very clearly **that ONLY GOD can do what is needed to make man right**– by means of **his PLAN** – and that man is hopeless to do anything to make himself right! **Man must simply RECEIVE God’s gift!**

Romans 1:17 represents the foundation of the idea, that **being right with God happens through faith**. Literally, it says that **a person who is made right will live by faith**.

Romans 2:12-13 also speaks about being right with God and adds that **it IS NOT enough to simply hear God’s laws**, but **we must also DO GOD’S LAWS** if we want to be right with him.

Romans 3:21-26 speaks about people not being able to make themselves right with God by doing the things God tells people to do in his law, but that **being right with God is offered as a gift that a person must receive THROUGH faith**.

Romans 4:1-5 also speaks of the idea that a person is made right by God **THROUGH faith!**

Romans 6:18 adds the idea that becoming a slave to being right with God follows a person **receiving the forgiveness of their sins**.

Romans 10:3-11 continues to emphasize the idea that no person can **DO ANYTHING** to make himself or herself right with God. He or she **must simply accept God’s GIFT through faith!**

Like in the book of Romans, these people in Galatia were also being confused by teachers trying to say that people can make themselves right with God by doing good works – such as the good things God told the people to do in the **OLD AGREEMENT**. In **Galatians 2:16**, Paul points out that no person can do anything to make himself or herself right with God, but that **only JESUS can do that!**

Galatians 3:11, like the earlier passage of **Romans 1:17**, shows that **a person who is made right will live by faith**, and that **NO PERSON can be made right with God by doing good deeds!**

Galatians 3:24-27 shows the whole relationship between the good deeds of the **OLD AGREEMENT** and **God’s PLAN**. He says that **we are made right BY THE PLAN**, and not **BY THE OLD AGREEMENT**. That agreement was just a temporary guide until Christ came, but now that Christ has come, the guide is no longer needed. Paul says that all who become right with God do so **THROUGH FAITH**, because everyone who has been baptized has put on Christ!

In **Titus 3:4-7**, Paul **IS NOT** fighting against the false teachers, but writing to his trusted co-worker and in this passage, he puts the whole idea together by pointing out that we **are not made right by good things that we did, but rather by good things that GOD DID FOR US!**

In **James 2:20-26**, the writer faces the opposite situation that Paul faced in Romans and Galatians. People seem to be saying that all you must do is **BELIEVE** and that it does not matter what you do! Of course, this is wrong. Paul was not saying that we should not do good things. He was saying that we cannot become right with God (have our sins forgiven) through doing good things. Remember that only blood can forgive sins! James brings out the other side of the picture. **A person cannot be pleasing to God unless that person is willing to DO WHAT GOD SAYS!** Unless a person is **willing to OBEY**, God will not make that person right with him! It is foolish to think that God **does not care** what we do, or how faithful we are with our actions! We must not forget that God is calling people **to join HIS AGREEMENT and there are conditions for the agreement!**

If we summarize what we found in this section, then IF we want to be made right with God we must be have faith and be willing to do whatever God tells us to do.

Putting All The Information Together: **CONCLUSIONS**

Now that we have worked systematically through all of the passages, it is time to look for common details. Some of them are going to be direct statements and some combinations of similar wordings into one common idea. We must be especially careful to look for relationships between the individual instructions in passages where one or more instructions are **LINKED** with the connecting word “**AND**”, however, **it is the usage and context that MUST identify ANY relationship, NOT our own desire or religious beliefs.**

The most outstanding of the instructions we found mentioned should not surprise us. We already knew that **FAITH** is an important part of Christianity. What we have discovered is that **without FAITH a person cannot join the NEW AGREEMENT. Any person who wants to join the NEW AGREEMENT MUST BELIEVE!** Please note that we discovered **LINKS** to **BOTH confession and baptism** for this instruction.

Second, we found instructions telling people to **REPENT OF THEIR SINS**, or turn from their sins, or change their attitude to become like children. We found verses that **LINKED** this with the instruction of **baptism**.

Third, we found instructions telling people to **CONFESS WITH THEIR LIPS** that they believe in Jesus. While this was only emphasized in the verses found in the book of Romans, it was **LINKED** to the instruction of **faith**.

As a fourth instruction, we found that people who wish to join the **NEW AGREEMENT** must **BE BAPTIZED**. We found verses that **LINKED** this instruction with **BOTH** instructions of **faith** and **repentance**.

Finally, we found a fifth instruction that clearly shows that any person wanting to join the **NEW AGREEMENT** must **OBEY GOD** and **REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE END; otherwise, joining the NEW AGREEMENT is useless!**

These are the basic instructions we found in our research.

Instructions for joining THE NEW AGREEMENT!

1. Have **FAITH**.
2. **REPENT** of sins.
3. **CONFESS** Jesus.
4. Be **BAPTIZED**.
5. **REMAIN FAITHFUL!**

If you compare this list with the teachings found in the religious groups of today, you will find differences, which brings us to the next important question in our study. “**Can we simply pick out the instructions we like and discard the ones we do not like?**” The problem we face here is like the illustrations about **PARTIAL EVIDENCE** we considered back in **Jesus: Man Of The Bible. IF GOD gives FIVE INSTRUCTIONS** to follow in order to become part of the **NEW AGREEMENT** how many do we need to follow?

Instructions for joining THE NEW AGREEMENT!

1. Have FAITH.
- 2.
3. CONFESS Jesus.
- 4.
- 5.

Option 1

Instructions for joining THE NEW AGREEMENT!

1. Have FAITH.
- 2.
3. PRAY TO RECEIVE Jesus.
- 4.
- 5.

Option 2

Can we, for example, **CHOOSE instruction #1 and #3 alone** and **IGNORE** the others, as indicated in the diagram on the left that is labeled “*Option 1*”?

What about **ADDING something NEW** to the list of instructions, that was not found in any of the verses we studied - as in the case of the diagram on the left that is labeled “*Option 2*”? Can we add the instruction, “**SAY A PRAYER TO RECEIVE JESUS**”?¹¹

We **cannot IGNORE, ADD, or CHANGE anything** we find in God’s instructions because **WE DO NOT have any authority to ADD new things, or to TAKE AWAY things that God placed there.** Please do not forget what we learned about Bible study back in the early lessons of the course **Jesus: Man Of The Bible.**

The Bible message belongs to God!

Our responsibility in Bible study is to **UNDERSTAND what God says and then DO EXACTLY WHAT HE TELLS US without question!**

We MUST ACCEPT WHATEVER WE FIND, regardless of how it compares with our previous religious beliefs and experiences.

Therefore, only “*Option 3*” is acceptable because it, alone, contains the **complete listing of ALL details** that were revealed in the verses we studied! **If GOD GIVES FIVE INSTRUCTIONS then FIVE is how many we need to follow, no more and no less!**

Now that we have completed our research and have the instructions, we need to make a careful study and see what the Bible teaches concerning each one of them. This, we will do beginning with our next lesson and continue through Lesson 10.

Instructions for joining THE NEW AGREEMENT!

1. Have FAITH.
2. REPENT of sins.
3. CONFESS Jesus.
4. Be BAPTIZED.
5. REMAIN FAITHFUL!

Option 3

¹¹ Did we find any instruction in our research that specifically mentioned anything about saying a prayer to receive Jesus? We **DID** find passages stating that people **must CONFESS Jesus**, but did those passages mention anything about **HOW** this should be done? Did they mention anything about saying a prayer to do it?

In addition, one of the things we learned about Bible study is that after you finish a study like this it is good to see if you can find examples of people doing or teaching what your conclusions indicate should be taught and that finding such evidence helps to verify that your conclusions are correct.

With this idea in mind, we have a second **WORKSHEET** for you to study. This one contains a listing of **every example of people becoming Christians** that we have recorded in the New Testament. Study through each example and look for details about **what the people were TOLD to do** and **what they ACTUALLY DID**. Then compare these findings to the **FIVE INSTRUCTIONS** we found in this lesson and see how closely they match.



PLEASE STOP HERE AND WORK THROUGH THE ASSIGNMENT “**WORKSHEET #2**”. After completing your study of the list of passages then you may continue with the lesson material.

Did you find anything different from what we concluded in our research? Even though most of the accounts contained few details, we could easily see the major points of our conclusion. Did you notice that no matter what instructions were recorded, **EVERYONE was baptized**? Did you also notice that **NO PERSON was ever told to receive Jesus by saying a prayer**? These are important findings and will be helpful as we go further in our research.

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 6:

Each of the following questions has several possible answers. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and fill in the CIRCLE for that answer on the answer sheet.

26. This lesson applies which **GUIDELINES** for Bible study we learned back in **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**?
- Context.
 - Looking at ALL material before making a conclusion.
 - Partial evidence.
 - All of the above.
27. TRUE or FALSE: If God does not **completely define something** in the instructions, then we are authorized to do it for him.
- True.
 - False.
28. TRUE or FALSE: Even though we found **five instructions**, we are authorized to follow only those we want to follow.
- True.
 - False.
29. The main reason why Paul speaks so much about **FAITH and The Law** in the books of Romans and Galatians is that
- Those are the **ONLY** books that tell people **HOW** to become a Christian.
 - Those books deal with the problem of false teachers saying that a person can get forgiveness of sins by doing good things.
 - Being right with God is achieved by **FAITH ONLY!**
 - All of the above.
30. TRUE or FALSE: If two instructions are **joined with the word “AND”** then we are supposed to choose one instruction or the other.
- True.
 - False.
31. TRUE or FALSE: We found a Bible passage that **specifically mentioned** saying a prayer to receive Jesus as Savior.
- True.
 - False.
32. Instead of the phrase, “born again”, the correct translation of **John 3:3** should be
- “born a second time”.
 - “born after”.
 - “born from above”.
 - “born at the same time”.
33. TRUE or FALSE: The **idea** of “calling upon the name of the Lord” is something that was given only in the New Testament.
- True.
 - False.
34. TRUE or FALSE: The fact that Jesus says that **ONLY the ones who remain faithful to the end will be saved** proves that **it is possible** for a person to join the **NEW AGREEMENT** and still end up going to Hell!
- True.
 - False.

35. The discussion Jesus has with Nicodemus in **John 3:3-5** is a comparison between
- Being born physically and being born spiritually.
 - Being born from your mother the first time and being born from your mother again a second time.
 - The teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the Pharisees.
 - None of the above.
36. Which of these verses talks about people who seemed to be good people and did good things for God, but were **actually lost**?
- Matthew 7:21-23
 - Acts 10:43
 - Luke 8:12
 - None of the above
37. Which verse states that we must do **two things** to be forgiven of our sins: repent and be baptized?
- Colossians 1:14
 - Ephesians 1:17
 - Acts 2:38
 - None of the above.
38. **Acts 26:18** states that to be forgiven from our sins, we must:
- Be baptized
 - Believe in Jesus
 - Become like children
 - None of the above.
39. Which passage states **we must be IN HIM** to have forgiveness of sin?
- Romans 3:25
 - Ephesians 2:5-10
 - Colossians 1:14
 - All of the above.
40. Which passage speaks of **being faithful until the end** in order to be saved?
- Matthew 24:13
 - Matthew 10:22
 - Mark 13:13
 - All of the above.
41. Which verse talks **figuratively**, describing Jesus as a door which we must enter through in order to be saved?
- John 10:9
 - Luke 18:12
 - Acts 2:21
 - None of the above.
42. Which verse talks about **believing in Jesus and OBEYING him** in order to have eternal life?
- John 3:15-16
 - John 6:47
 - John 3:36
 - None of the above.
43. Which passage says that **we need to believe on the name of the Lord** and we will be saved?
- Acts 16:31
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - None of the above.
44. Which verse says we are made right **by the things GOD did for us**?
- Titus 3:4-7
 - Galatians 3:11
 - Romans 6:18
 - None of the above.
45. Which verse says that if a person must **hate his own life** in order to have eternal life?
- Romans 2:7
 - John 6:40
 - John 12:25
 - All of the above.
46. Which verse talks **figuratively about seeds**, saying we need to plant seeds that are into the way of the spirit to have eternal life?
- John 20:31
 - Galatians 6:8
 - John 5:24
 - None of the above.
47. Which verse says to be children of God we must **do what God says** without complaining or arguing?
- Galatians 3:26-27
 - 1 John 5:1-2
 - Philippians 2:14-15
 - None of the above.
48. Which verse tells us **to be joined with Jesus** to become sons of God?
- Romans 6:3-4
 - Colossians 2:12
 - Galatians 3:27
 - All of the above.

49. Which verse says that you **must be baptized** in order to be saved?

- a) 1 Timothy 4:16
- b) James 2:14-26
- c) 1 Peter 3:21
- d) None of the above.

50. Which verse states that we must **not only hear God's laws, but also DO them** in order to be right with God?

- a) Romans 2:12-13
- b) Romans 4:1-5
- c) Romans 10:3-11
- d) None of the above.

LESSON SEVEN

Receiving The Gift (Part 2)

So far in this course, we have learned that **God made a PLAN for man** to receive the forgiveness of his sins and that this plan took a very long time to become a reality. We discovered that "being right with God" should be the most important goal in the life of every person and that this can only become possible **IF** a person **receives the gift of God's GRACE**, which is the favor of Jesus taking our sin, making it his own, and then dying to shed his perfect blood as payment for those sins! Only Jesus' blood can save a person from sin! In Lesson 6, we began a study about the instructions that God left for us to be able **to RECEIVE his grace** and become part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**. That study pointed out several important things.

1. Each and every person **MUST** believe in Jesus.
2. Each and every person **MUST** repent of their sins.
3. Each and every person **MUST** be willing to tell others that they believe in Jesus.
4. Each and every person **MUST** be baptized!
5. Each and every person **MUST** live life faithful to their commitment.

In addition, you were given a second worksheet that listed all the examples of people becoming Christians recorded in the book of Acts. Those examples confirmed that our conclusions were correct. In this lesson, we will look closer at the details of the different instructions.

While it cannot be denied that **receiving the GRACE of God** involves action, it must be remembered that these actions simply make up **the instructions God gave us** to accept the gift of his grace. The actions themselves have no power to save us since only the death (blood) of Jesus can do this. These actions simply bring us along to the point in time where **WE RECEIVE or MAKE CONTACT WITH the grace of God in OUR lives**. When we accomplish these things, the death of Jesus becomes personally applicable to us and **we become SAVED people**.¹²

Until we are joined with that death, we still have possession of our sins, no matter how sorry or sincere we are!

What IS FAITH?

The first area we will discuss in this lesson will be **FAITH**, which without a doubt is recognized as a foundation stone of Christianity. People may not agree upon how **FAITH** should be applied in a person's life, but almost everyone will point to its necessity in a person's life—that is if that person expects to have a relationship with the living God! So, what exactly **IS** faith? Below are some of the key verses in the Bible that speak to us **ABOUT** faith.

¹² Do not forget what we learned from **Romans 6:17-18** about the transition a person goes through from being lost to being saved, and the role that **obedience to instructions** plays in that process!

Perhaps the closest we can come to finding a “dictionary definition” for faith in the Bible is the explanation we find in **Hebrews 11:1-6**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. Notice that the writer emphasizes that **FAITH is based upon conviction and hope**. A more literal translation might be something like, “And faith is the foundation of things being hoped for, the evidence of things that were done but not being seen.” It stands in contrast to physical proof as the reason why a person believes in God. The writer continues to explain that it is **by faith** that we can accept such a bizarre story as the Creation, and then proceeds to illustrate the idea of faith by choosing certain stories out of the lives of different people and holding them up as examples of what faith is. In verse 6, he returns to defining faith and points out that there are **two basic elements (or parts) to FAITH**. One is an intellectual quality, which involves our listening to the data regarding God and his action, then thinking carefully through the details, and finally coming to a decision of acceptance. This is a matter for our head and our heart! However, the writer continues that thought further by including the reality that our convictions **MUST lead us to seek him!** Therefore, the way FAITH is defined in Hebrews is **a combination of belief plus action!**

Another very important passage about the meaning of faith is **James 2:14-26**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. This is one of the more important passages **about FAITH** because it was written in a situation where people who claimed to be believers had a false idea concerning **FAITH**. The writer explains what **TRUE FAITH** is and is not. Notice how once again we discover that same basic idea of faith that we saw in Hebrews—that TRUE FAITH is composed of **both conviction AND action**, or as we are so accustomed to hear in religion today, **faith AND works! Faith is not one or the other but BOTH combined together and working together!** The fact is that a **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD!** Notice also, how the writer is not prejudiced toward works or toward belief. Belief without works is condemned just as much as works without belief. His wording and illustrations make it very easy to understand what he is saying, and the points of reasoning are very easy to accept. After all, how can God know if a person **really** believes him? Is it not true that the only way that God knows a person has **FAITH** is by the actions of the person claiming to have faith? **FAITH is something that is SHOWN by actions** and if there are no actions, then there is no faith!

All throughout the teachings of Christ, we find this same idea being mentioned over and over again. Perhaps no passage in the New Testament brings out this reality clearer than **John 14:15**, where Jesus says that **IF** we love him **THEN** we will keep his commands, or, perhaps **Luke 6:46**, where Jesus mentions the very same point, but this time with a negative question, **“WHY do you call me lord and NOT DO the things that I tell you?”** (This is an amazing parallel to **James 2:14!**)

It becomes very important for us to realize the importance of obedience in relation to faith. **How can a person say that they know and LOVE God if they refuse to do what he says?** To do this would be telling a lie. On the other hand, if you do what God wants then you can be sure that you are accepted by him. This idea is not only logical but exactly the point we find being made by the writer in **1 John 2:3-6**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. His conclusion is that anyone **who CLAIMS** to be a follower of God ought then to walk in the same way that Jesus walked! Was there any question in the mind of Jesus about the relationship between conviction and action with regard to **FAITH**?

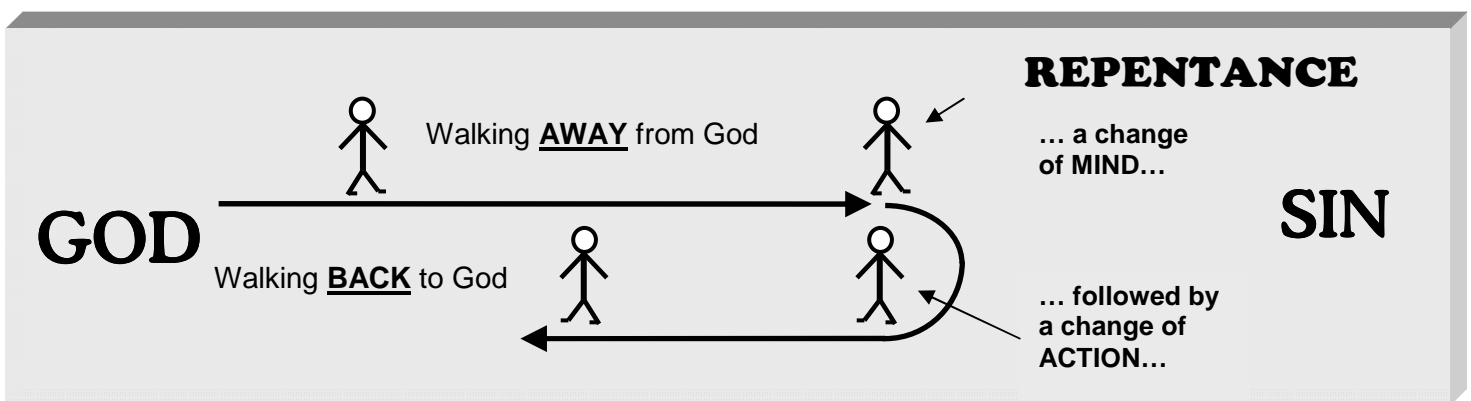
Considering the many strange ideas being taught all around us **about FAITH**, perhaps no other passage **about FAITH** is more important than **Matthew 7:21-23**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. This passage summarizes the whole idea very well. Jesus himself points out that **it is not ENOUGH** for a person to be “religious”—to spend their life **DOING** good things “for God”. It seems that there is something called, **“the will of the Father”**, which provides the specific details of what we should do and not do **to show** our faith. Unless we devote our time and energy toward doing these things then all of our good intentions and good accomplishments will come to nothing but sadness and despair. Where do we learn the details of HIS will? What did we learn from **2 Timothy 3:16-17? We get the instructions for GOD’S WILL from the pages of the Bible!**

Therefore, FAITH is conviction, and obedience, and submission to the will of the Father, all woven together in the life of a person wanting to please God!

What IS REPENTANCE?

In addition to the idea of **FAITH**, we also encountered something that was called "**REPENTANCE**". We see it many times all throughout the message of the Bible, but **what exactly does it mean?** The word we find in the text simply shows us that "to repent" simply means, "**to change your mind**". It was not a religious term—unlike the English word **REPENTANCE**, which we rarely hear being used outside of a discussion about religion and sin. To understand the real meaning of the word "repent", consider the following illustration. Let us say that a friend invites you to eat at a restaurant and you initially say yes, but later **CHANGE YOUR MIND**. If we were living back in the time of the New Testament you would then call your friend and inform him or her that **you had REPENTED** of your decision and can no longer go. Notice that the decision to repent was accompanied by a change of action! This is an important point to remember when we see the word being mentioned in the Bible.

When the Bible uses the word, it is almost always found in connection with God's instructions to man about what he must do to get rid of his sins. The **true meaning of REPENTANCE** can be seen in **2 Chronicles 7:14**, which does not even use the word. Notice that in repenting of sin **there is an attitude of humility**, that this humility **must move a person to ask for forgiveness**, and, perhaps most importantly, that **there MUST be a change of action**—a stopping of the sin! Therefore, just as we saw in our study of **FAITH**, **REPENTANCE includes both conviction AND action!**



Consider the example of **Acts 26:20** and refer to diagram below. When we sin, it is just as if we are **walking away** from God. Repentance brings about a reverse in the direction of this walk so that we will **walk back to God and away from sin**. You might say that this happens in **two stages**. The first is a **COMMITMENT to change**. God wants us to realize that our sins were free-will decisions that we did not have to do and be truly sorry for them, but this is not all there is to the point. Repentance is something which, like faith, has a **second stage**—which is **SHOWING repentance by action!** We might **SAY** that we have repented, but the proof that God is watching for is the action of change!

Therefore, REPENTANCE is a decision to stop living in disobedience to God's will that must then be followed by the action of stopping!

What IS CONFESSION?

Another **INSTRUCTION** we discovered in our research was something called **CONFESSION**. This instruction has been made popular by the Protestants and "Born Again" groups, who emphasize this one instruction so much that they often do not even mention any others. This is very surprising when we note that this instruction has the least explanation of any of the others. We found that **CONFESSING CHRIST WITH THE LIPS** was a major point in Paul's writings to the Romans, in **10:9-13**, but **WHAT ARE WE TO SAY in this confession?** There does not seem to be a pattern located anywhere in the Bible. The most common **pattern** used today in religion is something called "The Sinner's Prayer", which is a collection of words that are said to be a formula for receiving Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. However, **IF** this were true, **then** we would find instructions telling people to **SAY** a prayer, we would also find evidence of the wording of a "Sinner's Prayer" inside the pages of the Bible, and we would find evidence, among the many examples of people becoming Christians in the book of Acts, of people **actually saying a prayer** to receive Jesus into their lives! The truth is that **we find NONE OF THESE!** Once again, we must ask if it is acceptable for people to invent the idea of receiving Jesus **through a prayer**, just because Paul mentions something to the Romans about **confession with the lips** being done to receive salvation.

If we search the **NEW AGREEMENT** for passages relating to the idea of confessing Christ, we only find a few passages in addition to Romans 10. The first is a statement by Jesus in **Matthew 10:32-33**. Here Jesus has just finished speaking about how his disciples will suffer many great things from bad people. In this context, he states that anyone who confesses him before men he also will confess before his Father. The thought continues with regard to denying Jesus as well. Context shows that this **IS NOT ONLY** speaking about statements from a person's lips, but also actions that come out in a person's life!

Passages in the letters of John also mention the idea of confessing and denying Christ. Please look carefully at **1 John 2:22-23** and **1 John 4:15**.

There is evidence that some kind of confession was made by people when they became Christians. Aside from the Romans 10 passage, there is a possible reference by Paul, in **1 Timothy 6:12**, where he mentions a "**good confession**" that Timothy made in the presence of many witnesses.¹³

Therefore, the main point about CONFESSION seems to be that a person CANNOT BE ASHAMED TO SAY that they believe in Jesus!

What IS BAPTISM?

There was another important **INSTRUCTION** we discovered in our research; something called **BAPTISM**. Most people have heard something about this because most religions we find today have some sort of teaching **about BAPTISM**, but we also know that not all religious groups teach the same things about it. There are differences in **THE WAY** baptism is being done as well as differences in **THE REASON** people are told to be baptized. Because of this, we will spend the rest of our lesson today looking into this topic more closely.

We will begin by looking at the word itself. It comes from a Greek word in our New Testament and there are **two forms** of the word used there. The first is the **noun form BAPTISMA** (pronounced **băp'-tīs-mă**) and the second is the **verb form BAPTIZO** (pronounced **băp-tīd'-zō**). You might be wondering why we mention the Greek words **for BAPTISM** when we did not for the previous discussions about **FAITH** or **REPENTANCE**. The reason is the relationship between the appearance of the original Greek words and the spelling of the English word. Do you notice the similarity? If you remove the letter "A" from the end of the Greek word **BAPTISMA** you get the English spelling **BAPTISM**! If you investigate further, you will discover that our word baptism is **NOT A TRANSLATION** of the original Greek word! **INSTEAD**, it is what is called a **transliteration**.¹⁴ However, you will be interested to know that there is **NO LEGITIMATE REASON** to transliterate the word **BAPTISMA** because it was a very common word in everyday vocabulary, **AND**, it has a meaning that is easy to represent in modern languages. Therefore, the question remains, "**Why did the translators NOT translate BAPTISMA/BAPTIZO into their proper English equivalent words?**"

As we begin to look for an answer the first thing we must note is that **BAPTISMA** it was a simple everyday Greek word with no natural religious significance implied. This is in contrast to our modern understanding of the word, **BAPTISM**, which is **almost exclusively used in religious discussions**. The word **BAPTIZO** simply means, "I dip" or "I immerse". It represents the act of submerging an object into some kind of liquid. The noun form would thus be "a dipping" or "an immersion".

The reason why most translations of the Bible use the word "**baptism**" instead of "**immersion**", has to do with the teachings of certain groups today regarding **the way** they say that a person should **be baptized**. While some groups practice baptism by means of immersion, others use **different methods**. Some use the method of "**sprinkling**" while still others use "**pouring**". If a **faithful translation** of the word **BAPTIZO** is to be followed then the **only method of baptism**, which is acceptable, is **IMMERSION**, because this is the only possible meaning for the word! You cannot assign a meaning to a word that does not fit! To do so will misrepresent the original idea that was intended by God when he used the language of the Greek world to write his message.

¹³ Another possible example is in the conversion of the Ethiopian official, recorded in **Acts 8:26-40**. Verse 37 records a confession the official made before he was baptized. However, there is some question about whether this verse was added to the text later and so it does not appear in many of the newer translations sold today.

¹⁴ A **transliteration** is a situation where instead of translating a word from one language into another, the translator simply uses the alphabet of the child language to write the original word, while leaving it **untranslated**! This is usually done in situations where no equivalent word can be found to represent the original language word in the child language, or, if the original writing was making a special point about the spelling of the original language word that is being translated.

Consider the diagram below. Let us say that we start with three simple English words; **WALK, RUN** and **FLY**. Each one represents a way of moving from one place to another. However, each action is unique and we cannot interchange these words and their meanings. One could not, for example, see a bird moving through the air overhead and then remark, "Oh, see how the bird **RUNS** through the sky." That would not be **accurate**.

In the same way, we have already mentioned that there are **three ways** taught in religion today and **CLAIMED** as being acceptable **methods for BAPTISM**. They are **IMMERSION, SPRINKLING, and POURING**. However, it **MUST be pointed out that these are THREE DIFFERENT actions represented by three different words**. We cannot simply interchange their meanings because each word communicates a **DIFFERENT** action.

Consider the **ACTIONS** represented by the following words and note their differences...

WALK	RUN	FLY
IMMERSE	SPRINKLE	POUR
BAPTIZO	RHANTIZO	EKCHEO

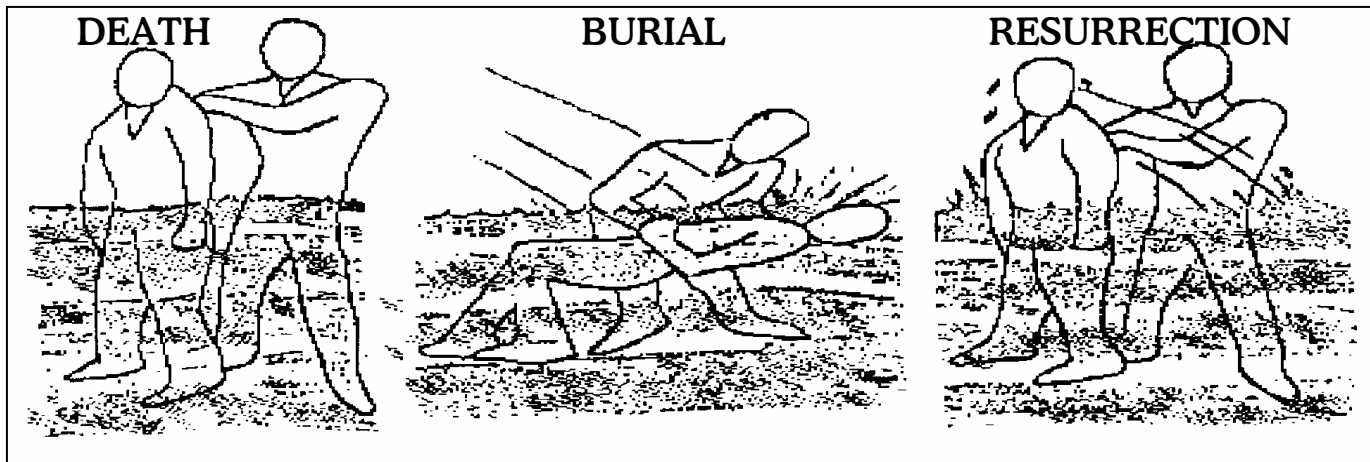
These are **different words** representing **different actions** that cannot be interchanged!

Can we change the God's message to make it agree with our church teachings?

As it turns out, the Greek language has **three different words** to represent the three ways that are taught today for **BAPTISM**. The Greek word that represents **IMMERSION** is **BAPTIZO**, the one that represents the action of **SPRINKLING** is **RHANTIZO**, and the one that represents **POURING** is **EKCHEO**. The way to clear up the controversy is simple. If we **go to every verse in the New Testament that speaks about BAPTISM** we find that, without exception, the **ONLY** Greek word is **BAPTIZO** and this can **ONLY** mean **IMMERSION!**

Even though the evidence is great, some people today insist that **the METHOD of baptism** does not matter. Many also believe that baptism itself is not an important matter, even though we found it being connected with the instructions of **FAITH** and **REPENTANCE** for receiving God's grace into our lives. Therefore, let us go to the Bible and see if there is any explanation **about baptism**, and **why it was included** as part of the **INSTRUCTIONS**.

The first passage we will look at is **Colossians 2:12**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. There is not any special reason why we begin with this passage except that it gives us some insights about **WHY immersion is significant** as the way God chose for people to be baptized. The main thing we notice is that **BAPTISM is described as being a BURIAL—a burial with JESUS!** It is also described as **a resurrection—a resurrection with JESUS**. Therefore, in baptism, **a person goes through a burial and a resurrection WITH JESUS!** The diagram below is an artist's drawing of a person being immersed in water. Notice how in the second picture we can easily see the person "being buried" and how in the third picture we can easily see the person "being raised up", just as it is explained in the Colossians passage.



Only the action of **IMMERSION** gives us a picture of someone being buried and resurrected. If we use **SPRINKLING** or **POURING**, we **cannot** picture someone being buried and resurrected. This is **WHY God used BAPTIZO** in his message instead of **RHANTIZO** or **EKCHEO!** The action of baptism is **IMMERSION!**

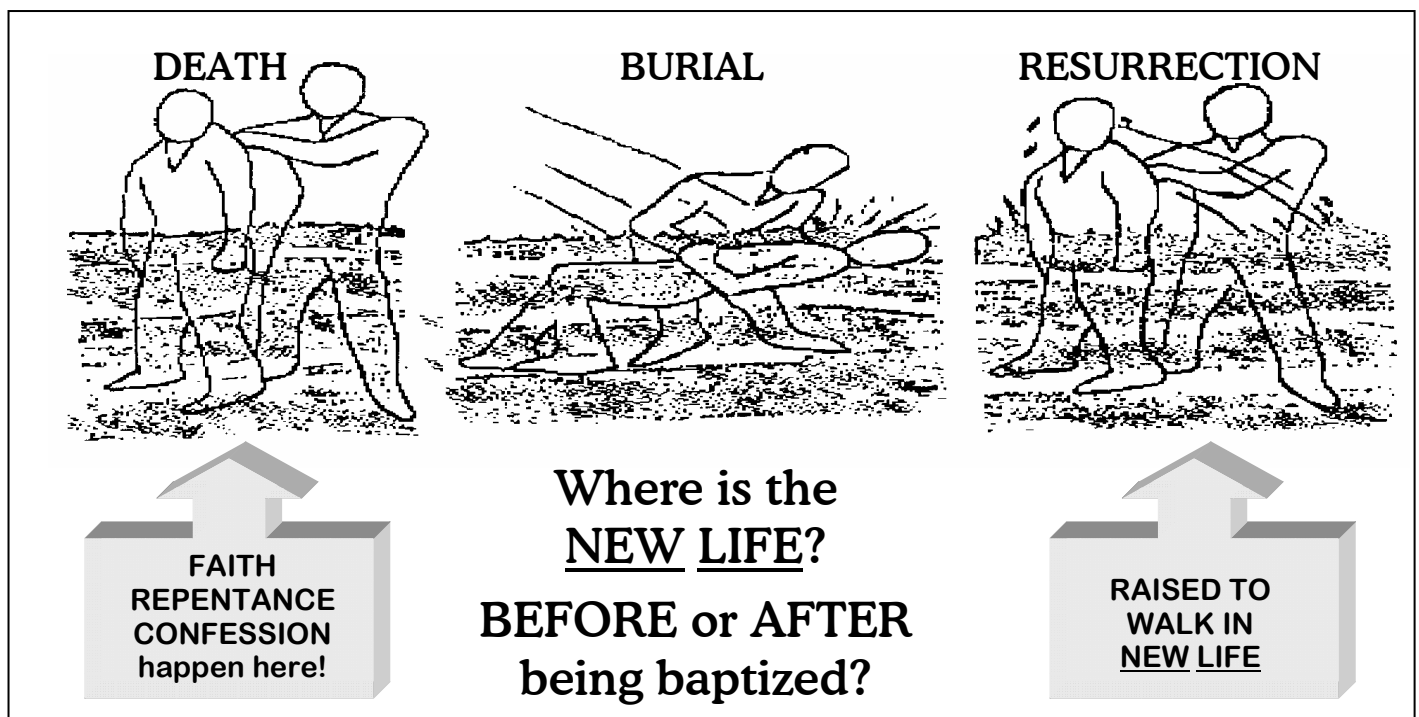
There is another important point we discover in the Colossians passage. When a person is baptized, it is **PASSIVE** or something that is **DONE TO** the person, not **DONE BY** the person! A person cannot immerse himself!

Additionally, the Colossians passage says that when a person is baptized he or she is **TRUSTING** in the **WORKING of God**. This is important because some religious teachers today claim that baptism “is a work” and that since we are not saved **by works**, then **baptism cannot be involved in our salvation!** **Colossians 2:12** clearly shows that **THERE IS** work being accomplished in the action of baptism, but it is equally clear that **the one who is doing the work IS GOD** and not the one being baptized. **The one being baptized is TRUSTING while GOD DOES THE WORK!**

Therefore, we learn from Colossians 2:12 that baptism is a **burial and resurrection WITH JESUS**, that **GOD DOES HIS WORK** in baptism, and that the one being baptized **SUBMITS** and **TRUSTS GOD!**

There is additional evidence to be considered. Please read **Romans 6:3-4**, get your paper, and record the main points. Of all the passages that speak **about** baptism, this is perhaps the most detailed. Like Colossians, this passage speaks of baptism as a **burial and a resurrection** and so we can once again see that **WHY God chose IMMERSION**. However, we also learn here that being buried with Christ **places a person IN CONTACT WITH his death and makes the person SHARE in that death**. If you will recall our previous studies about **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, we found that **the only thing that can save a person is JESUS' DEATH**, but we also found that people are not saved simply because Jesus died. Each person must somehow **GET the blood of Jesus PERSONALLY** into his or her life and according to what we read here in Romans 6, this happens **when a person is JOINED with his death by being buried with him**, and, **this joining ONLY happens through baptism!**

Notice also, how **Romans 6:4** describes **THE RESULT** of being baptized. The third picture of our artist's drawing shows a person “resurrecting” out of the water! Paul described this as being, “**raised to walk in a NEW LIFE!**”¹⁵ When a person **BELIEVES, REPENTS, and CONFESSES CHRIST**, these are all done inside the first picture of our diagram. If baptism is not part of being saved, then why does Paul state clearly that the **NEW LIFE** is what a person receives as part of **being raised with Christ**, as seen in the third picture of our diagram? You cannot have **NEW LIFE** without the removal of your sins, you cannot have the removal of your sins without **Jesus' BLOOD**, and a person **only gets that BLOOD** when they are **BURIED WITH IT** in baptism!



¹⁵ Doesn't this sound a lot like what Jesus was saying to Nicodemus in **John 3:3-5** about being born from above?

Two other passages, which contains significant information regarding baptism, are **Mark 16:16** and **Matthew 28:18-20**. They speak about the **importance** of baptism. When Jesus gave his orders for the “Great Commission”,¹⁶ he instructed his followers to teach people the **GOOD NEWS** and baptize them. Why did he include this instruction? If being baptized is the only way for a person to get the blood/death of Jesus and getting that blood is the only way a person can have their sins removed, then we can easily understand why Jesus included baptism in his instructions. Please notice that Mark records Jesus saying that **IF** a person has **FAITH** in the Gospel, **AND** is then baptized, **THEN** that person will be saved! Matthew records baptism as being part of a cyclical evangelistic process in which those who become disciples (students) are to be baptized and then taught all things. **Both of these formulas include baptism**, but give no explanation about **WHY** baptism is important. We must go to passages like Colossians 2 and Romans 6 for explanations of **WHY** it is important!

Another important passage in our study is **Acts 2:38**. Here we discover a connection between baptism and the **REPENTANCE** we studied earlier in this lesson. The background of this passage is interesting and itself shows the importance of baptism. Peter was speaking to a crowd of people in Jerusalem and after convicting them that they had killed the Christ, **THE PEOPLE interrupted Peter’s speech** and asked **what they should do**. It is in this context that Peter instructs them that they need to **repent AND be baptized** in order to receive the forgiveness of their sins. This was what Jesus told his followers to do in Matthew 28 and Mark 16!

Later in his life, Peter wrote a letter in which he also spoke about baptism. Please read **1 Peter 3:18-22**, get your paper, and record the main points. Peter says that baptism is a person’s way of **appealing to God for a clear conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus. When a person is baptized, they are immersed **in water**. However, the water is not what cleanses them from sin because only blood can do that. No, the water **takes the place of the TOMB** in which we normally bury a dead person. Baptism represents a tomb of water, not dirt, where a person joins with Christ’s death. That death cleanses the person from sins! Baptism simply marks the place and time where a sinner **meets Jesus in the tomb!**

A final passage about baptism today is **Galatians 3:26-27**. This is a good summary passage for what we have learned because it places everything in its proper context. It says that **we are made right with God through faith BECAUSE ALL who have been baptized INTO Christ have PUT ON Christ**. The result is that we become part of the **NEW AGREEMENT** where there are no longer “Jew”, or “Gentile”, etc., but only “Christians” and “children of God”!

Therefore, BAPTISM is something that a person HAS DONE TO HIM and the only reason why he is baptized is that this is what God instructs a person who believes and is sorry for their sins to do in order to JOIN WITH the only thing that can take away sins—the BLOOD/DEATH of Christ!

SUMMARY:

These are the instructions regarding **HOW WE GET INTO** a relationship with God. **HOW WE RECEIVE** his grace into our lives. **HOW WE BECOME CHRISTIANS**. And we discovered this as the “full story” on the matter after researching through almost 100 passages from the Bible! Notice that we discovered a **PROCESS** that is based upon a **TRUST** in what God has done, a **WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT** one’s life to change (action), and **A UNION** with the death of Christ! It is a process that results in “**WALKING in NEW LIFE!**” You saw the examples of thousands of people - in the book of Acts - who followed these instructions and “**were daily being added BY THE LORD**”- **Acts 2:47**.

What about AFTER a person receives Jesus’ blood and becomes a Christian? What are they supposed to do for the rest of their life? Is it possible for a person to lose their relationship with God? We still have one more instruction left to research; **REMAIN FAITHFULL TO THE END**. The next three lessons will focus on this topic.

¹⁶ Many people refer to Jesus’ final words before he left the earth as the “**Great Commission**” because in these words, he **commissioned** (assigned) his followers the task of going from place to place telling people the Good News of God’s **PLAN** for saving mankind. We will discuss this more in Lesson 12!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 7:

Each of the following questions has several possible answers. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and fill in the CIRCLE for that answer on the answer sheet.

51. The passage that gives us what is close to a **dictionary definition** of FAITH is
- John 3:16.
 - Hebrews 11:1-6.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - 1 John 3:4.
52. TRUE or FALSE: **Until we are joined** with Jesus' death, we still have our sins!
- True.
 - False.
53. TRUE or FALSE: FAITH means only believing in God, and **has nothing to do with works**.
- True.
 - False.
54. The main point James makes about faith in **James 2:14-26** is that
- If a person says that they have faith but do not do something then they are wrong.
 - Even the demons believe in God, but they are wrong because they do not obey!
 - Abraham was made right with God because he obeyed God and not just because he believed.
 - All of the above.
55. TRUE or FALSE: Faith **without works is ok** because only faith saves us.
- True.
 - False.
56. The main point of **1 John 2:3-6** is
- If a person says they know God but do not obey him then they are a liar.
 - A person is lost if they pray to idols.
 - Being right with God is achieved by FAITH ONLY!
 - All of the above.
57. TRUE or FALSE: Faith is a combination of belief plus obedience.
- True.
 - False.
58. The problem with the people Jesus described in **Matthew 7:21-23** is that they
- Were not sincere in their belief in God.
 - Did not do enough good works.
 - Did not do **the will** of the father!
 - Did not give God the credit for what they did.
59. TRUE or FALSE: The **place** where we find the details of God's will is in the Bible.
- True.
 - False.
60. **Repentance** is
- A change of mind only.
 - A change of mind followed by a change of action.
 - Believing in God.
 - Changing the way you think.
61. The passage where we read an **explanation about repentance** is
- Mark 16:16
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - Acts 17:31
 - 2 Chronicles 7:14.
62. TRUE or FALSE: The **proof** that repentance had happened is in the actions of our life.
- True.
 - False.
63. The **first stage** of repentance is
- Making a commitment to change.
 - Praying for forgiveness.
 - Going to church every Sunday.
 - Action.
64. The **second stage** of repentance is
- Making a commitment to change.
 - Praying for forgiveness.
 - Going to church every Sunday.
 - Action.
65. TRUE or FALSE: Confession means saying that **we are ashamed** to believe in Jesus.
- True.
 - False.
66. TRUE or FALSE: Confession is **ONLY** what you say with your lips!
- True.
 - False.

67. TRUE or FALSE: We can choose some of the instructions for salvation and ignore the ones we do not like.
- True.
 - False.
68. The **only correct method** for baptism is
- Sprinkling.
 - Pouring.
 - Immersion.
 - Drinking.
69. The **reason** why baptism is immersion is because
- Baptism requires much water.
 - Baptism has to be done in a church.
 - Baptism pictures a burial and resurrection.
 - Baptism is a religious word.
70. TRUE or FALSE: It is **acceptable** if we change the words God used in his original message.
- True.
 - False.
71. The meaning of **transliteration** is
- Translating.
 - Writing words in one language using the characters of another language.
 - Praying for forgiveness.
 - Reading the Bible.
72. The **main purpose** of baptism is
- To unite us together with Christ's death/blood.
 - To forgive Original Sin.
 - To take a bath.
 - To be sprinkled with water.
73. TRUE or FALSE: A person receives NEW LIFE **before** they are baptized.
- True.
 - False.
74. The passage **Mark 16:16** shows a relationship between what **two instructions**?
- Faith and Confession.
 - Faith and Baptism.
 - Repentance and Baptism.
 - Confession and Repentance.
75. The passage **Acts 2:38** shows a relationship between what **two instructions**?
- Faith and Confession.
 - Faith and Baptism.
 - Repentance and Baptism.
 - Confession and Repentance.

LESSON EIGHT

The Rest Of Your Life (Part 1)

In our previous lesson, we completed our research into the instructions that God gave in order for man to receive the death of Christ, which is the favor that God did for us when we did not deserve it, which is also **the ONLY thing** that pays for our sins! We looked at the basic ideas of **FAITH, REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, and BAPTISM** and we learned that each of these fit together to form a **PROCESS** through which a person goes **from being LOST**, on the wrong side of the "River of SIN", **to being SAVED!**

We must remember that these "instructions" are not just ceremonial requirements on some "checklist for membership" that a person must complete in order to join a social group. They are also not "works" by which a person **EARNs** his place in heaven! These are **ACTIONS**, whose only purpose is to bring a lost person into a commitment to change their life, and, then put that person into direct contact with the blood of Christ, the result of which is the removal of the person's sins and entrance into the **NEW AGREEMENT!** These actions, by themselves, **have NO SAVING POWER of their own.** Please do not forget what we learned; **ONLY BLOOD TAKES AWAY SINS!**

The instructions are simply **the way through which and by which we RECEIVE** God's grace (the death/blood of Jesus) into our individual lives! They are **THE INSTRUCTIONS** that God left for us, **to show OUR faith in him!** However, salvation is only **by means of THE FAVOR** God did for us—allowing Jesus to take our sins and die!

When we follow what God tells us to do, **we become people of FAITH**, just like Noah, Abraham, and the Israelites who stood in those long lines to make those animal sacrifices. **DOING WHAT GOD TOLD THEM placed THEM** in

contact with the blood of Christ and, in the same way, **WE** can have the blood of Jesus in our own lives **IF we obey the instructions** God gave to us.

When we choose to receive Jesus, something wonderful happens. Please turn to **Colossians 1:13**, get your paper and record the main points. Paul explains that God **rescues us** out of the kingdom of darkness and **removes us** into the kingdom of the son that he loves! The main point to remember here is that **GOD** is the one who does all the work! We also saw this in **Acts 2:47**, where it said that **GOD ADDS** saved people to his group of believers!

Remain Faithful To The End!

We have seen HOW a person becomes part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**, but what about **AFTER** a person receives the blood of Jesus and becomes a Christian? What happens then?

In our research, we discovered one additional instruction that, in context, applies to a person **AFTER they receive Christ** into their life. **Christians are instructed to remain faithful until the end!** In our next three lessons, we will try to better understand what this means.

The New Testament is filled with passages that point out that **salvation is FREE** and available to all people. **It is FREE** in the sense that you don't have to do anything to pay for it, but **IS A SAVED PERSON REALLY FREE? Are they FREE to do whatever they desire to do?**

There are teachers today who **CLAIM** that **once a person is saved, they are ALWAYS saved**¹⁷, and there is no way a person can lose their salvation!

Christians **are FREE from the burden of paying for their sins**, but they **ARE NOT FREE to do whatever they desire!** We all were made enemies of God because **WE DID AS WE PLEASSED**, and following that way of thinking, we did many things that were **against the will of God**. However, God made a way for us to be **FREE** of those past mistakes, but, in return, he expects us to no longer consider ourselves **FREE** to do as **WE** please! Therefore, **IF** a person receives God's grace and then continues doing **WHAT THEY FEEL IS RIGHT**, then bad things will happen to them! Consider the following warnings that were written to the first Christians.

The NEW AGREEMENT IS CONDITIONAL!

The first few passages will be a review of passages we have seen before. One very important passage to consider is **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**. Notice that this verse was written to people who are already Christians. We know this because it says that they had already **received the GOOD NEWS**. Notice also how he tells them that **they will CONTINUE to remain "saved" as long as they REMAIN FAITHFUL to the GOOD NEWS**. What will happen to them if they do not remain faithful? He told them that **their FAITH would then be in vain!** What does this mean? It means **"useless"**. Therefore, from this passage, we see that the **NEW AGREEMENT IS CONDITIONAL**, and that **IF a person does not remain faithful, THEN they will return to the other side of the "River of SIN" and be lost!**

The idea of remaining faithful once a person becomes a Christian is found in many other passages. **Colossians 1:21-23** is another passage that was written to people who had already become Christians and still the writer tells them that they will **remain saved ONLY IF they continue "in the faith"**.

Revelation 2:10-11 is another passage. Notice the **degree of faithfulness** that is required by God. The historical background of this passage is interesting. Evidence indicates that at the time this book was written, Christians everywhere were being persecuted very much and many Christians had been executed by the Roman government simply because they believed in Jesus! When they were captured and questioned by the authorities, it would have been very easy for them to deny that they believed in Christ. After all, in their hearts they could reason that God really knew their hearts and he would surely forgive their denial since it was only given so they could save their lives! Didn't God **KNOW** that they really loved Jesus? Is it not interesting to see that even though their situation was so very severe, still, **they were told to be faithful UNTO DEATH.**

¹⁷ This idea has been made famous by certain Protestant groups and is often referred by them as the "Doctrine of Once Saved, Always Saved". Neither the term nor the teaching of "Once Saved, Always Saved" can be found in the Bible. The only way you can possibly conclude such would be to look only at **partial evidence** on this topic! However, **IF** we look at all the information found on this topic then the difficult passages will be explained by those that are easy to understand, just as we learned in our discussions about **HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.**

This idea of **remaining faithful to God** is nothing new for us. We have already learned many things about this topic.

Do not forget what we learned from our study of **Matthew 7:21-23**, where we saw that being faithful is more than being a religious person. Do you remember how interesting it was to read and discover that doing “religious things” is not enough? The point Jesus made was that **we must DO THE THINGS the Father wants us to do**.

In addition to this point, **John 12:44-50** showed us that this “will of the Father” can be found in the teachings that Jesus gave and that we will be judged, on the Judgment Day, by how well we followed those teachings in our lives.

Remember that the early lessons of **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**, contained many **WARNINGS!** In **Galatians 1:6-9**, for example, one thing that made this passage so important was the knowledge that, at **THAT time**, there were already people who had become Christians but had left the true teachings of Christianity behind and changed them for something else. The warning that we should not listen to any teachings **other than the original ones** is very serious. Even as these changed teachings come from angels we are not to listen to them. That means that it is a very serious thing to remain faithful to the teachings.

2 John 1:9-11 also showed us the importance of our being faithful. If a person **DOES NOT REMAIN** in the teachings of Christ, he **DOES NOT have God!** Following the true teachings is a requirement and any teachings other than the ones that were given by God and Christ must be rejected. Do not forget how this passage also speaks of what our attitude should be toward those teachers who do not teach the truth. We should never agree with any teachings except those which are **the will of the Father!**

Let us also not forget what we learned from **1 John 2:3-6!** We can **KNOW** with absolute certainty what our status is in our relationship with God! It is simply a matter of fairness. **IF** we are faithfully following his commands, **THEN** we **KNOW** that we are right with him! However, **IF** we **SAY** that we are Christians and **DO NOT FOLLOW** his teachings, **THEN we are LIARS!** **IF** we say that we know God, **THEN** we ought to live in the same way that Jesus lived. Faithfulness requires keeping the command of God and not just **SAYING** that we know him.

This brings us back to one of the very first passages we looked at, **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. It is only in the word of God (the Bible) where we find the truth that we are supposed to be “faithful unto death” to, because the Bible alone contains the revealed will of God. Using the Bible, we can be completely equipped for every good work that the Father wants us to do.

Obstacles!

Knowing the Father’s will and being willing to do it are only part of the battle. We need to remember that we **WILL encounter obstacles** along the way as we try to remain faithful and it will not be easy to keep this commitment of loyalty to God. We discussed this back in our last lessons of **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**, when we looked at Jesus as the **PIONEER OF THE FAITH**. In that study, we looked at **TWO major sources** of difficulty. In **Matthew 10:34-39**, we found that **some obstacles might come from OTHER PEOPLE**, even possibly from members of our own families! In **James 1:13-15**, we discovered that most of the problems we will have will come from inside; from our own desires! This inward struggle will challenge our commitment to remain faithful to God.

Whatever the source of the difficulty might be, God demands complete and unwavering loyalty from anyone who would **CLAIM** to be part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**. **Jesus MUST be the number one priority in a person’s life** or else that person cannot be his disciple. Is God asking too much? Considering the price Jesus himself paid to become the savior of mankind, this demand is fair! We cannot let any person come between our loyalty to God and us, no matter how dear their relationship may be!

Therefore, we must enter into this relationship with the full knowledge and understanding that while God knows and understands that it will not be easy for us to do, he still demands complete faithfulness and loyalty from each person who receives his grace.

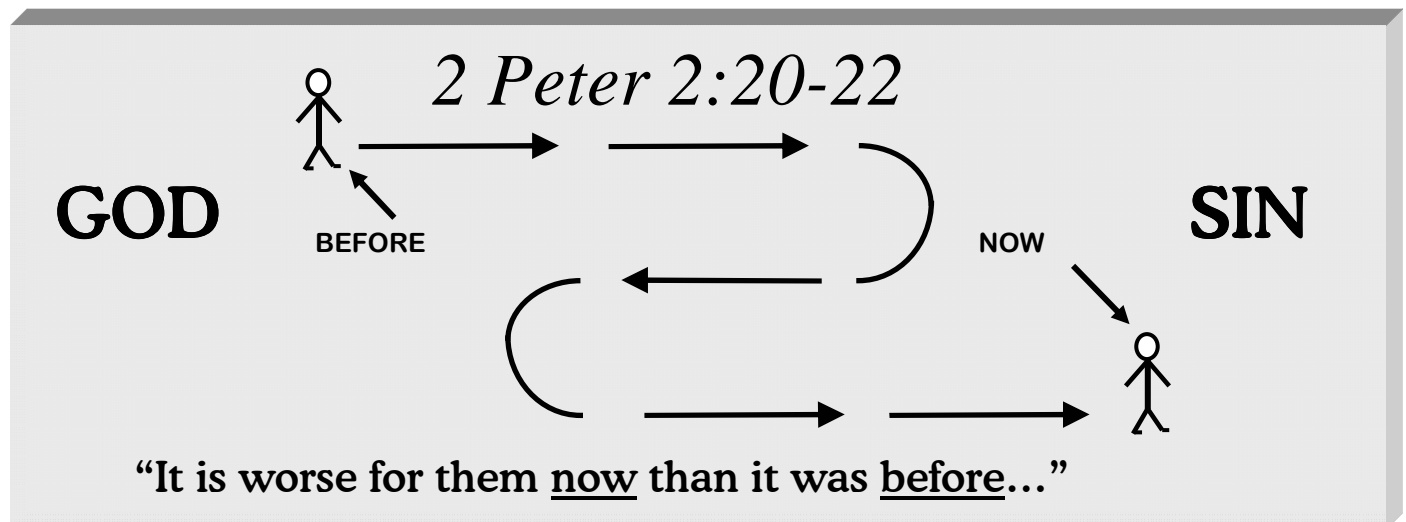
We need to remember the words of **James 1:2-12** so that we will not become discouraged! There **WILL BE OBSTACLES**, but **IF** we endure them patiently, **THEN** there will be a generous reward – **ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD IN HEAVEN!** James points out that these struggles are for a purpose and with every obstacle that we overcome, **there will be growth and strength**, which will help us endure the next obstacles when they come.

In addition, let us never forget the promise we all have from God himself, which we found in **1 Corinthians 10:13!** God will never allow us to face an obstacle that we cannot endure! Remember that this is **HIS** promise and so we will be

able to endure anything, **not because we are so strong, but because of GOD'S PROMISE!** The "way of escape" will **ALWAYS** be there, but you still must choose to take it!

Conclusion

We close this lesson today by looking at **2 Peter 2:20-22**. It is a negative message but it reminds us of something we must never forget. As the revised diagram of **REPENTANCE** below shows, a person walking away from God **CAN** turn back to God, only to **TURN AWAY** from God **AGAIN** so that the **final direction is walking away toward SIN!** Peter says that this situation **NOW is WORSE** than it was **BEFORE**. Why? It is because **NOW he knows the GOOD NEWS and yet has turned against it!** What can he be told **NOW** that will give him hope and make him change?



Contrary to what many religious people **CLAIM**, it **IS very possible** for a person to become a Christian and then become lost once again! There really **IS NOT** a "once saved, always saved" doctrine in the **NEW AGREEMENT**. If there were, then why would Peter say what he does in this passage?

Becoming a Christian is easy but **REMAINING a Christian** is another matter. We have now seen the individual Christian's basic responsibility to God. In our next lesson, we will look deeper into this topic and see if we can discover **HOW** a person **can BE faithful** to God for a lifetime.

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 8:

Each of the following questions has several possible answers. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and fill in the CIRCLE for that answer on the answer sheet.

76. The instruction that brings a person into direct contact with Jesus' death/blood is
- Faith.
 - Repentance.
 - Confession.
 - Baptism.
77. TRUE or FALSE: FAITH, REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, and BAPTISM are works by which a person saves themselves.
- True.
 - False.
78. TRUE or FALSE: The idea that once a person is saved they are always saved is found in the Bible.
- True.
 - False.
79. The main point of 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 is
- If a person says that they have faith but do not do something then they are wrong.
 - Even the demons believe in God, but they are wrong because they do not obey!
 - Abraham was made right with God because he obeyed God and not because he believed.
 - If a person does not remain faithful to the GOOD NEWS, their faith is useless.

80. TRUE or FALSE: Members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** are FREE to do whatever they desire.
- True.
 - False.
81. The main point of **1 John 2:3-6** is
- If a person says they know God but do not obey him then they are a liar.
 - A person is lost if they pray to idols.
 - Being right with God is achieved by FAITH ONLY!
 - All of the above.
82. TRUE or FALSE: Christians in the time of Jesus were **allowed to deny** him in order to save their life.
- True.
 - False.
83. The lesson we learn from **Matthew 7:21-23** is
- We must do what our religious leaders tell us.
 - We must not try to do too many things.
 - We must do only the things God wants!
 - All of the above.
84. TRUE or FALSE: Once a person is saved, they will **stay saved as long as they remain faithful**.
- True.
 - False.
85. The main point of **Revelation 2:10-11** is
- A person must be faithful even if they might have to die to stay faithful!
 - A person can only deny Christ IF their life is threatened.
 - A person does not need to be faithful all of the time.
 - None of the above.
86. The passage where we read that we will be judged **by the teachings Jesus received from his Father** is
- Mark 16:16
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - John 12:44-50
 - 2 Chronicles 7:14.
87. TRUE or FALSE: According to **Galatians 1:6-9**, it is **acceptable** for people to change the original teachings.
- True.
 - False.
88. According to **2 John 1:9-11**, if people visit us and they do not bring the true teachings of God, we should
- Invite them in and give them something to eat.
 - Tell them that we hope God will help them in their work.
 - Not invite them in or even greet them.
 - Throw stones at them.
89. According to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, God gave us the Bible for the purpose of
- Teaching us his ways.
 - Correcting mistakes in our lives.
 - Training us in the right way we should live.
 - All of the above.
90. TRUE or FALSE: The Bible **contains ALL** the teachings of the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
- True.
 - False.
91. TRUE or FALSE: After a person receives the blood of Jesus, it **does not matter** what they do with their life!
- True.
 - False.
92. TRUE or FALSE: We can be certain that we are accepted by God **IF we do what he says**.
- True.
 - False.
93. The point of **James 1:2-12** is that we can be happy
- If we only sin a few times.
 - If we endure temptation.
 - If our sins are forgiven.
 - None of the above.
94. If we **endure** temptation,
- We will become stronger in our faith.
 - It will cause us to grow in our faith.
 - It will help prepare us for the next temptation.
 - All of the above.
95. TRUE or FALSE: God is faithful and **will not** let us be tempted more than we can endure.
- True.
 - False.
96. The main point of **2 Peter 2:20-22** is
- Once we are saved, we are always saved.
 - It is possible to live a sinless life.
 - If we confess our sins God will forgive us.
 - It is possible for a person to turn back to sin after becoming a Christian and be lost.

97. The passage that tells us that **most temptations we face come from within ourselves** is
- a) 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - b) Matthew 7:21-23
 - c) James 1:13-15
 - d) Matthew 10:34-39.
98. TRUE or FALSE: It **will be easy** to keep the commitment of loyalty in the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
- a) True.
 - b) False.
99. The passage **Matthew 10:34-39** tells us
- a) That most temptations come from within ourselves.
 - b) Our own relatives might become enemies because of Christ.
 - c) We might have to die to remain faithful.
 - d) Only blood takes away sins.
100. We **can endure every temptation** we face because
- a) Of God's promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - b) We have the freedom to choose to be faithful every time if we want to.
 - c) God always gives us a way to escape the temptation.
 - d) All of the above.

You have completed **Book 2** of our course **Jesus: Lord Of Our Lives**. If you have any questions, or need assistance in any way, please contact your instructor here at the **Bible Study Center**. As soon as we receive and grade your answer sheet, we will send you **Book 3** of this course.

Do not forget that we offer these and other courses at the Center. We recommend that you enroll next session so that you can continue your journey through the Bible in a personal study with us.

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

Worksheet #1 for Lesson 6

Do you remember what we discovered back in our "How to Study" lessons at the beginning of this course? It was there we learned that the best way to tackle a situation like this is to look at all the available evidence **before** making any conclusions.

The purpose of this worksheet is to give you a chance to research the matter of HOW a person receives salvation. Therefore, your task is to read each passage carefully and put it into its proper context. Then record a short summary of the instructions (if any) which are contained in the passage relating to the matter of **HOW** a person receives salvation. Once you have gone through each passage then put all of the details together (like we did in Malchus' Ear) and come up with at least 5 summary statements of what man must do to be saved. In our next few lessons, we will look at these and other related passages to build upon the foundation that you will be laying with this research.

Remember as you go along that some passages will be clearer than others. Some may contain many details while others may contain almost no detail at all. Remember that it is the combination of all the details at the end of the process that will give us the result we are looking for.

I. A LOOK AT VERSES CONTAINING PHRASES WHICH TALK ABOUT SALVATION.

A. Passages which use the phrase, "**entering the kingdom**".

1. **Mt. 5:20**
2. **Mt. 7:21**
3. **Mt. 18:3**
4. **Jn. 3:5**

B. Passages which talk to us about having the "**forgiveness of sins**".

1. **Acts 2:38**
2. **Acts 10:43**
3. **Acts 26:18**
4. **Rom. 3:25**
5. **Eph. 1:7**
6. **Col. 1:14**

C. Passages which use talk about "**being saved**".

1. **Mt. 10:22**
2. **Mt. 24:13**
3. **Mk. 13:13**

4. **Mk. 16:16**
5. **Lk. 8:12**
6. **Jn. 10:9**
7. **Acts 2:21**
8. **Acts 11:14**
9. **Acts 16:31**
10. **Rom. 10:9-13**
11. **1 Cor. 15:2**
12. **2 Thes. 2:9-13**
13. **1 Tim. 4:16**
14. **Tit. 3:5**
15. **Jms. 2:14-26**
16. **1 Pet. 3:21**

D. Passages which discuss the idea of "**having eternal life**".

1. **Mt. 19:29**
2. **Jn. 3:15-16**
3. **Jn. 3:36**
4. **Jn. 5:24**
5. **Jn. 6:40**
6. **Jn. 6:47**
7. **Jn. 11:25-26**
8. **Jn. 12:25**
9. **Jn. 20:31**
10. **Rom. 2:7**
11. **Rom. 6:22**
12. **Gal. 6:8**

E. Passages which speak on "**becoming children of God**".

1. **Jn. 1:12**
2. **Gal. 3:26-27**
3. **Phil. 2:14-15**
4. **1 Jn. 3:10**
5. **1 Jn. 5:1-2**

F. Passages which discuss the idea of "**being born again**".

1. **Jn. 3:3-5**

H. Passages that talk about "**joining with Jesus**".

1. **Rom. 6:3-4**
2. **Col. 2:12**
3. **Gal. 3:27**

I. Passages which talk about how to be "**right with God**" (righteous/justified).

1. **Rom. 1:17**
2. **Rom. 2:12-13**
3. **Rom. 3:21-26**
4. **Rom. 4:1-5**
5. **Rom. 6:18**
6. **Rom. 10:3-11**
7. **Gal. 2:16**
8. **Gal. 3:11**
9. **Gal. 3:24-27**
10. **Tit. 3:4-7**
11. **Jms. 2:20-26**

II. Summarize the points of your study. Combine the information from the verses above to form points of summary. (Use additional paper if necessary.)

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.