

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

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NOT FOR SALE

Bible Study Center

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

A 12-Lesson Study Course

Bible Study Center

“Jesus: Lord of Our Lives”

Welcome Back!

This is a 12-lesson Bible study course and, like its predecessor, has been designed to educate, inform, challenge, and inspire people to become active students of God’s Word. It will help you learn many more important things about God and the Bible and at the same time help you become more skilled in Bible study. This textbook material has been designed to complement our in-class discussion.

The reason why we need a study course like this one is the same as the first course. **There are STILL more than 41,000 groups claiming to be Christians** and each one has its own particular set of doctrines and practices. Since most of these differences in some way relate back to the Bible, it is necessary to study it to find out which teachings today are correct.

The way this study material works is simple. Your class will meet twice a week for six (6) weeks. After a general review of our previous course, **Jesus: Man of the Bible**, at the beginning of Lesson One, you and your fellow students will be taken through the material in class. You will once again be asked to find, read, and carefully think about the meaning of hundreds of passages from the Bible. Use the notebook we have provided to record the main points for each verse you study. Study through the material and answer the questions at the end of each lesson before coming to class. Study each lesson carefully and read all of the passages carefully¹. Many of the test questions will be taken from the points contained in the verses. Use the answer sheets we have provided for recording your answers to the test questions. Bring the answer sheet with you to class as we will collect them in class for grading. We will record your grades for our records and if you can average 70% over all of the lessons, we will reward you with a special diploma, which you can hang on your wall. However, aside from a diploma, the wealth of knowledge you will gain from your study will be considerably more valuable!

Bring your lesson booklet to class with you each meeting so that you can refer to it as needed.

We hope that you will learn much from this study. As we said in the first course, there may be some things taught in this course that seem “different” from what you might have heard in religion before. We are not asking you to agree or disagree with anything in the course; all we are hoping is that you will study through all of the course material before you make any conclusions.

If at any time you have questions about anything in your study, please feel free to bring them to class with you. We will do our very best to help you find the answers you seek. In addition, if you have friends whom you think might like to study with us, please give us their names and contact information and we will be very happy to send them a personal invitation to join in our next session of FREE classes at the Bible Study Center.

As a final thought before you start, please remember that we have gone to great lengths to make this study FREE of both cost and obligation. There is no tuition and by agreeing to take this course, you are not changing your religion or joining a religious group. All we are asking you to provide is the time to study and transportation to attend your classes.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy your study and learn many new things about God and the Bible!

¹ NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all Bible quotations contained in the lesson material come from the **Easy-To-Read** version.

LESSON ONE

The SCHEME Of REDEMPTION (Part 1)

We are so happy that you have decided to continue your study with us! This course is designed to continue where we stopped in **JESUS: MAN OF THE BIBLE** and discover many more things about Jesus and his life here on the earth. However, before we continue our journey into new territory, we will review the major points learned in the previous material.

We began our study by looking at the religious world of today and noted that there are more than 41,000 different “Christian” religions and that no two of these groups teach the same thing! From what we learned from the Bible, this situation **IS NOT GOOD** and cannot be from God! **God has only ONE church** and it follows the **ONE set of teachings** given by Jesus and his apostles in the time of the New Testament.

We learned that the Bible is God’s book, and that it has come to us through a very interesting past. It contains two messages from God for the people of the world, and the second message (the New Testament) is the specific one God has given for us today! We also learned that the Bible is complete and that we are not to **INTERPRET** it, but rather our goal is to **UNDERSTAND** and **DO** exactly what **HE** says.

We also learned many interesting things about Jesus Christ. We looked at his origin, his humanity, his being God, and at how he was BOTH God and man while he lived on the earth. We looked carefully at his works and his sinless life and discovered that when he lived on the earth, **Jesus was just like us in every way** and that the only thing that made him different from us was his **IDENTITY!** We ended our study with the idea that Jesus came here to become an example for us and that he was the **PIONEER and PERFECTER of THE FAITH!**

Now that we have seen the basic information about Jesus, we will now continue by looking at what Jesus came to build – **TRUE** Christianity – and explore what God instructs men to do in his second message!

Over the next four lessons, we will explore many questions relating to Jesus and his death. The reason why we will spend so much time on this is the importance of the subject. This subject is often referred to in books as, “**The SCHEME OF REDEMPTION**”. The word “**scheme**” is another word for “**a plan**” and “**redemption**” means, “to exchange something” and so, in simple words, the “**scheme of redemption**” is “**a plan to exchange something**”. Does this sound a little confusing? In this course, we will research many of the details about this plan by applying the things we have learned about studying the Bible. We hope that the result will be that by the time we are finished you will clearly understand the **Scheme of Redemption**.

In **PART 1** of this material, we will examine the reason why God had to make this **SCHEME**. This will provide us with a foundation on which we will build future lessons.

What Is SIN?

Please stop here and read all of Genesis chapter 3 before going any further. Record the main points in your notebook.

What do we learn about SIN from this story? The story goes something like this. Adam and Eve were created and placed in a garden. They were given specific instructions regarding what they were to do, especially regarding the eating of the fruit of a certain tree, which grew in the middle of the garden. They were not supposed to eat that fruit. Unfortunately, they did not do what they were told to do and they were punished because they did not obey God. It is a simple story.

As we consider the events of Genesis 3, we cannot help but notice that there was a sudden change in man’s relationship with God because of his decision to eat that fruit. One day, man was walking and talking with God as good friends should and do, and the next day he was sent out from the garden and from the presence of the Lord! What a dramatic turn of events that was, and all because Adam and Eve **disobeyed God’s instruction regarding a piece of fruit!**²

² By the way, did you notice that the fruit they ate **WAS NOT** an apple? It was simply called the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is an example of how many people **THINK** that the Bible says a certain thing, but in reality, it says something different. Another example from this story is the snake. Does the Bible actually **SAY** that the snake is Satan? No it does not! The snake lost its legs. Did God take Satan’s legs away? No, he did not!

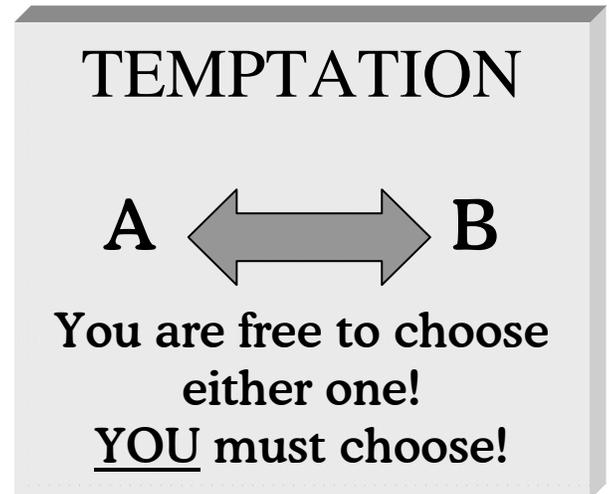
Since this lesson is about **SIN**, let us ask, “**What is sin?**” Several very good passages explain sin and how it happens in the life of a person. **1 John 3:4**, has the closest thing we have to a “dictionary definition” for **SIN** in the Bible. It is described as “living against God’s law”. God gives man laws to follow - as we saw in the case of Adam & Eve. When a person **breaks one of these laws**, this action is called a sin. Many people today misunderstand the meaning of sin because sin is a word we use only when talking about religion. However, **the idea** of sin is very common to us and we live with it every day. The country we live in has laws that every person is supposed to follow. When a person breaks one of those laws, they are said to have “committed a crime”. The idea of **CRIME** and **SIN** are almost exactly the same! Both involve laws and people deciding to break those laws. The main difference is that while crime is based upon breaking laws that **come from man**, sin is breaking laws that **come from God**. God’s laws are not always the same as man’s laws. In other words, not all sins are considered crimes and not all crimes are considered by God to be sins. Please keep this in your mind as we proceed further with this material!

Another passage that helps us understand about **SIN** is **James 4:17**, where we learn that when a person knows to do something that is good and they do not do it then this is also sin. From this idea, it should be easy to see that God is very serious about the things he wants us to do. Most people only think of sin as doing something that we are **NOT** supposed to do (like Adam and Eve and their fruit) but this passage shows us that it is also a sin if we do not do something **God tells us to do**. Sometimes God tells us to **DO** something and sometimes he tells us **NOT TO DO** something, and so we must be careful to understand what he is saying. From what we have seen so far, we can conclude that sin happens when we do something that God told us not to do (some people refer to this as “**sin of commission**” because you **COMMIT** it), or when we do not do something which God told us to do (some call this the “**sin of omission**” because you **OMIT** doing it.) What about a situation where God tells a person to do several things and they only do some of them (some refer to this as “**partial obedience**”)? Is that also sin? Yes it is!³

Temptation!

“**How does sin actually happen in a person’s life?**” We already know that sin happens because of something called “**temptation**”. The word for temptation in the New Testament is **peirazo**.⁴ You will be surprised to discover that this word can be used either “in a good sense”⁵ or “in a bad sense” and it simply represents the idea of **a challenge!** A challenge can be used to tear something apart or to strengthen it and this word is used both ways in our Bibles.

“**How does temptation work in our lives?**” If you will remember, we already studied about this topic when we tried to understand how Jesus could be sinless and still be a human. There was a special passage in the Bibles regarding the topic of temptation — **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Here we learned several useful things about how temptation works. **First**, we saw that temptation is **regulated** by God. He knows our individual limitations and **promises** that each of us will never receive a temptation that is more than we can resist. Therefore, a person can never look at their sin and say that they were forced because the temptation was more than they could resist. **Temptation is simply a moment where one must choose a course of action from among two or more choices.** You will always have a choice in the matter because of God’s gift of “free will”. Since you have the freedom to choose any option you like then **CAN you choose** to do right thing **EVERY TIME?** Yes, you can! That is what **FREEDOM OF CHOICE** means! Therefore, is it not **POSSIBLE** for a person to freely choose the right way each time they receive a temptation and **NEVER** commit even a single sin? Yes, it is **POSSIBLE!** (*Please remember that Jesus was sinless and he was **just like you in EVERY WAY!***) If sin happens in your life because you made a freewill choice to do wrong, **when you did not have to do it**, then that means you did it because you wanted to! It was your own decision and **YOU ALONE must bear the responsibility** for your decision before God!



³ Consider the example of the wife of Lot recorded in **Genesis 19:12-26**. They were told **1)** to run away, **2)** to go to the hills, and **3)** not to look back. Lot’s wife did two of the three things correctly. Was she rewarded or punished? She was punished!

⁴ This word is pronounced **pāy-rād'-zō**.

⁵ One example of “temptation” in a “good sense” is found in the case of Abraham, back in **Genesis 22:1**, where it says that God “tested” Abraham. The word in the Greek version of the Bible (Septuagint) is **PEIRAZO!** It is interesting to note that whenever the word **PEIRAZO** is found regarding something God does to a person the Bible translators almost always use the English word “test”, but when **PEIRAZO** is found not referring to God, they use the word “tempt”. However, please understand that it is the same idea.

Does God ever “tempt” a person to do sin? This is a very good question to think about because there are many people in the world who “blame” God for the sin in their lives. Many seem to believe that God **wants** them to fail and that he sends them all sorts of temptations! However, this topic is mentioned by **James in 1:12-15**. Notice that he begins by confidently saying that **God does not** tempt people to sin! Of course this makes perfect sense because how can a God who, publicly, says that he wants everyone to be saved turn right around and, privately, try to make the same people sin? James goes on to explain that most of the sin in a person’s life actually begins inside of that person’s own mind! The thoughts and desires we have **inside of us** often lead us away from God **more often than outside forces do**.⁶ Notice also how James says that when the thoughts of a person **get out of control** then this leads the person to commit sin. How do thoughts become out of control? Do thoughts control themselves? If a person’s thoughts **CAN** get out of control then they can also be kept under control. Once again, we see that it is a matter of freewill choice!⁷

Let us summarize what we have seen so far. **SIN** comes into a person’s life as a result of a freewill decision, so that no one is forced against their will to sin. It therefore **MUST BE POSSIBLE** for a person to live their entire life without ever committing even a single sin! Even though at first this might sound crazy it is true!⁸ **1 Corinthians 10:13** is very clear! **1) God limits temptation so that a person will never be tempted beyond what they are able to bear. 2) “Freewill”** means that a person can choose whatever choice they want. If this is correct then I **CAN choose to do right EVERY TIME if I want to!** I **CAN**, because I have the right to choose whatever I want. However, does **having the possibility of being sinless** mean that I will, in fact, **BE SINLESS? NO!** Being sinless is not what is guaranteed by God. God only **guarantees the possibility** of being sinless!

ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose that a certain person contracts with a utility company to get electricity for his house. He knows that each month he will be sent a bill and that he will need to pay this bill by a certain date or else be charged a penalty amount for being “late”. Let us say that for ten years the man faithfully pays his bill **on time**. Now suppose that the company forgets to send the bill out from their office on time one month and, thus, the bill arrives at the man’s house **after the deadline for payment has passed!** Would it be **FAIR** for the electric company to charge the man a late penalty fee in this case?

Imposing a penalty fee on late payers is based upon the idea that **IF** a person 1) **knows** that they must pay their bill before the deadline, 2) **receives the bill** before the deadline, and then 3) they **CHOOSE not to pay** before the deadline, **THEN** this represents a **willful violation** of the contract and a penalty fee would be considered **FAIR!**

How can imposing a penalty in this man’s situation be considered fair? He did not receive the bill until **after** the deadline for payment had passed, so **how could he** pay it on time? Being asked to pay before the deadline is something that was **impossible** for him to do and, therefore, it is not fair to judge him.

Remember that **FAIRNESS** demands the **CAPABILITY** of “**100% freewill compliance**” so that any “violation”, and subsequent punishment, comes about because of **freewill disobedience**.

Being Sinless!

There are **TWO** basic requirements for being sinless. One requirement is **a knowledge of what is required**. In other words, you must know the rules! A person has to know what can and cannot be done before he can decide whether to follow them correctly. The second requirement is **a willful decision to follow those requirements EVERY TIME temptation comes!** Since God is the one who determines what is “right” and “wrong” then a person who does not know what God says will be in a situation where they will have to make choices based upon **WHAT THEY THINK IS RIGHT AND WRONG!** Since what that person thinks may not be the same as what God thinks then it is only a matter of time before that person will make a wrong choice and when that happens, it is sin! The only way to be sinless is to listen to God and do **what HE SAYS** each and every time the challenge of temptation comes! This is another reason why Bible study is so important, so that **we can KNOW** what God wants us to do when we face temptation! How can we be prepared for temptation if we do not study? **How can we know the way of escape?**

⁶ We can see the point of James’ clearly illustrated in what Jesus said in passages such as **Matthew 5:27-28**. You can sin without even doing an action! You can sin with your thoughts!

⁷ This is a very good illustration of the point in **Proverbs 14:12** from our previous course.

⁸ If it is impossible, as many people today teach, for a human to live a sinless life then how can there be any **JUSTICE** in the Judgment? Consider this point. “Fairness” in judgment requires that a guilty person must have had the ability **to be** innocent, and, therefore, **became guilty BY CHOICE**. If mankind does not have the capability to live innocent, then how can it be fair for God to judge him guilty?

WHO Sins?

The next question is, “**Who is guilty of committing sin?**” This is another very good question. From what we hear from religious leaders these days you would think that everyone **MUST become** a sinner⁹ and some people even say that we are all **born sinners!** However, from what we have already learned in this lesson, we know that sin is ruled by a system of **JUSTICE** and we know that justice is a simple idea, which says that **the person who commits a crime is the one who must be punished.** In order for justice to be confirmed, 1) a violation must be proven to have happened, and 2) this violation must be proven to have been committed by the one who will be punished. Once this has been done, then justice is not **fulfilled** until the punishment has been carried out.

Can sin be **inherited?**¹⁰ Earlier, we made a comparison between sin and crime, so a parallel question would be, “Can a **crime be inherited?**” Of course, we know that **it cannot** because that would not be **JUSTICE!** If your father commits murder then the Police cannot arrest **you**, because **YOU** did not murder anyone! If your father is guilty then **HE ALONE** must suffer the punishment for his actions. It would not be **FAIR** for you to be punished for a crime that was committed by someone else! However, this is what would be happening **IF** it were possible to inherit sin! You would be held responsible for the sin of your parents and **THAT** would not be fair!

That may sound very reasonable by human standards, but what does God say about this matter? Does God make us accountable for the sins of our ancestors? To answer this question let us consider a story we read in **Ezekiel 18:1-20**. In the introduction to the story, God spoke with his prophet about some things the people of that time were saying about the way he seemed to punish people. In verse 2 of the story, we discover that the people of Israel had made up a saying; “*The fathers ate some sour grapes, but the children have the sour taste in their mouths.*”¹¹ God instructed the prophet to **tell them not to say that any longer!** To explain his point God tells a story about **three generations of men** in a certain family. Each man was different in his actions and the good men were accepted and the bad man was punished, and each one was judged by God according to **his own actions.** The resulting idea shows that God will not judge one person for the things another person does. Each person stands before God alone and is accepted or rejected according to **his own** actions!

The same idea is echoed in practically every passage we can find in the Bible regarding the “**Judgment Day**”. A clear example of this is found in **2 Corinthians 5:10**, which explains that each person will be judged, by Christ, according to the things he or she did while they were alive in their body. **Each person is accountable only for his or her own sins!**

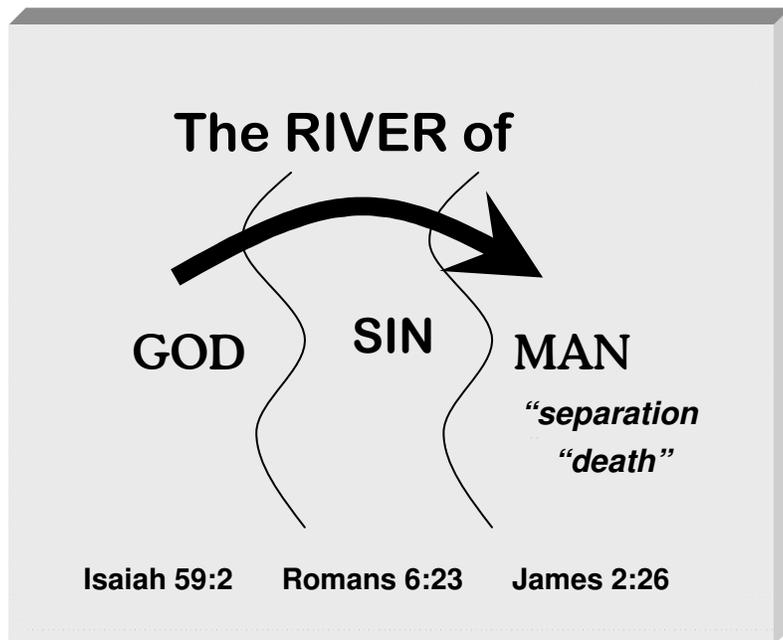
⁹ The subject of, “**Who sins?**”, has resulted in a number of popular passages being misunderstood and misapplied. One major example of this is **Romans 3:23**. It is suggested by **many** that this verse is **proof** that the Bible teaches that it is **impossible** for any human to live without sin. After all, it says, “**For ALL have sinned...**”, but is this what the writer intended to say to his readers? Remember our discussion of this verse in our previous course material. Verse 23 is part of a summary Paul made regarding his previous points about the **history of the conduct for the groups of people** called Gentiles (chapters 1-2) and Jews (chapters 2-3). His meaning is simple. It does not matter whether you are from the group called Gentile or from the group known as Jews, **ALL** (groups) **decided to sin** and are lost. Notice that nowhere in this entire section (chapters 1-3) is Paul discussing the topic of the **POSSIBILITY** of man living sinless, but rather is tracing the historical facts of the choices for these two groups of people.

¹⁰ It should be pointed out that experiencing the consequences of a person’s sins does not mean that we are responsible for (are guilty of) their sin. If the man in the illustration we discussed earlier should destroy the power plant in protest for his late penalty fee, others living in town will lose electricity due to **HIS** destructive act. However, they will not be charged with any crime **because they did not blow up the power plant!** While it would be true to say that we experience **the consequences** of Adam and Eve’s sin (physical death, hard work, pain in child bearing, etc..) it would be wrong to say that **we are guilty** of their sin. Many people like to say that sin is “inherited” from our ancestors and they call it “Original Sin”. It is suggested that this idea is actually taught in **Romans 5:12**. If you look carefully at what is said there, you will see that Paul is comparing the actions of one man (Adam) with those of another man (Jesus). His main point there is that the result of sin was **DEATH** and this death spreads to **ALL MEN**. Notice **HOW** this “death” spreads to all men. **Is it because it is inherited and passed along from generation to generation?** No, it is spread to all men simply **because all men choose to commit sin.**

¹¹ It seems that since God’s punishments for the nation of Israel were often great and long lasting in time, the ones who were guilty and those who were innocent **BOTH** suffered the same things! For example, if God punished the guilty people of Israel all over the land with a drought that lasted several years, and there were innocent Israelites living among the guilty, then **ALL** Israelites – **BOTH** the guilty and the innocent – would suffer the effects of that drought. On the other hand, if God decided to punish the people with an invasion by a foreign army, then that army would occupy the whole land of Israel, taking over the property of **BOTH** the guilty and the innocent. After seeing this happen many times, the people of Israel concluded that God was **PUNISHING** the innocent people for the sins of the guilty people! However, the suffering of the innocent was a coincidence. The reality of God’s attitude about the guilt of a person is clarified in this passage through the prophet Ezekiel.

The Consequences Of SIN

Now that we have seen **what sin is** and **how it works**, we will now examine what happens to a person's relationship with God once they have committed sin. We can begin by simply thinking back to the details of the Genesis story, which we discussed earlier. What happened to Adam & Eve after they sinned? They lost their home, their innocence, their immortality, **and**, their relationship with God! The Bible has several passages that help us to better understand this problem. Please turn to and read **Isaiah 59:2**. Here we see that sin causes a person to become **separated** from God. It describes the details of the situation. God turns his back on the person and does not hear him. In short, **sin destroys a person's relationship with God!** Sin is like a river that separates two pieces of land. **GOD is on one side and MAN is on the other!**



In religion today, we hear people often refer to this separation as something called **“spiritual death”**. There is an interesting passage connected with this idea, **Romans 6:23**, and it tells us that when a person sins they **earn what sin pays**—death! Is the death mentioned here **physical** death? Most likely it is not because if it were, then the fact that you and I are still alive would be proof that we **must be without sin!** (BOTH of us know that this is just not true, right!) Why did he use the word **“death”** here? Think about the meaning of **“death”**. If we read **James 2:26** we see him using the word to emphasize the idea of **separation**.¹² From what we read in this passage, we can conclude that the people of that time understood that death meant **“separation”** and so then, the idea of **“spiritual death”** would simply represent a separation between God and man and that agrees with what we learned from **Isaiah 59:2!**

Conclusions About SIN:

As we close this lesson, we will **SUMMARIZE** what we have learned about **SIN**. First, we learned that sin is something that is **“committed”**—**a freewill action** (and remember that this **“action”** can also include a person's thoughts). Sin involves freewill and making choices, and there is no forced action (either for bad or for good). Sin also involves **“authority”**. God is the one who decides what is **“right”** and **“wrong”** and we do not know these differences by natural feeling. Therefore, each person must seek to learn what God teaches on these matters and then choose to submit to his will each time a temptation comes. We learned that a person can sin by doing what God said not to do, by not doing what God said to do, **OR**, by not doing **ALL** that God said to do.

Furthermore, we have learned that God has promised all people that he will **NEVER** allow us to be forced into **“doing wrong”** and that there will **always** be a way of escape so that we can endure it. Therefore, sin really is a matter of personal choice! If a person wants to live without sin, he or she can! If a person has sin in their life then **he or she alone** is to blame because each sin is the result of a situation where the decision was made to do something when a decision could have been made not to do it! We also learned that the **possibility** of a person living their life without committing a single sin **must** also be true because, if not, then there would be **no JUSTICE** on the **“Judgment Day”**. If God requires that a person must be sinless in order to escape being sent to Hell, **and**, if it is impossible for that person to satisfy that requirement, then God would be asking the person to accomplish something that is impossible. It would be **BOTH** unfair and cruel to punish a person for a violation of something that was hopelessly impossible, while **knowing all along that it was IMPOSSIBLE for the person to do!** The Bible says that God is **BOTH** faithful and fair! We also learned some things about accountability. God considers each person responsible for his or her own actions and, consequently, he will **“give to each according to his action”** in the Judgment. This is based upon the principle of **justice**, which teaches us that, **“The one who does the crime is the one who must be punished.”** We also learned that a person cannot inherit **SIN** anymore than a person can inherit crime because that would not be justice!

¹² When a person dies they do not cease to exist. What happens is the body becomes **separated** from the soul and since the soul keeps the body alive, the body dies. Death then is a separation! Therefore, **SPIRITUAL death is SEPARATION from God!**

Therefore, since we see that **1)** God is serious in his demand that we not sin, and **2)** sin is **from us**, we should make every effort possible to avoid following our **selfish desires** and, instead, seek to learn God's path and follow it without question. **Sin IS A KILLER and people who sin WILL GO TO HELL!** The only question that remains to be answered is whether you and I will be among them.

As a note about where we are going in our study... **WE control whether or not we will sin in our future, but unfortunately, we ourselves cannot do anything to get rid of any sins that we have committed in our past!** We drag our past sins along with us everywhere we go, just like a bunch of old rusty chains!

However, we know that God made a **PLAN** (a **scheme**) to help people get rid of past sins, but he **never** intended for this way out to be used by us (as some today mistakenly teach) as an excuse for our not concentrating on every encounter with temptation in our **PRESENT** and **FUTURE** and choosing the right way every time! Many people reason in their minds, "I'll just do the wrong thing **this one time** because, anyway, Jesus died for me and I can always ask God to forgive me..." **Is this the right attitude for someone who understands our lesson today?** Would **JESUS**, who is our example, say this? As a closing thought for this lesson, please read **Hebrews 10:26-31** and notice the words of the writer of Hebrews as he speaks to his readers regarding the topic of "**deliberate sin**"!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 1:

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 darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

- The meaning of the word **scheme** is
 - a package of yarn or thread.
 - a plan.
 - a collection of verses from the Bible.
 - a place where religious students live.
- The word **redemption** means
 - to demonstrate something over again.
 - to save something.
 - to ask God to forgive your sins.
 - to exchange one thing for another.
- The passage where we read about the first sin of mankind is
 - Romans chapter 3.
 - Matthew chapter 3.
 - Genesis chapter 3.
 - Hebrews chapter 3.
- The fruit Adam and Eve ate was from
 - Satan.
 - their vegetable garden.
 - an apple tree.
 - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- TRUE or FALSE: **All** the laws from God in the Bible **are the same** as the laws of man in the world.
 - True
 - False
- Eve received the temptation to eat the fruit from
 - Satan pretending to be a snake.
 - a snake that could talk
 - God.
 - her husband Adam.
- TRUE or FALSE: SIN happens because people **cannot** resist temptation.
 - True
 - False
- When a person **does not do something** God said to do, people often call that a sin of _____.
 - retribution
 - ordination
 - commission
 - omission
- TRUE or FALSE: **SIN** and **CRIME** are almost the same because they **BOTH** involve breaking the law.
 - True
 - False
- The Bible passage that gives us a "dictionary definition" for sin is
 - Genesis 3:15
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - Romans 3:23
 - 1 John 3:4
- When a person **does something** God said not to do, some people call this a sin of _____.
 - retribution
 - ordination
 - commission
 - omission

12. **Partial obedience** is acceptable as long as the percentage of obedience is
- 75%
 - 99%
 - 80%
 - NO! Partial obedience **is not acceptable!**
13. The passage that explains to us that temptation is regulated by God is
- 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - Acts 2:38.
 - Genesis 19:12-26.
 - Genesis 22:1.
14. **James 1:12-15** teaches that temptation most often comes to us from
- Satan.
 - our own minds.
 - God.
 - our friends.
15. TRUE or FALSE: There are times where people are **forced** to sin.
- True
 - False
16. TRUE or FALSE: It **IS** possible for a person to live a sinless life.
- True
 - False
17. The word **temptation** really means
- a challenge.
 - sinning against God.
 - partial obedience.
 - freewill.
18. TRUE or FALSE: We can choose to do the right thing **every time** we are tempted if we want to.
- True
 - False
19. **Matthew 5:27-28** teaches us that
- we need to be careful what we think in our minds.
 - a person can sin with their thoughts.
 - having sexual thoughts about someone can be just as bad as having sex with them.
 - All of the above.
20. TRUE or FALSE: God **will** hold us responsible for another person's sins.
- True
 - False
21. The teaching that is called "**Original Sin**" is
- the idea that we inherit the sin of Adam & Eve.
 - proven wrong by Ezekiel 18:1-20.
 - not correct and not from God!
 - All of the above.
22. TRUE or FALSE: It is **possible** to inherit a crime.
- True
 - False
23. When a person sins they
- become weak and sick.
 - feel guilty.
 - become separated from God.
 - are captured by the police and put in prison.
24. The idea of **death** actually means
- a separation.
 - you cease to exist.
 - justice.
 - husband.
25. TRUE or FALSE: God is fair and will not let you be tempted more than what you can bear.
- True
 - False

**Did you read ALL the passages
and record the main points in your
notebook?**

LESSON TWO

The SCHEME Of REDEMPTION (Part 2)

After mankind was banished from the Garden and his immortality was taken away from him, God did not leave mankind totally alone. The book of Genesis records God's dealings with various families including many of the great Patriarchs¹³ of the Old Testament. The story eventually comes to a man named **Abraham** who is said to be a very faithful follower of God. So impressed was God with Abraham that he made him some very important promises. Please turn to **Genesis 12:1-3** and read about these promises. Three stand out in the text. One promise indicates that God will make Abraham famous, or, that God will make his name great among the nations. Another promise involved his future descendants. God promised to make them into a great nation. A third promise mentions something about all the families (nations) of the earth being **benefited** through Abraham. The third promise was fulfilled through one of Abraham's special descendants - Christ - who would one day die on the cross for the sins of all mankind!

What Is A COVENANT?

However, many centuries after this incident, the Bible teaches that God kept the **descendant promise** he made to Abraham by making a **COVENANT** with the nation of Israel. This covenant provides the background for the rest of the Old Testament (from Exodus 19 through the last chapter of Malachi) and is still in existence when Jesus comes to the Earth as a man. In this and the next two lessons, we will take a closer look at the history of this covenant. Aside from being a very interesting topic, it will also help us better understand many things about God's **PLAN** for saving man from sin that we will be studying about later from the New Testament.

We begin our search by asking a very simple question, "**What is a COVENANT?**" We do not hear this word very often, except in religious discussions. Sometimes instead of the word covenant, we hear people use the word "**testament**"¹⁴ and that can be even more confusing. Actually, we are very familiar with the **idea** represented by the words covenant and testament. The ways these words are used in the Bible represent what we commonly refer to as **an agreement** or **a contract!** We are very familiar with contracts and agreements because they are found today in all areas of our everyday life. From the simplest agreement, to meet somewhere for an outing, to a complex contract between companies to manufacture and market something on several continents, agreements are all around us every day.

Since understanding how agreements work is so important for our study, we will take a few minutes to mention the basic design of contracts so that we can establish a common understanding for our future explorations in the Bible regarding its covenants.

A covenant, agreement, or contract, is established when two (or more) parties **AGREE** to certain terms and conditions by which they will join together, usually in order to accomplish something. However, sometimes agreements are made to regulate the actions of people. Whatever their purpose might be, **ALL** agreements carry responsibilities for all parties to perform and operate on the basic "**IF – THEN**" principle. **IF** the first party accomplishes their portion of the agreement **THEN** the second party must fulfill their obligation. This "**IF – THEN**" principle is what is more commonly known as a **CONDITION**. Everything will go smoothly in the agreement as long as **ALL parties** involved in the agreement keep their part of the contract.

How Contracts Work

How do agreements and contracts work? Most agreements pass through **FOUR basic phases** or stages of activity. The first is what we might call the **negotiation** stage, where the parties discuss proposals to determine if there is enough interest to give reason for proceeding farther. If there is a mutual desire to continue then the parties proceed to the phase where the exact **terms and conditions** are decided. This means that a carefully detailed statement of the responsibilities of each of the parties involved in the agreement will be worded and written down. Once this phase is

¹³ The word "patriarch" means **FATHER** and it was used to refer to the head of a family, usually the oldest living male. During the earliest portion of the Old Testament, God would speak to the people of a certain family through these Patriarchs.

¹⁴ The word for "covenant" or "agreement" in the Greek language is **DIATHEKE** (pronounced **dē-ā-thā'-kā**) and is the same word used to represent someone's last will and testament. A **WILL** is a nothing more than a special kind of agreement.

complete, next comes the **acceptance and commencement**—where the agreement is “officially” signed. It is here that the agreement actually begins. This leaves only the final phase of the agreement to follow—what we will call the **TERMINATION phase**. All agreements come to a completion in one way or another. They either successfully terminate (with all parties satisfied), or, the agreement terminates unsuccessfully due to some kind of violation. This is the basic process by which all agreements are made and managed.

AN ILLUSTRATION: BUILDING A HOUSE

To get a better idea of what we are saying let us set up an imaginary contract that we can use as a parallel illustration in our studies. Let us say that I want to build my family a house and that you are in the construction business and that you (along with 10 other construction companies in town) submit to me a bid (estimate) on the cost of the project. After examining all of the bids, I select the company that gives me the best deal and let us say that your company is the one I choose. We must then establish **an agreement** between us. This agreement is important because it contains **all** of the specific details of how you will build the house as well as the details of the money I will pay to your company. These details are based on the IF-THEN principle—**IF** you accomplish your part **THEN** I am obligated to accomplish my part. Once these details are completed, we both sign our names to it and the agreement becomes official on the date we sign it.

For the sake of our illustration, let us assume these specific details are found in the agreement. You must build me a two-storey house with five rooms upstairs, three rooms and a bathroom downstairs, and a covered garage attached to the house that is large enough for two cars. You must paint the outside of the house yellow and the roof green. If you will build it this way then I must pay your company \$100,000.00 plus the cost of materials.

Before we go farther, let us consider some other thoughts about this contract.

If I choose to establish a contract with your company then what happens to all of the other companies who submitted bids for the building of my house? They are rejected and not included in our agreement. Their workers cannot come to the job site and work expecting me to pay them, right? No they cannot, and why not? It is because my contract is with you and your workers, and, since these workers do not work for you, then I do not have any obligation to pay them.

In addition to this, here is another point to consider. If we sign our contract today, then would it be fair for your workers to come to me demanding that I pay them wages for yesterday, or last week, or even last month? No, it would not be fair, because you and I had no contract yesterday, last week, or last month. Our contract started **TODAY** and it goes **forward** into the future, and I am only responsible for things that happen while we have a contract.

What happens if you do not build my house according to the terms of our agreement? Whether the mistake is small or great, intentional or “innocent”, I have the freedom to take action as I desire. On the one hand, I can forgive you and give you a chance to make things right. On the other hand, I can also fire you and get someone new to take your place. **It is my decision alone** and you have no voice in the matter **because**, in such case, you committed the violation against our agreement!

However, if you accomplish your part of the contract and I refuse to pay you then you can take me to court to get your money.

Let us assume that this agreement is acceptable to both of us and we sign with today’s date as the starting point.

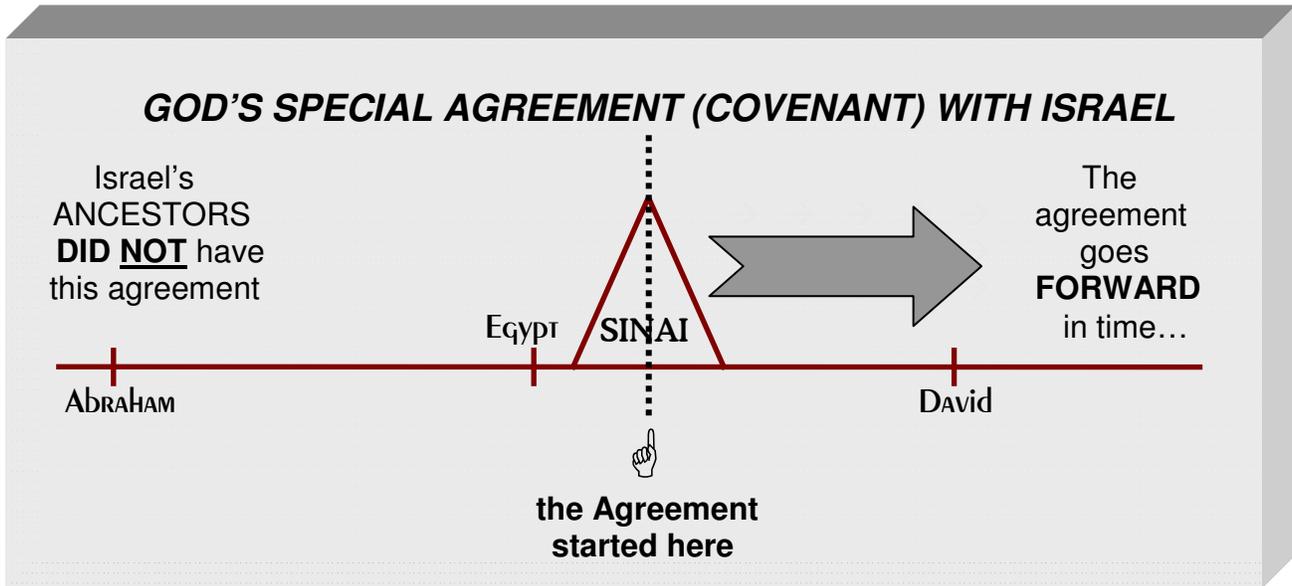
Please keep this sample illustration in mind as you study through the material of this lesson because we will refer back to it from time to time as we proceed.

You might wonder what all of this detail about agreements and how they work has to do with the Scheme of Redemption and Abraham. Actually, this is very important to our research because **there was a very special agreement in the Old Testament of our Bible**. It was between God and the descendants of Abraham, and this agreement has a lot to do with Jesus dying on a cross for the sins of mankind!

God's Special Agreement With Israel

We are first introduced to this agreement in **Exodus 19:1-5**. (Please stop and read this passage.)

It seems that three months after the people of Israel left Egypt, they came to Mount Sinai,¹⁵ where Moses, the leader of the Israelites, acted as a go-between¹⁶ in an agreement between God and the people of Israel. If you look carefully at the text you will notice that the Lord offered the agreement to Israel **with the condition** that **IF** they would obey him **THEN** they would become his "special people, chosen out from all of the people of the earth."



There are additional passages that speak of this agreement. Please read **Deuteronomy 5:2-3**. This passage shows us that the agreement **began there at Mount Sinai** and that it did not exist before that point in time. This means that this agreement did not exist during the time of Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, and even those Israelites who died as slaves in Egypt. None of these people had this agreement because it did not exist during their lifetime. Only those alive at Sinai and after could be part of this agreement. The **diagram above** is given to help better understand the situation. Mount Sinai is the key point of reference because it is where the agreement started. People who lived and died **BEFORE** Mount Sinai **were NOT included** in the agreement. The agreement started there and continued into the future! Therefore, Abraham the Patriarch was **NOT** included in this agreement, but King David was included.

The two passages we have seen so far have only mentioned the agreement in general terms. What were the **specific details** of the conditions of this agreement? In other words, what were the things that the people had to "obey" so that they could fulfill their portion of the agreement and continue to be God's "special people, chosen from among all the nations of the earth"? Please read **Deuteronomy 4:13**. In this passage, we learn that the agreement included the list of commands more commonly known as "the 10 Commandments".

Please read **Exodus 34:27-28**. This passage states the same thing, but considering the context of what is happening, we must expand our understanding a little. Although this passage specifically mentions "the 10 Commandments", the context tells us that there were more details than just the 10 Commandments. Why can we say this? If we trace Moses' activities, beginning in Exodus chapter 19, we will see that he had many conversations with God while the people of Israel were camped around that mountain. Some of them were in the presence of the people of Israel and some were private—on top of Mount Sinai. During these conversations with Moses, God gave him many different laws and ordinances for the people to follow and all of these were included in the agreement. In fact, someone once counted all of them and found that **the actual number of individual commands included in the agreement is more than 600!** It is very likely that there were many more than just 10 commands written on those two flat stones!

¹⁵ Mount Sinai is also known in the Bible as **Mount Horeb**.

¹⁶ Most Bibles use the term "**mediator**".

A THOUGHT QUESTION:

While we are on the subject of the 10 Commandments, we have a question for you to consider. **“Is Mount Sinai the place where mankind first learned that it is wrong to murder someone?”**

In the Bible we read that it was at Mount Sinai that God gave the commandment, “Thou shall not kill.” Does that mean there was no command against murder BEFORE the giving of the command at Mount Sinai? The answer to that question is, “No!”, because there is evidence in the Bible that **mankind already knew** that murder was wrong long before the people of Israel went to Mount Sinai. We can trace man’s knowledge of murder back to the time just after man left the Garden of Eden. Do you remember the story of Cain and Abel? (If not, then please read Genesis chapter 4.) The Bible says that Cain **“murdered”** his brother, and after he did it, the Bible shows that Cain **knew that he had done something wrong!** Consider his actions very carefully. What did he do **after** he killed Abel? The Bible records that **he hid himself** and then **tried to cover up his crime** when he was confronted by God. Why did he hide? Why try to cover up the fact that he killed his brother?

As you think about this, consider the following point very carefully.

Let us say that a two-year-old child goes into the kitchen and intentionally breaks a glass on the floor **for the first time in his life**. He laughs and perhaps even looks for another glass to break because 1) he likes the sound of the breaking glass and 2) because he does not know that breaking glasses on the floor is “wrong”. He does not even try to avoid stepping on the broken glass and cutting his feet, **because he does this act in complete ignorance!** If the parents come into the kitchen what do they do? Of course, they immediately rescue the child but then they also teach the child a lesson from the event so that the child will, **from that time forward**, know that breaking glasses is wrong! However, **because** the child is innocent and ignorant, the parents’ reaction toward the child’s behavior is not **anger** at disobedience.

However, let us consider a different situation. Suppose that **a sixteen-year-old** child walks into the kitchen, takes a glass off the shelf, and intentionally breaks it on the floor. What does he do? He immediately looks around to make sure that no one saw what happened and then quickly sweeps up the pieces and throws them in the trash, hoping that no one saw or heard what happened. He also prepares a “good story” to explain to his parents how that glass was broken **just in case** his action is discovered. When the parents discover what happened what will they do? Will they act the same as they did for the two-year-old? No, they will not. They will become very angry, disappointed, and filled with disbelief because the sixteen-year-old **KNOWS** that it is “wrong” to break glasses on the floor. He is definitely **NOT ignorant!** He **knew** it was wrong and he **knew** he would be in trouble if his crime was discovered.

If we return to the story of Cain and Abel, which of these two broken glass situations best matches what Cain did after he killed Abel, the two-year-old or the sixteen-year-old? Cain’s actions match the sixteen-year-old and show that he had **a prior knowledge** regarding the evils of murder. **His actions show that he KNEW that what he had done was wrong!** This means that, even though we do not have a record of it, there was already at that time a law from God prohibiting murder, and **Cain KNEW this law!**

If there was already a prohibition against murder at the time when Cain killed Abel, then what about the other “commandments” that were given at Mount Sinai? Is it possible that they also already existed BEFORE Mount Sinai? Other stories found in the book of Genesis show that many of the other commands were already known by the people. It seems likely that the only one of the 10 Commandments that was **NEW information** for the people at the time of Sinai was the one mentioning the keeping of the Sabbath. *(To confirm that this statement is true please stop here and read **Nehemiah 9:13-14** and notice that the text says that God “made known” to Israel the teaching about the Sabbath at Mount Sinai! That has to mean that **they did not know about the Sabbath before Mount Sinai.**)*

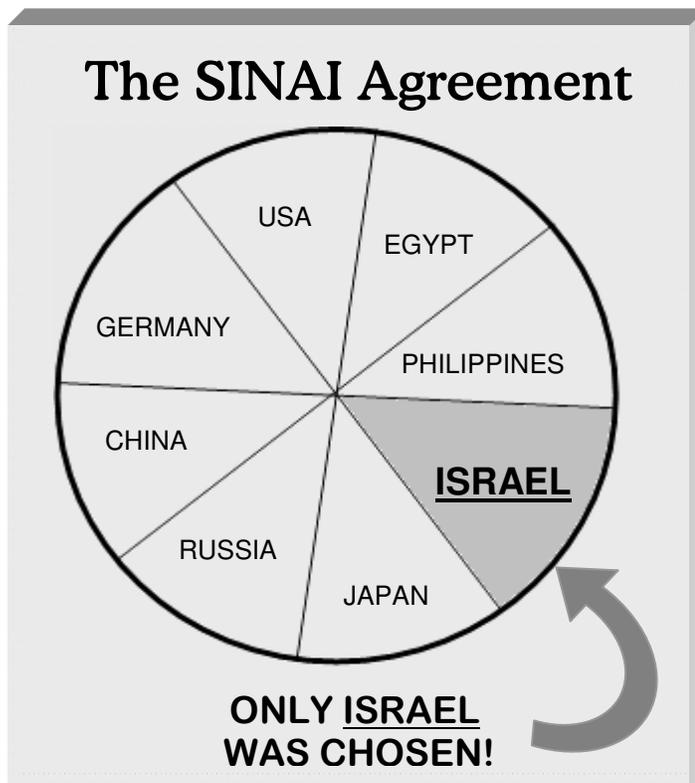
Therefore, **WHY** did God give the Israelites the 10 Commandments if it was not to reveal **NEW instructions** to the people? The 10 Commandments were **NOT** given because they represented **NEW instructions**; rather, they were given because with these commands the God of heaven offered a special agreement to a single nation of people with the reward being the status of “special people chosen from among all nations of the earth”! This had not been done before Mount Sinai! *(Remember **Ex. 19:5**. If the people of Israel would keep the agreement then they would be the special people of God.)*

So what does this mean? **Murder was wrong a long time before** there were the “10 Commandments” and, also, that **if there were suddenly no longer** any “10 Commandments” then **that would not mean that murder, adultery, and lying would suddenly become “legal”!** Of course, they would not!

WHO Was Included In This Agreement?

Let us go on to other details in our research about this agreement. “**Were any OTHER nations included in this agreement?**” In searching for an answer, we will begin by reviewing the information learned from all the passages we have already read. **Exodus 19:1-5** indicated that the agreement was **for Israel only** - “special people chosen from all nations of the world” **Exodus 34:27-28** mentioned **only Israel** - “with you [Moses] and Israel”. Finally, in **Deuteronomy 5:2-3** we saw that the agreement was **only with the ones who were “alive” at Mount Horeb**.

Were there any other people present there at Mount Sinai other than the people of Israel? No, there were not.



We will now look at some additional passages that speak of this matter and see what else we can find. Please read **Deuteronomy 7:6**. This is part of a speech made by Moses to the people of Israel. Notice that he once again indicates that the agreement was **with Israel ONLY** and that God chose the Israelite people “out of all the nations of the earth”. If we search further into the Old Testament books, we find that the understanding on this matter does not change. Please read **Psalms 147:19-20**. This passage is very precise and states that God **did not** reveal his laws to **any other nation**. Even when we arrive at the last book of the Old Testament, the Book of Malachi, nothing has changed. Please read **Malachi 4:4**. Here we find a reminder for the people of Israel to remember the Law of Moses¹⁷ and mentions it as being, “for **all ISRAEL**”, not for all the nations of the earth!

Whether we like it or not, God chose the nation of Israel to be the exclusive recipient of his special agreement! In much the same way, remember that I **chose YOUR** construction company to build my house and when I did

that, I **rejected** the other companies. They **were not invited** to be included in our agreement. They were **left out** of any arrangements between us, **even if they sincerely WANTED to be included**. I **CHOOSE YOU!** That was my right and in the same way, God **CHOOSE ISRAEL** to be included in the Sinai agreement. **He chose ONLY Israel! All other nations were rejected!**

WHY Did God Choose Only Israel?

Since God rejected the other nations of that time, we need to go farther in our research and ask, “**WHY DID GOD MAKE THE AGREEMENT ONLY WITH ISRAEL?**” After all, we are told in other places in the Bible that God **wants ALL people to be saved** and that **he does not show favoritism toward anyone**. Why, then, would God make an agreement, which determined who **would** be accepted as his “special people” and then offer that agreement only to Israel? This action does not sound very fair to the other nations. Surely, there must be an explanation.

Do you remember back in **Genesis 12:1-2**, where God made some promises to Abraham? The answer to our question has something to do with those promises. Please read **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**. Here, Moses is making a speech to the people of Israel and as he speaks, he mentions **two reasons** why God chose Israel as his people. **First**, he points out that it is because **God LOVES them**, and, **second**, because **God is keeping the promise made to Abraham** (and passed to Isaac and Jacob). From this, we can conclude that one important reason why God did this for Israel was because of the promise to Abraham back in Genesis chapter 12.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with this. In fact, it is a comfort to know that God keeps his promises! However, it is still a little disturbing to think that God would discriminate against **innocent nations** in order to keep a promise. There **MUST** be more to learn about the situation!

¹⁷ In later Old Testament times, and in the New Testament, the Sinai Agreement is often called “**the Law of Moses**” because Moses was the one who received it and gave it to the people of Israel. However, it was NOT a law Moses made up.

We need to continue reading Moses' speech. Please read **Deuteronomy 7:9-11**. Moses explains how God evaluates people. He said that God accepts people who love him and keep his commands, but punishes those who hate him and do not obey. Of course, this is not surprising because all the other prophets of God also state this same point as being one of the consistent characteristics of God throughout time! God is FAIR! This is an important point for our study because it indicates that **IF** God is going to reject someone then they must have done something to go against him.

With this in mind, please read **Deuteronomy 9:4-5**. Moses makes another speech to the people of Israel and speaks about this very point and how it relates to the "other nations" of that time. He tells the people of Israel that God **did not choose them because they were "so good"** but rather, **because the other nations were "so bad"**. This is the evidence we have been searching for! It seems that **during this period of history**, Israel might very well have been the only "nation" that believed in God. We know from the details revealed in the history books of the Old Testament that the other nations, which Israel would eventually destroy or kick out from their "promised Land", were people who followed all kinds of different gods, but NOT ONE of them followed the one true God! Therefore, God was not showing favoritism when he chose Israel. He was simply offering the agreement to those who believed in him! That is fair!

We can easily confirm what Moses said about the way those other nations lived by reading passages like **Deuteronomy 18:12** and **Leviticus 18:24-25**.

Summary:

God made a special agreement with the nation of Israel. It was for Israel **ONLY** and started at Mount Sinai. It was **CONDITIONAL** and contained more than 600 individual laws and regulations. It was given to Israel because of the promise God made to Abraham, and, because the other nations of that time did not believe in God.

We have several other questions that need to be answered, but we will stop for now. As we prepare for the next lesson, think about this question: **"How long was the agreement supposed to last?"**

A FINAL THOUGHT QUESTION FOR THIS LESSON:

"Are WE to keep the 10 Commandments TODAY?"

If we consider the common belief found in most "Christian" religious groups today, then this seems like the correct answer should be, **"YES! Of course we are supposed to keep the 10 Commandments!"** However, is **"YES!"** really the correct answer?

We have seen a lot of evidence in this lesson and, unless we find either, an **amendment to the Sinai agreement from God**, or, a **different agreement from God**, that says ALL NATIONS are to keep the 10 Commandments, then the answer to the question **must be, "NO!"**, because the evidence we found shows that the 10 Commandments were part of an agreement for Israel. **NO OTHER NATIONS WERE INCLUDED!**

A person today might come to believe that there is a God, have a desire to serve him, and, finding the 10 Commandments written in the Old Testament, decide to follow them because he reads, in **Exodus 19:5**, that if these are kept faithfully then the result will be the status of being one of God's "chosen people"! A person cannot, however, simply invite themselves to join this agreement, keep the Commandments, and expect to be accepted by God any more than a construction worker who works for a different company can come to our construction site, desire to join because he needs the work, start working with our crew, and then expect me to have to pay him. Agreements do not work that way!

We must remember that the 10 Commandments were part of an agreement and that the agreement included not ONLY the 10 Commandments, but **more than 600 laws and regulations!** If you say that we must keep the 10, then **we must ALSO keep the rest of the 600** because it was all given as one agreement.

Therefore, unless we find an explanation somewhere in the Bible that expands the recipients of the Sinai agreement beyond Israel, then **the only nation that was EVER given the 10 Commandments was Israel.** (PLEASE do not forget what we found written in **Psalms 147!**) Other nations cannot simply join the agreement without God inviting them. Contracts do not work that way!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 2:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lesson. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

- The man that God originally made the “great nation” promise to was
 - Abraham.
 - Isaac.
 - Jacob.
 - Moses.
- The word **covenant** means the same as
 - testament.
 - contract.
 - agreement.
 - All of the above.
- The kind of agreement that includes an “IF..., THEN...” statement is called
 - a will.
 - a conditional agreement.
 - a land title.
 - the 10 Commandments.
- The word **patriarch** means
 - brother.
 - mother.
 - uncle.
 - father.
- TRUE or FALSE: Our **sample agreement** was for the purpose of building a house.
 - True
 - False
- TRUE or FALSE: Once an agreement has been finalized, people who were not **originally included** can simply join themselves in the agreement and receive the benefits.
 - True
 - False
- TRUE or FALSE: If an agreement is violated, then it has to be cancelled **immediately**.
 - True
 - False
- TRUE or FALSE: Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb are the **same place**.
 - True
 - False
- The one who represented Israel in the negotiations for their agreement was
 - Abraham.
 - Isaac.
 - Jacob.
 - Moses.
- TRUE or FALSE: God made the Mount Sinai agreement with **ALL nations** of the world.
 - True
 - False
- Which of the choices below **is not** a reason why God chose only Israel to be included in the Sinai agreement.
 - God loved the people of Israel.
 - The other nations were evil.
 - God made a promise to Israel’s ancestors.
 - Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.
- When did God make his agreement with the nation of Israel?
 - Right after Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden.
 - A little more than three months after Israel was released from slavery in Egypt.
 - During the time of Abraham.
 - During the time of King David.
- TRUE or FALSE: A **mediator** is a person who serves as a go-between for people.
 - True
 - False
- TRUE or FALSE: Abraham lived **during** the time of the Mount Sinai agreement.
 - True
 - False
- TRUE or FALSE: King David lived **during** the time of the Mount Sinai agreement.
 - True
 - False
- The **specific details** of the Mount Sinai agreement included
 - the 10 Commandments.
 - more than 600 individual laws and regulations.
 - Both A and B.
 - None of the above.

17. TRUE or FALSE: Murder was wrong **a long time before** the Commandment was given at Mount Sinai.
- True
 - False
18. According to **Nehemiah 9:14**, what was the one Commandment that was revealed for the first time to the people at Mount Sinai?
- The one about lying.
 - The one about stealing
 - The one about murder.
 - The one about the Sabbath Day.
19. The passage that clearly **shows us the CONDITION** of the Mount Sinai agreement between God and Israel is
- Genesis 12:1-3.
 - Exodus 19:1-5.
 - Exodus 34:27-28.
 - Deuteronomy 5:2-3.
20. What did **Psalms 147:19-20** add to our study about the Mount Sinai agreement?
- It showed us that no other nations were given the agreement.
 - It said that Israelites who lived before Sinai were not included in the agreement.
 - It showed us that Israel was chosen because they were a small nation.
 - It told us that Moses was the go-between for the people of Israel.
21. TRUE or FALSE: The fact that God made the Mount Sinai agreement with only Israel **proves** that he shows favoritism.
- True
 - False
22. TRUE or FALSE: God **was fair** when he rejected all the other nations from being part of the Mount Sinai agreement.
- True
 - False
23. What did the passage **Deuteronomy 9:4-5** add to our study about the Mount Sinai agreement?
- It showed us that the people of Israel were slaves before they came to Mount Sinai.
 - It said that Israelites who lived before Sinai were not included in the agreement.
 - It showed us that God rejected the other nations because they were bad people.
 - It told us that Moses was chosen to lead the people of Israel.
24. What did the passage **Leviticus 18:24-25** add to our study about the Mount Sinai agreement?
- It showed us that God rejected the other nations because they were bad people.
 - It showed us that the people of Israel were slaves before they came to Mount Sinai.
 - It said that Israelites who lived before Sinai were not included in the agreement.
 - It told us that Moses was chosen to lead the people of Israel.
25. TRUE or FALSE: **People today** should keep the 10 Commandments because they are for **ALL nations** of the world.
- True
 - False

LESSON THREE

The SCHEME of REDEMPTION (Part 3)

Welcome back! We are in the middle of a very interesting study about the agreement God made with the nation of Israel. We learned that this agreement made them God's special people and that they were the only nation who had this status. We also learned that the agreement was conditional and built around more than 600 laws and regulations, of which the "10 Commandments" are the most well known in religion today. The agreement was for Israel **ONLY** and no other nation was included! We also learned that God made this agreement with Israel because 1) he loved them and was keeping the promise he made to Abraham, and 2) the other nations believed in other gods and did evil things in their lives.

The most important thing to remember at this point in this study, so far, is that this was the first time in recorded history where God took his laws, packaged them into a contract, and offered them to a single nation with the condition that **IF** they fulfilled their portion **THEN** they would be his special people. Israel accepted the offer and became the "chosen people" of God.

Even though we have covered most of the basic details of this agreement, we still need to study about the **TERMINATION** of the agreement. To do this, we will look at the history of Israel during the time of the agreement and see what happened to them.

How Long Was The Agreement To Continue?

To answer this question we must review what we learned about Israel's special agreement in our previous lesson. Remember that their agreement was **CONDITIONAL**. (*IF..., THEN...*) As long as Israel would be faithful in their portion of the agreement then God would be faithful in his portion. There was no time limitation mentioned in any of the passages we studied and so it had the **POTENTIAL** for continuing forever! In fact, the people of Israel today claim that their agreement is still continuing and this is the main reason why they claim that the modern land of Israel is supposed to be theirs; by right of an agreement with God.

Is their claim true? **Are they STILL God's ONLY chosen people?** Does the Sinai agreement still exist today? We need to do more research from the Old Testament.

Please turn to and read **Jeremiah 11:3-5**. Here we jump into the future several hundred years after the time of Moses and the Book of Exodus. God has sent his prophet, Jeremiah, with a message. These first few verses review what we already know about the agreement - that it is for Israel as long as they keep it. However, there is more to his message. Please read **Jeremiah 11:6-10**. We discover something here something that is very important to our research. It seems that Israel **HAD BROKEN** the agreement many times and did not remain faithful to their portion. We have no problem understanding this because if you take a careful look throughout the books of the Old Testament, **you will notice MANY times** when Israel did not keep the agreement and God became upset with them. Often, he sent sickness and drought upon them as punishments until they repented of their sins and renewed their commitment to be faithful to what they had promised. There were even times when God used other nations as his instruments to come in and win battles against Israel as punishment for their disobedience! Therefore, this prophet's message is not something Israel is hearing for the first time. However, there **IS** something different in this prophet's message.

Please stop and read **Jeremiah 31:31-34**¹⁸ at least three times. Take a piece of paper and write down the main points mentioned in this passage.

This passage reveals something new. It seems that God **has a limit** to his patience and he has finally reached that limit with Israel! If we list the major points of this passage, we find that 1) God is speaking here about the Sinai agreement, 2) God says that he had taken good care of Israel, 3) Israel had **BROKEN** the Sinai agreement, and 4) therefore, God announces that the agreement is over and that he will make a **NEW AGREEMENT** with Israel at some time in the future.

The NEW AGREEMENT Comes!

Please read **Hebrews 8:6-13** three times. Take a piece of paper and write down the main points mentioned in this passage.

As you read the passage, did any of it sound familiar to you? Yes, it did. In fact, most of it is a quotation of **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. This is very interesting! What does the writer say to his readers? He introduces the idea that Jesus is the **mediator**¹⁹ of the **NEW AGREEMENT**, which he says is a **BETTER** agreement. He says that the **FIRST AGREEMENT** had flaws in it and even shows that the flaw was that the people did not keep their part of the agreement. This supports everything we learned about the history of Israel and their actions under the agreement. As he explains what he means, he then quotes the Jeremiah passage. He ends his explanation by pointing out that when God spoke of a **NEW AGREEMENT** then **the first one became "OLD"** and that anything **OLD** is going to be replaced by the **NEW!**

Perhaps the most important thing we learn from this passage is that God's promise of a **NEW AGREEMENT**, which Jeremiah predicted in his time, **was fulfilled by Christ!** Christ stood between God and the people and he gave the **NEW AGREEMENT**. In Lesson 2 of **Jesus: Man of the Bible** we learned that the Bible is divided into **TWO parts** and

¹⁸ The prophet Jeremiah is often called "the weeping prophet" because his message was so sad. He was the prophet sent to tell Israel that their agreement with God had been cancelled, because God lost his patience with them due to their continued disobedience.

¹⁹ Remember that a **mediator** is a go-between, or a person who helps people in their relationship with one another.

that these two parts are actually two messages²⁰ and that Jesus gave the second message. Now, we learn that these **two messages** were actually **TWO AGREEMENTS** – or **TESTAMENTS!**²¹

Since we now understand that there are **TWO** agreements in the Bible and that **the first one was replaced by the second one** there is a very important question we need to ask.

Is The **NEW AGREEMENT** Going To Be The SAME As The Old?

There are many places in the New Testament where we see comparisons between specific details of the first and second agreements. However, we first need to look closer at the message given in **Jeremiah 31** and quoted in **Hebrews 8**. This was God’s original announcement of a future **NEW AGREEMENT**. What are some basic differences mentioned in these passages? We hope that the chart below will help you understand the points a little easier.

From what the two passages tell us, we can see that the **NEW AGREEMENT WILL NOT** simply be a revision or expansion of the **OLD AGREEMENT**. Jeremiah mentions specifically that the new one “**will not be like the agreement I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and lead them out of Egypt**”. How will the **NEW AGREEMENT** be different? There are two areas mentioned in the text.

OLD AGREEMENT		NEW AGREEMENT
Mediator	↔	BETTER Mediator
Promises	↔	BETTER Promises
Written on tables of Stone	↔	Written on the Heart
Enter First then Learn	↔	Learn First then Enter

God said something about the laws of the **NEW AGREEMENT** being **written on the heart**. We need to first stop and think about the laws of the **OLD AGREEMENT**. Where were they written? They were written **on tables of stone**. We therefore can conclude that the laws of the **NEW AGREEMENT** are not going to be on tables of stone! However, it is not very likely that this actually means the laws will be “physically” written on a person’s heart because that would not help the person much. Therefore, it must be speaking in a figurative way. In figurative language, when we speak of something being on a person’s heart, we usually mean that it is something that is special and important to the person. The way this applies to what God said about the laws of his **NEW AGREEMENT** is not difficult to understand. When laws are only words written on paper (or stone) then people will read them and follow them, but often they only follow them when some authority is watching. However, if laws are **written on a person’s heart** then the person considers them to be special and important and they will obey those laws no matter if an authority is watching or not. Laws that are written on the heart of a person become a part of who that person is! And they help shape and mold how that person thinks!

If we closely examine the laws of the **OLD AGREEMENT**, we notice they emphasized the **EXTERNAL ACTIONS** of a person. It was possible for people to have evil hearts and still do what the law required. It was possible, for example, for a person to have the heart of a murderer and not be guilty of murder, because, under the first agreement, a person could only be considered guilty of murder if he or she actually did the act of murder. The **NEW AGREEMENT** is very different! It emphasizes the **INTERNAL THOUGHTS** of a person. This is a very good thing because we know that the **REAL PROBLEM** inside of a person is not their actions, but their thoughts.²² We know that a person’s actions **come from** the person’s thoughts. Therefore, the only way to control the actions of a person is to **first** control the thoughts!

Notice the differences between the following **OLD AGREEMENT** teachings and those of Christ in the **NEW AGREEMENT!**

Please read **Mathew 5:21-22**. What is the difference between the **OLD AGREEMENT** teaching and the teaching in the **NEW**? The “commandment” only prohibited **the act** of murder. If you thought about killing someone, you were not guilty off anything. On the other hand, under the **NEW AGREEMENT**, a person can be guilty of murder without ever touching the victim! That is very different from the original commandment!

²⁰ We read and discussed **Hebrews 1:1-2**, where we learned that the two parts of the Bible are two messages from God given in different times, through different people, and to different recipients.

²¹ This is where the term Old **TESTAMENT** and New **TESTAMENT** come from. Please go back and review Footnote #9.

²² This is what we learned in **James 1:12-15!**

Another example of this is found in **Mathew 5:27-28**. What is the 10 Commandment Jesus speaks about this time? **ADULTERY!** Once again, we see that the original commandment only mentions **the ACT** and does not say anything about the **THOUGHTS!** However, Jesus emphasizes the **THOUGHTS** and not just the action itself. This is very different from the **FIRST AGREEMENT**.

If we go deeper into the matter, we see passages like **Romans 12:1-2**. Please stop and read this passage carefully, get a piece of paper, and list the major points. He explains to us that the main goal of Christianity is to get us to offer our lives as “living sacrifices” to God. While we will study this idea in detail in future lessons we can easily understand that this “living sacrifice” is another figurative statement. God does not say that we should physically kill ourselves! Verse 2 clearly explains what the “living sacrifice” is. It tells us to **CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK** and that if we do this then we will become “transformed”! We “sacrifice” our old self and become someone new and different!

Another important passage that speaks about “our thoughts” is **Romans 8:5-8**. Please stop and read this passage carefully, get a piece of paper, and list the main points. Here we learn that the way to eliminate sin in our lives is by changing the **THOUGHTS** inside of our minds. A person acts according to the way they think and so a mind that is not focused upon the things of God cannot live a life of service to God. It brings out the relationship between thought and action, and shows us that the beginning point of action is the **THOUGHT!** Changing a person’s thoughts is what the **NEW AGREEMENT** laws are designed to accomplish and this is what God meant when he said that they would be written on the hearts of the people!

A second major difference that is described in the Jeremiah announcement is that it will no longer be necessary for the people to teach other people who are already included in the **NEW AGREEMENT** to “**know the Lord**” because everyone in the Agreement will already know the Lord! What does this mean? Since we have no explanation we can only guess, but if we make a careful analysis of the details that we discovered about the **OLD AGREEMENT** we can already see one possible application.

How did a person become a part of the **OLD AGREEMENT**, and **when** did this happen? Since you had to be an Israelite to be part of that agreement then that happened when an Israelite baby was born! This means that people became part of the agreement **BEFORE** they actually knew and understood their responsibilities as participants of the agreement! It therefore became necessary for the other (older) Israelites to **TEACH** them their responsibilities as they grew so that they would know what they were supposed to do. Therefore, under the **OLD AGREEMENT**, it could be said that **a person entered into the agreement first and then learned about it later!**

It seems that this will no longer be the case for the **NEW AGREEMENT!** Every person who enters this agreement will already know their responsibilities **BEFORE** they become part of it! Therefore, in the **NEW AGREEMENT**, **a person will know first and then enter!**

If you consider what we have learned in this lesson, you will agree that these two agreements are as different as night is different from day. The 10 Commandments have no place in the **NEW AGREEMENT**. Instead, **WE SEE** Jesus building a new idea of morality! He **CHANGES** the ideas represented by the original commandments so much that the original wording of the original commandments do not adequately communicate the teaching of the **NEW AGREEMENT**. Besides that, Jesus only specifically refers to **TWO** “commandments” inside his teachings. (**Please read Matthew 22:36-40.**)

Still, many sincere people in religion today believe that the “10 Commandments” are the **moral foundation** of Christianity and they insist that people today should devote themselves to memorizing and following these Commandments! However, as we discovered in our discussions about contracts and agreements, the 10 Commandments were not given by God for educating mankind about morality. With the exception of the command about the Sabbath, there was nothing in the 10 Commandments that mankind did not already know **BEFORE** the time of Mount Sinai! Please do not forget that the 10 Commandments were **PACKAGED** together by God to form an agreement, that this “package” contained some 600 PLUS laws and regulations, and that this “package” was offered to **ONLY** Israel! **NO OTHER NATION RECEIVED THE MOUNT SINAI AGREEMENT!** In all fairness to context, if a person wants to bring the 10 Commandments over from the **OLD AGREEMENT**, wouldn’t they also have to bring the other laws with it since it was all **ONE package?** Today, many people try to go around this difficulty by simply making a distinct separation between the 10 Commandments, which they call “**the moral law**” and all of the other laws, which they call “**the ceremonial law**”. According to their teachings, only the **ceremonial law** (the sacrifices and the priesthood) has passed away! They say that the **moral law** (the 10 Commandments) still remains inside of the **NEW AGREEMENT!** In response, we must ask where the Bible teaches this! There is no such teaching in the Bible! The Bible never divides the 600 PLUS laws and regulations into these two groupings! The Bible does not teach that the **ceremonial law**, of the **OLD AGREEMENT**, **has passed away** and that the **moral law**, of the **OLD AGREEMENT**, remains today and that it has been expanded to include **ALL NATIONS** of the world!

One of the great difficulties in saying that the 10 Commandments are for all people today is regarding the commandment that speaks of keeping of the Sabbath? How can this fit into the practice we see of **NEW AGREEMENT** people meeting together on SUNDAY? The Sabbath Day is Saturday, not Sunday and this fact cannot be changed, and yet it is amazing to see that people will simply say, "The church changed the Sabbath Day to Sunday." We learned in our first lessons of **Jesus: Man of the Bible** that no person has the authority to change the things God has said. Therefore, if it is true that the Sabbath Day was changed, then where can we find this **in the Bible**? We cannot and more than that, we found all of those warnings from the early writers telling their people **NOT TO CHANGE** the original message - **even if angels might come down from heaven** and tell them something different from the original message they received. If it was true that God changed the Sabbath Day from Saturday to Sunday, we would be able to read about that in the pages of the New Testament. The fact that we do not read any such teaching is proof that the Sabbath Day remained the same in the time of the New Testament and that the practice of people in the **NEW AGREEMENT** meeting together on Sunday is something completely different from the Sabbath Day of the 10 Commandments! (We will study about the Sunday meeting in our later lessons.)

The modern teaching, that the 10 Commandments are included inside the **NEW AGREEMENT**, is another example of how man has chosen to do things his way instead of taking the time to research from God's word to find and understand the explanation God has given in his book. Please remember what we learned about man doing things in a way that **seems right** to him! (**Proverbs 14:12**)

WHO Can Join The **NEW AGREEMENT**?

By now, we hope that your understanding of the **TWO agreements** of the Bible is becoming clear. The only thing that still remains in our study for this lesson is to see **WHO** can be part of this **NEW AGREEMENT**. The first agreement was very exclusive - for Israel only - and we already know from the passages we studied in Jeremiah and Hebrews that Israel will also be invited to join the **second** agreement. **What about the OTHER nations?** Will they also be invited to join?

The answer to this is found in a letter that Paul wrote to a group of Christians living in the Gentile city of Ephesus. Please read **Ephesians 2:11-22** three times very carefully, take a piece of paper, and list the major points.

This passage is important because of who the readers of the book were. The writer refers to them as "Gentiles". Who were the Gentiles? This word and the word "Jew" were groupings of people that represented **the membership** in the **OLD AGREEMENT**. The "Jews" were the people of Israel, the ones who had the agreement, while the "Gentiles" were the people of all the other nations, those who did not have the agreement! If we understand these words then the meaning of the passage is very easy to understand.

In this passage, we know that Paul is speaking to Christians who come from Gentile families and he begins by taking them back to the time in history when the **OLD AGREEMENT** was still present. He speaks to them about all the things that **WE HAVE LEARNED** in our research.

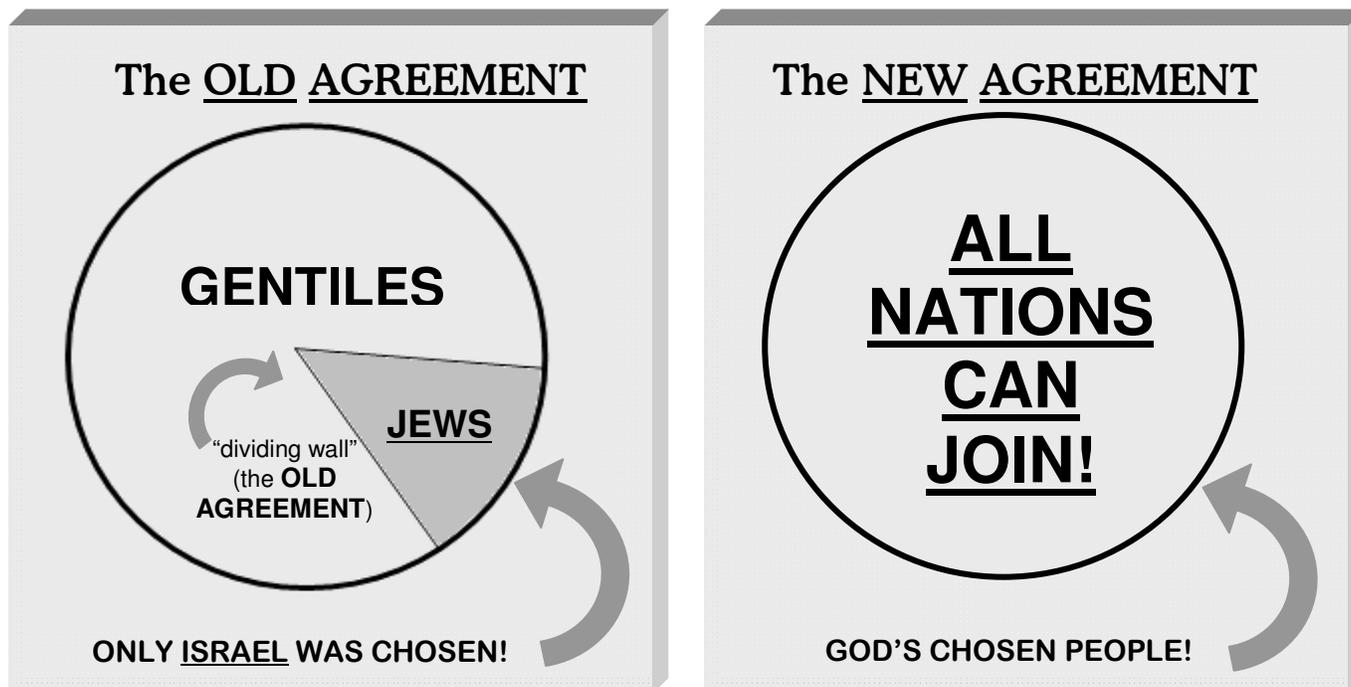
He points out that under the **OLD AGREEMENT**, Gentiles were people who were "strangers", "without hope", and "without God"²³ in the world. However, he continues by explaining that Gentiles are very fortunate **NOW** because Christ came and helped them. He helped them by "taking away" that thing, which divided between the Gentiles and the Jews. That thing **was like a great wall** between them. **What was that dividing wall?** Paul explains that the dividing wall was the **OLD AGREEMENT** – with all of its commands and regulations. The problem was that the Jews had the agreement and the Gentiles did not have it. Only those who had the agreement could be God's people and so this is why the Gentiles did not have God. Paul says that Jesus took that dividing wall (the **OLD AGREEMENT**) away with his death on the cross.

He went on to say that the result of Christ's death was a situation where God no longer chooses his people by "nationality". There are no longer these groupings of the people of the world, called Jews and Gentiles, and that **anyone from any nation can be part of the NEW AGREEMENT!** He says that this only happened because Jesus came and died! When he died, the **OLD AGREEMENT** died with him and the **NEW AGREEMENT** was born!

His point is very simple. **Look at the diagram at the top of the next page.** If the **OLD AGREEMENT** was still existing, then those Gentile people would still be hopeless and without God. However, **IT IS NOT still existing** and so instead of being "strangers", Paul says that the Gentiles are now "fellow citizens"!

²³ In the original language, he uses the word *atheist*! An *atheist* is a person who has no god!

This is one reason why the writer of Hebrews said that the **NEW AGREEMENT**, which Jesus has, is a much **BETTER** one! It is certainly much better for **US TODAY** because people who are not Jews **CAN** join this agreement! They were left out of the **OLD AGREEMENT** because that agreement was only given to the Jews!



In our next lesson, the last one on the topic of the “Scheme of Redemption”, we will continue our comparison between the two agreements and learn even **MORE** amazing things!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 3:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the **CIRCLE** for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

1. TRUE or FALSE: The Agreement that God made with the Israel **also included** other nations.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. **How long** was the agreement that God made with Israel supposed to last?
 - a) Until the nation found a king.
 - b) Until they reached the promised land.
 - c) As long as Israel was faithful.
 - d) As long as God wanted it to.
3. Which of the following statements **is NOT** found in **Jeremiah 11:3-5**?
 - a) Bad things will happen to any person that does not obey the Agreement
 - b) God made the agreement with Israel when he brought them out of Egypt.
 - c) God told the people that if they obey and did his commandments they would be his people.
 - d) God said this agreement will never end no matter what they did.
4. Which of the following statements **is NOT** found in **Jeremiah 11:6-10**?
 - a) God gave a warning to their ancestors
 - b) Their ancestors listened to God and obeyed all his commandments.
 - c) Their ancestors refused to listen to God's message.
 - d) The family of Israel and the family of Judah have broken the Agreement God made with their ancestors.
5. TRUE or FALSE: The Israelites have **ALWAYS** kept the Agreement God made with them.
 - a) True
 - b) False

6. Which of the following statements **IS** found In **Jeremiah 31:31-34**?
- The time is coming when I will make a **NEW AGREEMENT** with the family of Israel...
 - I will put my teachings in their minds and I will write them on their hearts...
 - All people from the least to the greatest will know me...
 - All of the above.
7. TRUE or FALSE: In **Hebrews 8:6-13**, the writer of the book says that the work of Jesus **is the same** as the work given to the priests.
- True
 - False
8. What does **Hebrews 8:6-13** say about the **NEW AGREEMENT**?
- It is much greater than the old one.
 - It is based on better promises than the old one.
 - Jesus brought it from God
 - All of the above.
9. According to **Hebrews 8:6-13**, what was **the flaw** in the First Agreement?
- The people did not follow it.
 - It was impossible to follow.
 - It was incomplete.
 - It had too many laws.
10. What is a **mediator**?
- A spokesperson.
 - An enemy.
 - A go-between.
 - None of the above.
11. TRUE or FALSE: The **NEW AGREEMENT** that Jeremiah predicted would come **was fulfilled** by Christ.
- True
 - False
12. When we compare the **OLD AGREEMENT** with the **NEW AGREEMENT** we see that:
- It has a better mediator.
 - It has similar promises.
 - It is written on scrolls.
 - All of the above.
13. The **OLD AGREEMENT** emphasized **external acts** but the **NEW AGREEMENT** emphasizes...
- The internal thoughts of a person.
 - That only what you DO is important.
 - That you must follow the 10 Commandments.
 - None of the above.
14. Which of the following ideas **is NOT** found In **Matthew 5:21-22**?
- If you are angry with someone, you are guilty of sin.
 - You should not call another person a fool.
 - Murder is only consider a sin if you actually kill someone.
 - You should not say bad things about another person.
15. **Romans 12:1-2** tells us that we should offer our lives as what?
- An act of obedience to God.
 - An animal sacrifice.
 - An example to others.
 - A living sacrifice.
16. Which of the following **is NOT** found in **Romans 12:1-2**?
- Do not change to be like the people of the world.
 - Change to be like the people of the world.
 - Change inside yourselves with a new way of thinking.
 - Offer your lives as living sacrifice.
17. TRUE or FALSE: **Changing the way we think** can help us to change the way we act.
- True
 - False
18. To become a recipient of the **OLD AGREEMENT** you had to:
- Follow every one of the laws of the **OLD AGREEMENT**.
 - Be born into the Israelite nation.
 - Be a Gentile.
 - None of the above.
19. Which of the following verses contains the **"TWO commandments"** Jesus gives us?
- Matthew 5:27-28
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - Romans 8:5-8
 - Matthew 22:36-40
20. TRUE or FALSE: The "10 Commandments" **are included** in the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
- True
 - False
21. Who were the **Gentiles**?
- Sinful people.
 - People of all nations who were not Jews.
 - The cousins of the Jews.
 - The people under the **OLD AGREEMENT**.

22. **Who** can be part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**?

- a) The Jews.
- b) The Gentiles.
- c) All nations.
- d) All of the above

23. In **Ephesians 2:11-22** we read that **BEFORE Christ came**, the Gentiles...

- a) Had no hope.
- b) Were without Christ.
- c) Were far away from God.
- d) All of the above.

24. What was **the thing that separated** the Jews and Gentiles before Christ came?

- a) The peoples hatred for one another.
- b) Their nationality.
- c) Their lack of faith.
- d) The **OLD AGREEMENT** (The Law).

25. Because Christ came, **ALL** people can now have a relationship with God.

- a) True
- b) False

LESSON FOUR

The SCHEME of REDEMPTION (Part 4)

In our previous two lessons, we studied about the **special AGREEMENT** that God made with the people of Israel and we discovered that;

- 1) the agreement was **for Israel ONLY**,
- 2) the agreement was for only the Israelites who were alive at Mount Sinai and their children who would live after them,
- 3) the agreement was a conditional one, meaning that **IF** the people of Israel would keep it, **THEN** they would continue to be God's special people,
- 4) the specifics of what Israel was to obey involved a complex list of over 600 rules, laws, and regulations,
- 5) God made this agreement with Israel because he loved them, because he was keeping the promise to their forefathers (**Genesis 12:1-3**), and because the other nations existing at that time were evil,
- 6) even though God did all of these things for Israel they did not keep their agreement and so they were disowned by God and at the end of the Old Testament they were returned to slavery,
- 7) God announced that there would someday be a **NEW AGREEMENT**, which would be for **ALL NATIONS!**
- 8) God fulfilled this promise of the **NEW AGREEMENT through his son, Jesus**, and that Jesus completely put away the **OLD** in order to being in the **NEW!**

That was an amazing study! In this lesson, we will continue where we left off and examine material that will show us that there were other reasons why God gave the **OLD AGREEMENT!**

The OLD AGREEMENT Was Temporary

The writers of the New Testament spent a lot of time talking about the agreement between God and Israel. The books of Galatians and Hebrews are especially important in this area. From them, we can understand many important things about that agreement.

We begin our lesson in the book of Galatians.²⁴ Please read **Galatians 3:24-29** three times, get a piece of paper, and list the main points. Here Paul is talking about something he refers to as "the Law"²⁵. What does he say here about "the Law"? He describes the law as a **guardian**²⁶ whose purpose was to lead people to the time of faith – which

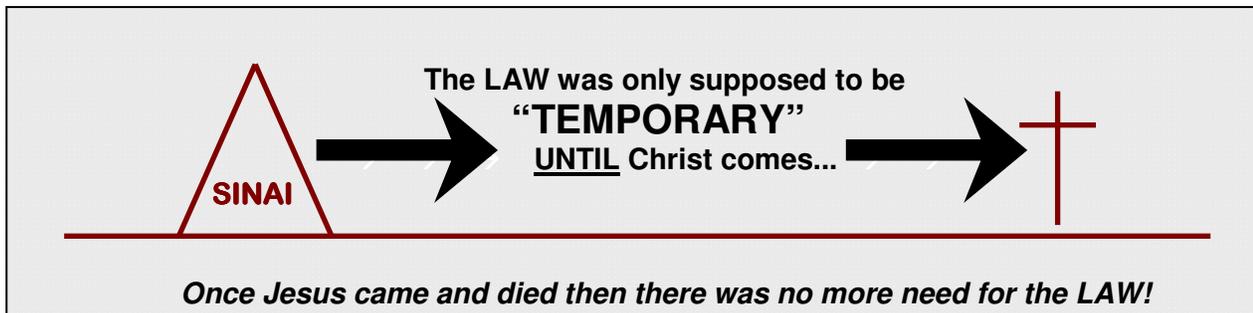
²⁴ This is a letter written to Christians living in different towns located within the geographical region of that time called Galatia. This region was located in the northern part of the modern day country of Turkey.

²⁵ This is a very common term used in the New Testament to represent the Mount Sinai agreement between God and Israel.

²⁶ The word for "**guardian**" here in the verse is like a baby sitter who watches over a small child who cannot take care of himself. Are baby sitters permanent in the lives of the children they watch over? Do they still watch over the child when he becomes an adult? No! Baby sitters are **TEMPORARY!**

context seems to mean was the time when Christ would come and do his work. The point is that **until Christ came**, there was a need for a guardian, but once Christ arrived, the need for that guardian would cease. If the **OLD AGREEMENT** (the Law) was that guardian then once Christ came then there would be no more need for the Law.

This shows that there was purpose for the **OLD AGREEMENT** that went beyond the “great nation” promise God made to Abraham and his choosing Israel as his special people.



What we discover is that God giving Israel their agreement was part of his “**SCHEME of REDEMPTION!**” Please turn once again to **Acts 2:22-23** and review what Peter told the crowd of people. He said that **God had a PLAN**, which he made a long time before Jesus ever came to the earth, and **that PLAN** was for Jesus to come and die! In the book of Galatians, Paul makes a connection between this **PLAN** of God and the **OLD AGREEMENT**. In **Galatians 4:4** he mentions something about a timetable, “**when the time was right**”, suggesting that God **PLANNED** for Jesus to die **at that particular time and in that particular place!**

Okay, so **what part** did the **OLD AGREEMENT** have in **God’s PLAN? HOW** did it **guide the people** to Christ? Was it only through the 10 Commandments and the other laws on morality? We need to go deeper in our study!

Forgiveness For Sin In The OLD AGREEMENT

The people in the Old Testament committed many sins! They were told that **their sins made them LOST!**²⁷ **HOW** did they get rid of those sins once they got them? If we go back to the Old Testament, we find some very interesting instructions about this matter. The book of Leviticus, chapters 4-6, contains many details of what we commonly know as “animal sacrifices”. It turns out that sacrificing animals was the way in which the people of Israel were told by God to get rid of their sins. If you read this section, you will notice that **there were different KINDS of sins** and that **each different KIND of sin had a slightly different sacrifice**. The details of the sacrifice ceremony might differ a little from one kind of sin to another but **two things are ALWAYS consistent**. There is always **DEATH** and there is always **BLOOD!** The procedure for getting rid of sin **ALWAYS** included the death of an animal and **ALWAYS** included the placing of the blood of that animal upon a special altar!

We will look closely at one example. Please read **Leviticus 4:27-31** three times, get a piece of paper, and list the main points.

This passage records the details of what to do if a person commits a sin without knowing it and then later realized what he or she had done. The person was instructed to bring a certain animal to the priest, who would then kill it and put its blood upon the altar. Please pay special attention to the portion that says that when the blood of the sacrificed animal was placed upon the special altar then the sin of the person was said to have been paid for! This is how the people of Israel paid for their sins under the **OLD AGREEMENT**.

Animal Sacrifices

Can you imagine what it might have been like to live during that time? **How often did the people have to make these animal sacrifices?** Since each kind of sin had a specific kind of sacrifice to be performed then it would seem that a sacrifice would need to be made **every time a person sinned!**

²⁷ Remember what we read in **Isaiah 59:2!**

The New Testament book of Hebrews helps us better understand just how difficult this was for the people and so we will spend some time researching these details. The passage back in Leviticus mentioned **PRIESTS**. These priests were the ones who had the job of making these sacrifices on behalf of the people. **Hebrews 10:11** tells us that the **priests did their work on a DAILY basis**. It was a bloody and smelly business! The temple was not a beautiful clean quiet place where people could go to meditate and pray. It was filled with the cries of dying animals and the smell of blood and burning flesh. It was a place of death! **It was a place of MUCH death!** Please do not forget that the nation of Israel had a population of over 2,000,000 at any one time throughout their history. Individuals would most likely have to wait in long lines to have their chance to make their sacrifices and receive their forgiveness, and who knows, they might have to stand in line **again** the very next day for the same sin!

What was the cost of sin for the people of Israel living in that time? Each person had to bring their own animal and, unless they raised them, had to buy them from a livestock merchant. If this were happening today, then we would have a very difficult time affording the cost of forgiveness! Suppose that you commit a sin that requires the sacrifice of a goat for the sin offering and suppose that a live healthy goat costs 500.00 Pesos in the market. Let us suppose also that you commit one of these sins every three days and so you will need one goat for your sin offering every three days, month after month during the year! If we add the money needed for all of those goats, then the total cost would come to around 60,500.00 Pesos in a year's time! What if you do something that requires you to sacrifice a larger animal, such as a bull? A live healthy bull will cost around 15,000.00 Pesos in the market! If you only need one bull each month it will still cost you 180,000.00 Pesos for the year! If we add the projected costs for the goats and bulls together, **we would need a yearly budget of 240,500.00**, or right at 20,000.00 each month, **JUST to get the forgiveness of our sins and maintain our relationship with God!** Can you imagine how difficult that would be?

BLOOD: The Only Thing That Can Pay For Sin

Why did God make it so difficult for the people? **Why was it necessary to kill animals as sacrifices for sins?** Why didn't God just ask the people to say that they were sorry or something simple like that? Once again, the book of Hebrews will help us understand.

Please read **Hebrews 9:22** very carefully. This passage tells us that **BLOOD** was very important in the time of the **OLD AGREEMENT** and that **without BLOOD there can be no forgiveness of sin!** We must think carefully about this because it seems that there is **only ONE THING that can get forgiveness of sins and that thing is blood!** If we go back to the time of the **OLD AGREEMENT** and look at some other passages perhaps we can get a clearer picture. Please read **Leviticus 17:10-11**. This passage speaks about a prohibition from God for eating blood, but in the process of explaining the rule about eating blood, he also explains the relationship between the shedding of blood and the forgiveness of sins. This agrees with what we just read in **Hebrews 9:22**.

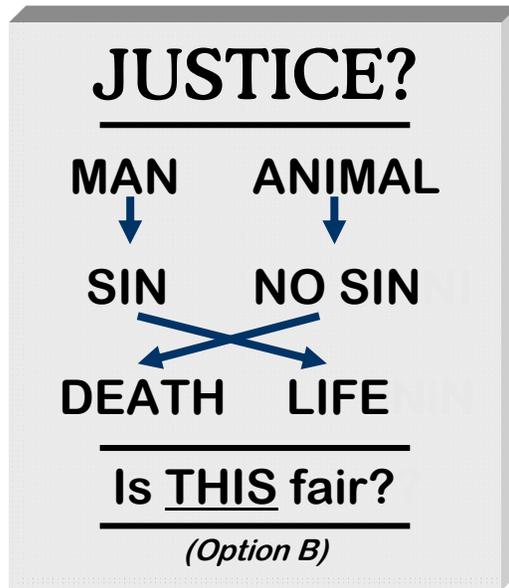
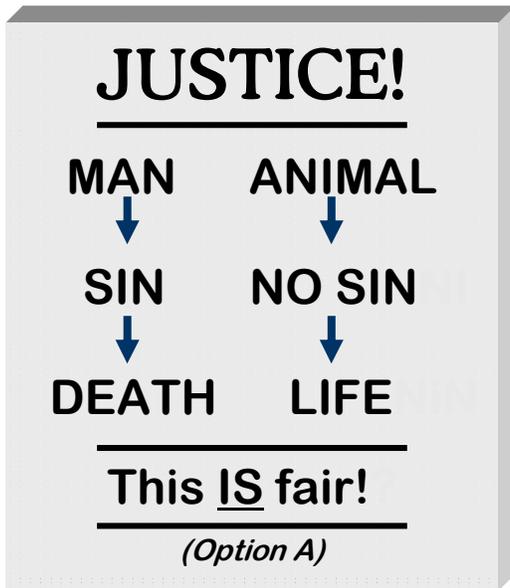
If we summarize what we have seen so far in this lesson, here is what we have. The people committed sins and were instructed by God to kill animals and throw their blood upon a special altar in a special place with the assistance of special priests in order that they could receive the forgiveness of their sins. It was complicated, and very expensive!

The next question we will ask may seem strange. **"Did the blood of the animals really forgive the people's sins?"** Why ask a question like that? After all, didn't God tell the people to offer those sacrifices, and didn't he say to them that if they made the sacrifices that their sins would be forgiven? Nevertheless, **THIS** is a matter discussed by the writer in the book of Hebrews. Let us now look at a very interesting passage where he speaks about those animal sacrifices. Please read **Hebrews 10:1-4** three times, get a piece of paper, and list the main points. He begins by mentioning something about the **OLD AGREEMENT** containing **only a shadow**²⁸ of things to come and not the **reality** of these things. He goes on to suggest that an example of this shadow/reality point is the animal sacrifices. It is surprising to read what he writes as he points out that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for the blood of those bulls and goats to take away sins! **WOW!** Isn't this a direct contradiction of what we read earlier in **Leviticus 4:31**? How can this be? What is the problem?

If we stop and follow the reasoning of the writer then the problem is not so difficult to see. The problem with sacrificing animals is **JUSTICE!** Consider the two diagrams on top of the next page as you read on.

What does justice say? **"The one who does the crime is the one who must be punished!"** This is illustrated in the diagram "Option A". If a man commits a sin and the punishment is death then justice demands that he die! It is a simple idea. However, if an animal has no sin then he should live! This creates a problem.

²⁸ A **shadow** is a shaded image projected onto a surface by light shining from behind an object. The shaded area has a shape like the object the light shines upon but the shadow **IS NOT** the object, but only a copy of the object!



Where is the justice in sacrificing animals for the sins of people?

Consider the diagram "Option B". An innocent animal dies as a substitute in place of a guilty human!

Will justice accept THIS?

Certainly NOT, because it is definitely NOT FAIR for the animal and the REAL CRIMINAL gets away!

Where is the JUSTICE in that? Justice demands

that if a **HUMAN** commits a sin and if the law says that the punishment for that sin is the shedding of his blood (death) then the human who committed the sin MUST DIE! You cannot satisfy the requirement for **HUMAN blood** by substituting ANIMAL blood! JUSTICE will not accept that! It must be HUMAN blood!

The SHADOW - vs - The REALITY!

How then was the problem of the animal blood solved? We need to go deeper still in our study.

Please turn to **Hebrews 9:11-12** and read it, get your piece of paper, and list the main points mentioned. According to the explanation, the problem of the animal sacrifices is solved with **the death of Jesus**, and it seems logical. With Jesus' death, we have a **HUMAN** death for human sins, and so it is the right **KIND** of blood!

That sounds good, but what about the sacrifice of Jesus? Our study of the **OLD AGREEMENT** showed that every sin had to have an individual sacrifice. The animal sacrifices were offered again and again – on a daily basis! Therefore, should Jesus also be **sacrificed MANY times** for the many sins of the people? Again, we must go to the writer of Hebrews for the answer. Please read **Hebrews 10:12-18**, get your paper, and record the main points. The most outstanding thing he says is that **the sacrifice of Jesus was "once for all time!"**

Notice also how the writer of Hebrews, in these passages, helps us better understand how the sacrifices of the animals in the **OLD AGREEMENT** were only a "shadow" of what was to come. He mentions the animal blood, and how it was offered in a tent that was made with human hands and he then compares those things to Christ's human blood that was offered in the real place where God lives.

If we summarize all that the writer of Hebrews says in chapters 8-10 of his book, all the details of the **OLD AGREEMENT** sacrifices represented and symbolized the future event of Christ's **NEW AGREEMENT** sacrifice! Christ **fulfilled those symbols and made them real!** The animal sacrifices were only shadows projected into this world by God's light shining behind the works that Jesus would some day come and do! This is what the Hebrew writer was talking about in **10:1**, where he said that **the OLD AGREEMENT was only a shadow of the good things to come.**

There can be **NO forgiveness** through the "shadow" sacrifice of animals, but only through the "real" sacrifice of Jesus!

SHADOW		REALITY
ANIMAL BLOOD	↔	CHRIST'S BLOOD
TENT/ TEMPLE	↔	HEAVEN
PRIESTS	↔	JESUS HIMSELF
MANY TIMES	↔	ONCE
NO FORGIVENESS		FORGIVENESS

ONCE FOR ALL!

Notice also that the writer indicates that the result of Jesus' one-time sacrifice is the **complete** payment and that it brings salvation **for all time**, or as the writer said in **Hebrews 9:12**, "**eternal REDEMPTION!**"

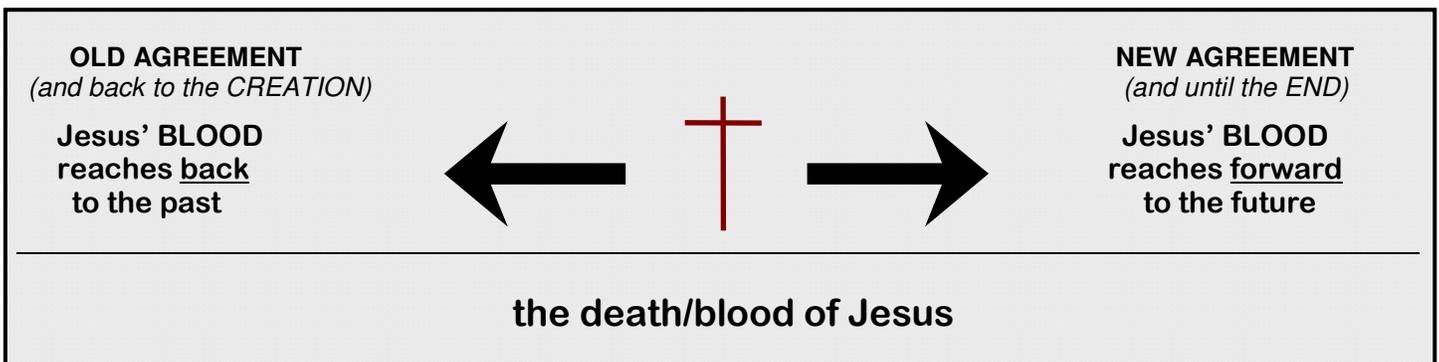
Please read **Hebrews 9:25-28**, get your paper, and list down the main points. This passage echoes the idea that Jesus' sacrifice was a "**ONE TIME**" sacrifice. In fact, this passage tells us that **IF it was necessary to repeat the sacrifice of Christ** then he would have had to come to the earth in a human body and repeat the sacrifice, **LITERALLY**, again and again **EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD!** However, the writer assures us that Christ died **one** time and that his one single death was enough for all time!²⁹

WHAT HAPPENED To Israel's Sins?

Before we close this lesson, we still need to answer one final question. "**What happened to the sins of the people of Israel?**" They were told by God to sacrifice animals; however, we have since learned that **it is impossible** for the blood of animals to take away sins – **because of justice!** Therefore, does this **CONTRADICT** what God told the people of Israel in Leviticus? **Were their sins NOT FORGIVEN?** If the sacrifices of the **OLD AGREEMENT** could not forgive the sins of the people then **what happened to their sins?**

Please read **Hebrews 9:15** very carefully!

It seems that the death of Jesus **forgives the sins of the people of the OLD AGREEMENT!** As the diagram below illustrates, aside from Jesus' death **reaching forward** to those people who would live after him, his death also has some kind of **RETROACTIVE**³⁰ effect - meaning that it **reaches back** to pay for the sins of people who lived before the time he came to the earth and died on the cross!



SUMMARY: The SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

As we end this series of four lessons, we need to put everything into focus.

SIN came into the world when Adam and Eve **decided** to disobey God! Since that time, all people in all times have been facing temptations of all kinds. However, **God's promise** to man has been there through all generations and **no person has ever been FORCED to sin**. Sin happens in a person's life because **they choose to sin**. They could just as easily have chosen **NOT** to sin.

²⁹ There are some teachers in religion today that claim that the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross was **lacking** something and that he needs to be sacrificed again, and again, every day until the end of time. These same teachers also claim that Jesus taught this and left behind a priesthood to carry out his **continuing sacrifice**. They deny that Jesus must come down physically in the form of a man for these sacrifices. They teach that he only comes down from heaven and becomes present in the form of bread and wine! They say that when this bread and wine are broken and consumed that Jesus is sacrificed! However, the writer of Hebrews is very clear. He insists that **IF** the sacrifice of Christ were lacking in any way then Jesus would have to come back physically again and again and die a real death, ever since the beginning of time and to the end of time! The writer says, however, that the sacrifice of Christ **WAS NOT lacking anything!** It was complete and good enough for all time! Therefore, these modern teachers and their claims are different from what the writer of the book of Hebrews says. Which one will you believe? You cannot accept **BOTH** because they are saying different, and opposite things!

³⁰ This word carries the idea of some condition **reaching backward** to a time before the condition actually came into existence.

When a person sins they earn what sin pays; **DEATH!** This death is **separation from God** and unless they can get rid of that separation, **they will be LOST forever.**

However, God does not want people to be lost and so **he made a PLAN.** He made a **PLAN for people to EXCHANGE** their sin for the blood of his own son, Jesus. **He made a “SCHEME OF REDEMPTION!”**

God’s plan was put into action over a long period of time. He used **TWO AGREEMENTS** and **thousands of years** to bring his plan to completion. Remember that the **FIRST AGREEMENT** was a **temporary SHADOW agreement** and was only designed to last **until the time would be right for God to send down his son** to make those shadows become realities! That was God’s **PLAN!**

When that time arrived, Jesus came down from heaven and became a human! He became just like us in every way! He lived his life as a human, fought against temptation as a human, he was completely obedient as a human, and he died a human death, **giving his human blood as the real payment for sin to complete God’s PLAN!**

He also brought the **SECOND AGREEMENT**, in which **all people from all nations CAN³¹** become God’s chosen people!

Anyone who has their sins forgiven - **in any time** - will have those sins forgiven **through the BLOOD of Jesus!** Why is this so? It is because God has made the rule that states that **ONLY BLOOD TAKES AWAY SIN** and, he made the **PLAN** that **ONLY the specific blood OF JESUS can pay for sins!**

Perhaps we can now better understand passages that many teachers today like to quote when they speak about the subject of man being forgiven of his sins **only through** Christ. **Acts 4:12** says that **there is NO ONE ELSE who can save us** and **1 Timothy 2:4-5** tells us that **there is only ONE MEDIATOR between God and man.** This is because only Jesus offers the one unique thing that can save us... **HIS BLOOD!**

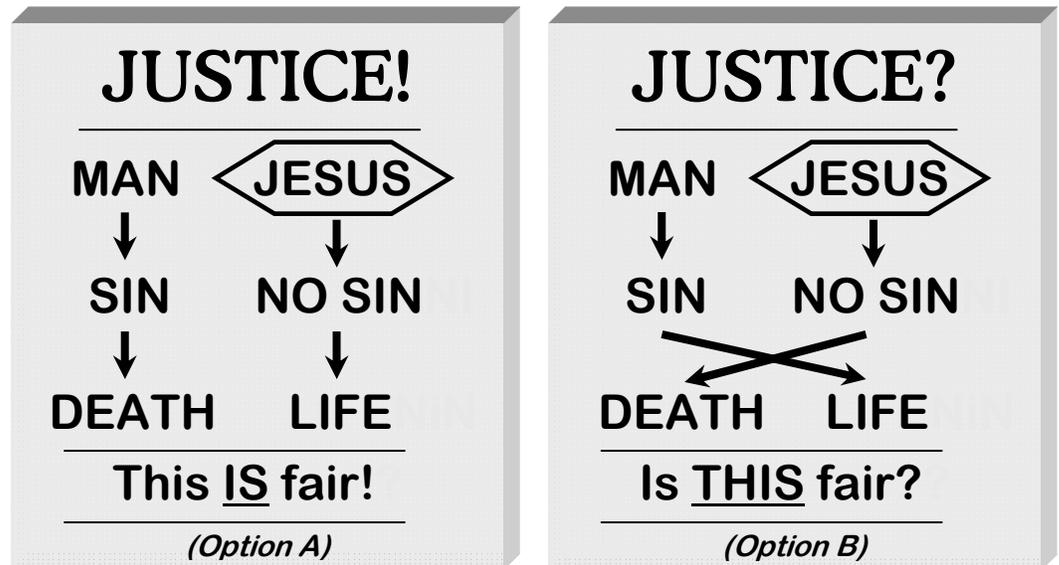
In our next lesson, Lord willing, we will examine the death of Jesus more closely because there are still many unanswered questions left to explore.

Consider the diagram below. The situation we have with “Option B” is the same as the animal sacrifices, except **JESUS** is in place of the **ANIMAL.** Many teachers today explain that God’s **PLAN** was for Jesus to **substitute for us** in death. They say that **HE takes our death so that WE can have his life!** However, if **JUSTICE** will not allow the **substitution of an innocent person** to suffer punishment in place of the guilty one, then how can Jesus (who was innocent and sinless) die in the place of man (who is the guilty one)? This is exactly the same problem we had with the animals!

“Option B” IS NOT the answer!

HOW then can Jesus die and his blood pay for the sins that were done by other people in a way that **JUSTICE** can accept?

Do not worry because there **IS** an answer to this question in the Bible!



JUSTICE WILL NOT ACCEPT AN INNOCENT TO SUBSTITUTE IN PLACE OF THE GUILTY!

³¹ The **NEW AGREEMENT**, like the **OLD**, is conditional. Just because Jesus died, that does not mean that everyone is automatically saved. We will study about the conditions of the **NEW AGREEMENT** in our remaining lessons of this course.

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 4:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

- In **Galatians 3:24-29**, Paul describes the LAW as being
 - A shadow.
 - A guardian.
 - True.
 - Holy.
- TRUE or FALSE: The **OLD AGREEMENT** was only **temporary**.
 - True.
 - False.
- According to **Hebrews 9:22**, what is the **ONLY thing** that can take away sin?
 - Holy Water.
 - Good works.
 - Blood.
 - Burning candles.
- How often** were animal sacrifices made during the time of the **OLD AGREEMENT**?
 - Once a year.
 - 2 times each month.
 - As often as a person sinned.
 - Never.
- According to **Hebrews 10:1**, the **OLD AGREEMENT** is a _____ of the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
 - Copy.
 - Shadow.
 - Example.
 - Symbol.
- How many times** is it necessary for Jesus to sacrifice himself?
 - As often as people sin.
 - Once for all time.
 - 6 times each year.
 - Daily.
- According to **Hebrews 9:15**, **how** are the sins of the people under the **OLD AGREEMENT** forgiven?
 - They are not forgiven.
 - The animal sacrifices they made.
 - Jesus' blood reaches back to pay for them.
 - None of the above.
- What** is the thing that removes sin in the **NEW AGREEMENT**?
 - Animal blood.
 - Jesus' blood.
 - Mary's intercession.
 - Keeping the 10 Commandments.
- What was the job** of a **PRIEST** in the **OLD AGREEMENT**?
 - Blessing newborn babies.
 - Saying Mass.
 - Forgiving people's sins.
 - Offering sacrifices for the people.
- What were the animal sacrifices **a shadow of**?
 - The sacrifice of Christ.
 - The place where God lives.
 - Jesus as a priest.
 - Jesus' blood.
- What was the blood of the animals **a shadow of**?
 - The sacrifice of Christ.
 - The place where God lives.
 - Jesus as a priest.
 - Jesus' blood.
- What was the Temple **a shadow of**?
 - The sacrifice of Christ.
 - The place where God lives.
 - Jesus as a priest.
 - Jesus' blood.
- What were the Priests **a shadow of**?
 - The sacrifice of Christ.
 - The place where God lives.
 - Jesus as a priest.
 - Jesus' blood.
- TRUE or FALSE: We **are supposed to offer** animal sacrifices in the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
 - True
 - False
- Which of the choices below **satisfies JUSTICE**?
 - Innocent animal dies in place of guilty man.
 - Man pays money to receive forgiveness.
 - Guilty man dies for his own sin.
 - None of the above.

16. The animal sacrifices the people of Israel had to make were
- Costly.
 - Required much time.
 - Not able to take away their sins.
 - All of the above.
17. According to **Isaiah 59:2**, **what happens** when we sin?
- We are killed physically.
 - We become separated from God.
 - We must make an animal sacrifice.
 - Jesus must come and die again.
18. TRUE or FALSE: The people of Israel **today** are supposed to make animal sacrifices.
- True.
 - False.
19. **What kind of sin** is mentioned in **Leviticus 4:27-31**?
- Killing someone.
 - A sin you do not know about until later.
 - Lying.
 - Stealing.
20. The **main problem** with animal sacrifices was
- They were costly.
 - They required much time.
 - Justice.
 - None of the above.
21. According to the idea of JUSTICE
- An innocent person can substitute to take the punishment for the guilty person.
 - The one who does the crime is the one who must be punished.
 - Both A and B.
 - None of the above.
22. TRUE or FALSE: Jesus' death was **once for all time**.
- True.
 - False.
23. According to **Hebrews 9:25-28**, **IF** the sacrifice of Jesus **was not complete** then
- We would have to die for our own sins.
 - God would have to send one of the angels to die for man's sins.
 - Jesus would have to come back and die again many times.
 - We would all be lost.
24. The **OLD AGREEMENT** was temporary, **until**
- Israel violated their agreement.
 - All of the animals were killed in sacrifices.
 - The end of the world.
 - Christ would come.
25. TRUE or FALSE: The terms, "The Law", "The Law of Moses" mean the same thing as the Mount Sinai agreement.
- True.
 - False.

NOTE: Please begin working through the verses in the Worksheet for Lesson 6 that is found in the back of this textbook. There are many Bible verses to study through and starting now will give you plenty of time to complete your research before we cover the material in class.

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!³² 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.³³ 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!**

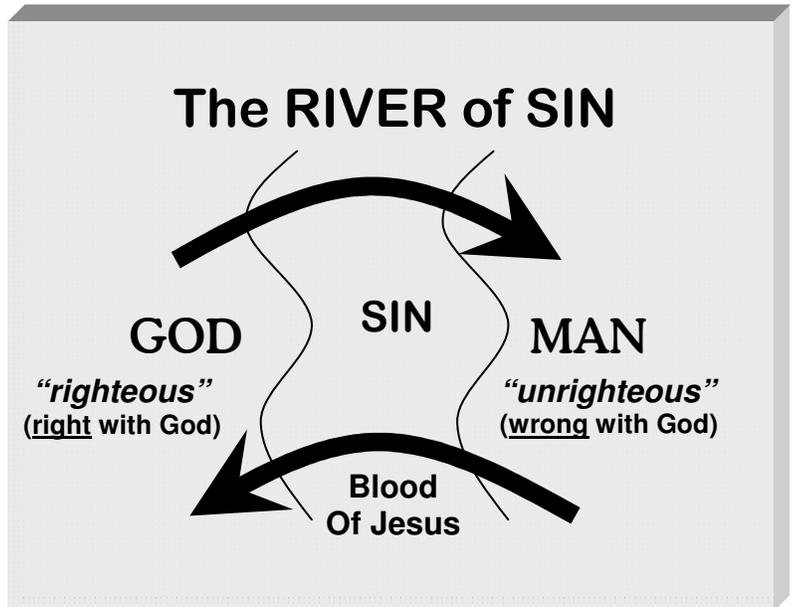
³² Remember that **only blood** can take away sin! **Hebrews 9:22**

³³ The word is **DIKAIOS** (pronounced **dē'-kī-os**) for the adjective form, and **DIKAIOSUNE** (pronounced **dē-kī-o-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!"³⁴ 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!

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!**

³⁴ 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.**

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!

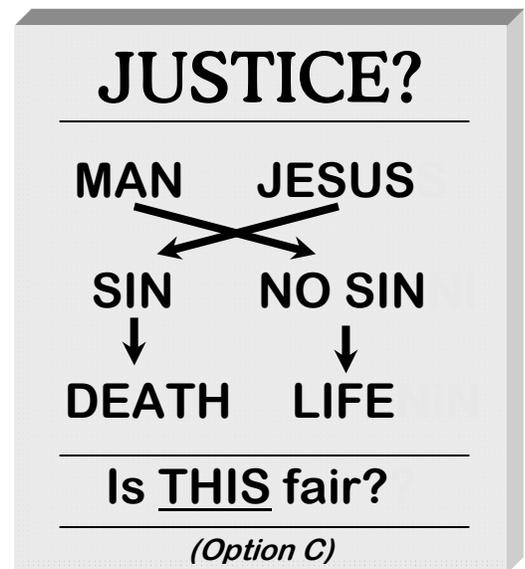
Please read **1 Peter 2:24** very carefully, take your piece of paper, and write the main points. What does Peter say about Jesus' death? It **specifically says** that Jesus **TOOK OUR SINS** on his body at the cross. Now please read **2 Corinthians 5:21** and write the main points on your paper. What 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 THEM** 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.

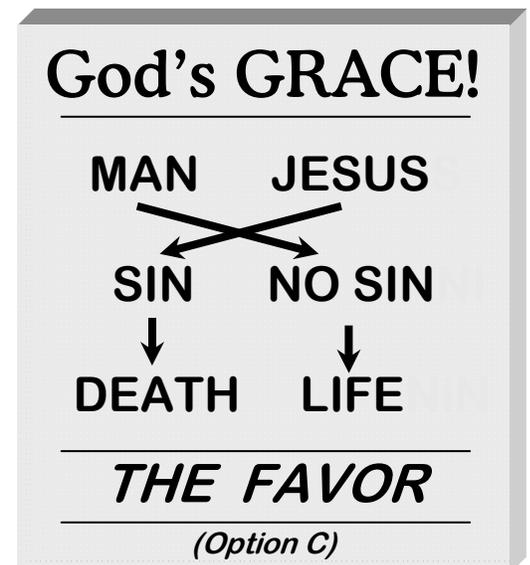
Amazing GRACE!

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**³⁵ 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 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



³⁵ It comes from another ordinary Greek word, **CHARIS** (pronounced **kār'-is**) which simply means an undeserved favor!

saved **BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH.**³⁶ 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.

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

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

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

³⁶ 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!**

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.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
17. Why did Jesus **not remain separated** from his Father when he took the sins of the world on himself?
 - a) Jesus is God and he cannot stay dead.
 - b) The sinless blood in Jesus' physical body paid the price for all those sins.
 - c) His punishment was only to last for 3 days.
 - d) Jesus' sacrifice was not perfect.
18. Which of the following is from **Romans 5:9-11**?
 - a) God so loved the world that he gave his only son.
 - b) Sin makes us separated from God.
 - c) Jesus is a priest.
 - d) We are made right with God by Jesus' blood.
19. TRUE or FALSE: **Ephesians 2:8** says that we are saved **by faith**.
 - a) True
 - b) 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 pay the price for 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**. In the back of this book you will find 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 were asked to come up with at least 5 summary statements that form the basic instructions God has given to man.

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!**³⁷

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**”.³⁸

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.

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ 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 **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 1:13-4** 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.

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.³⁹ However, the phrase, “and anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved”, is actually a quotation from the Old Testament!⁴⁰ 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.

³⁹ Paul uses this phrase in **Romans 10:13**.

⁴⁰ 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.

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 15:1-2**, 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!**

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) birth⁴¹ 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.

⁴¹ 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!

Passages That Speak Of JOINING WITH JESUS

The next section of passages in the list is composed of passages that mention the idea of joining with Jesus. This is also a match for our research because joining with Jesus 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!
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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 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 6:17-18 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 it as God's GIFT by having faith and confessing Jesus!**

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**”?⁴²

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! **Only HE can ADD or TAKE AWAY!**

⁴² 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?

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.

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.

Instructions for joining THE NEW AGREEMENT!

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

Option 3

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

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the **CIRCLE** for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

1. This lesson applies which **GUIDELINES** for Bible study we learned back in **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**?
 - a) Context.
 - b) Looking at ALL material before making a conclusion.
 - c) Partial evidence.
 - d) All of the above.
2. **TRUE** or **FALSE**: If God does not **completely define something** in the instructions, then we are authorized to do it for him.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
3. **TRUE** or **FALSE**: Even though we found **five instructions**, we are authorized to follow only those we want to follow.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
4. The main reason why Paul speaks so much about **FAITH and The Law** in the books of Romans and Galatians is that
 - a) Those are the **ONLY** books that tell people **HOW** to become a Christian.
 - b) Those books deal with the problem of false teachers saying that a person can get forgiveness of sins by doing good things.
 - c) Being right with God is achieved by **FAITH ONLY!**
 - d) All of the above.
5. **TRUE** or **FALSE**: If two instructions are **joined with the word "AND"** then we are supposed to choose one instruction or the other.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
6. **TRUE** or **FALSE**: We found a Bible passage that **specifically mentioned** saying a prayer to receive Jesus as Savior.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.

7. 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".
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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
12. 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.
13. **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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Which passage says that we need to **believe in the Lord Jesus** and we will be saved?
- Acts 16:31
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - None of the above.
19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. Which verse tells us **to be joined with Jesus** to become sons of God?
- Romans 6:3-4
 - Colossians 2:12
 - Galatians 3:26-27
 - All of the above.
24. Which verse says that you **must be baptized** in order to be saved?
- 1 Timothy 4:16
 - James 2:14-26
 - 1 Peter 3:21
 - None of the above.
25. Which verse states that we must **not only hear God's laws, but also DO them** in order to be right with God?
- Romans 2:12-13
 - Romans 4:1-5
 - Romans 10:3-11
 - 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.

- Each and every person **MUST** believe in Jesus.
- Each and every person **MUST** repent of their sins.
- Each and every person **MUST** be willing to tell others that they believe in Jesus.
- Each and every person **MUST** be baptized!
- 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. 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**? 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**.⁴³

⁴³ 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!

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.

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**?

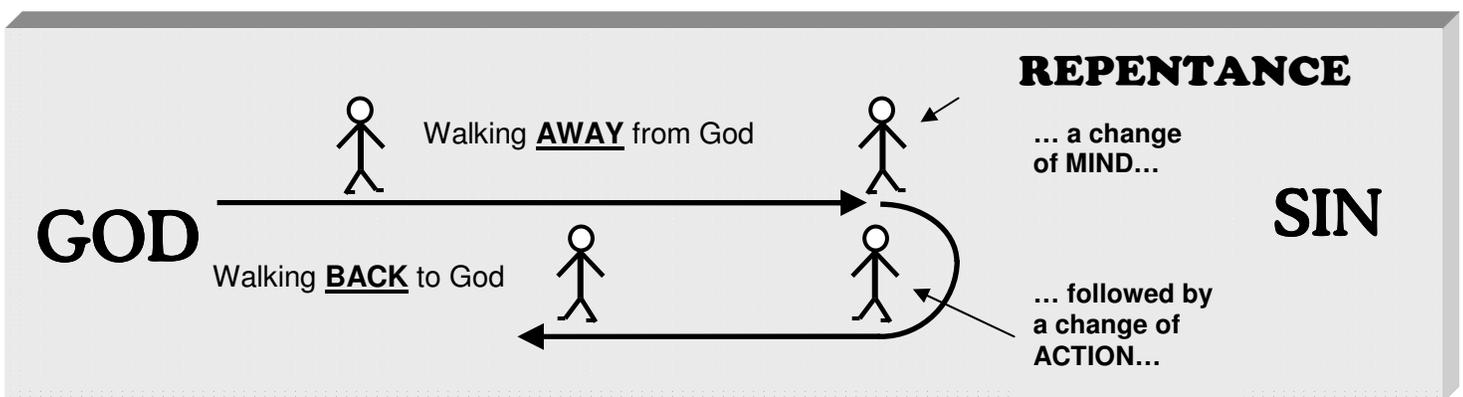
Considering the many strange ideas being taught all around us **about FAITH**, perhaps no other passage **about FAITH** is more important than **Matthew 7:21-23**. Please read this passage, get your paper, and record the main points. This passage summarizes the whole idea very well. Jesus himself points 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 above. 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 **John 12:42, John 9:22, 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.⁴⁴

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´tis-mă**) and the second is the **verb form BAPTIZO** (pronounced **băp-tid´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**.⁴⁵ 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** 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.

Consider the diagram below. Let us say that we start with three simple English words; **WALK, RUN** and **FLY**. Each

⁴⁴ There are other possible examples. **Acts 22:16** records the conversion of Saul (Paul) where he was told to be baptized **"while calling upon his name"** and in **Acts 8:26-40** the Ethiopian official made a statement of confession **before** he was baptized. However, many believe verse 37 was added later and so it does not appear in many of our more modern Bibles of today.

⁴⁵ 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.

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 like manner, 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

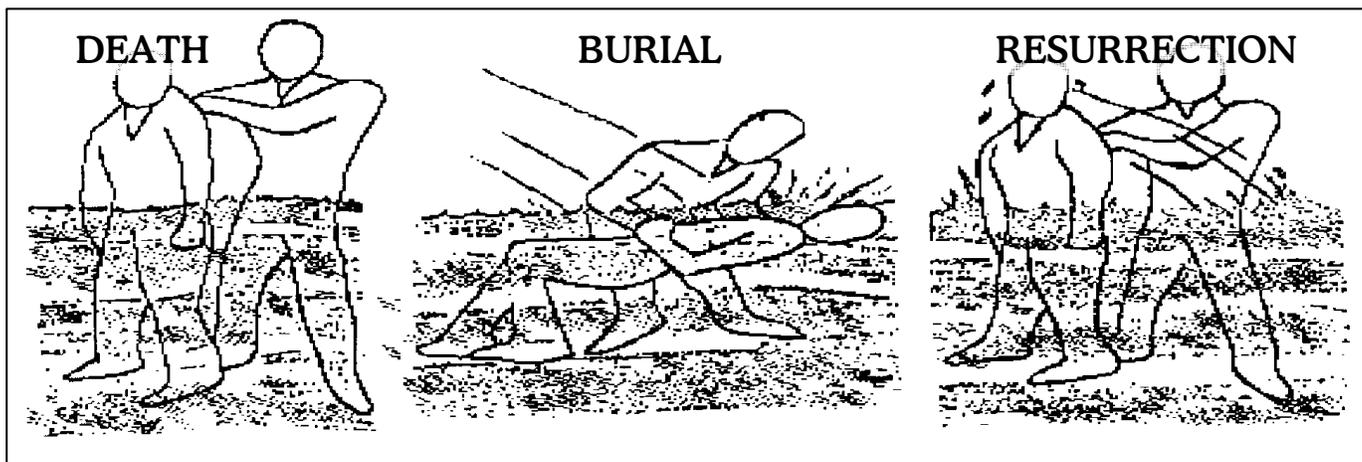
These are **different words** representing **different actions** that cannot be interchanged!

Can we change 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 in the Colossians passage. When a person is baptized, **it is PASSIVE** or something

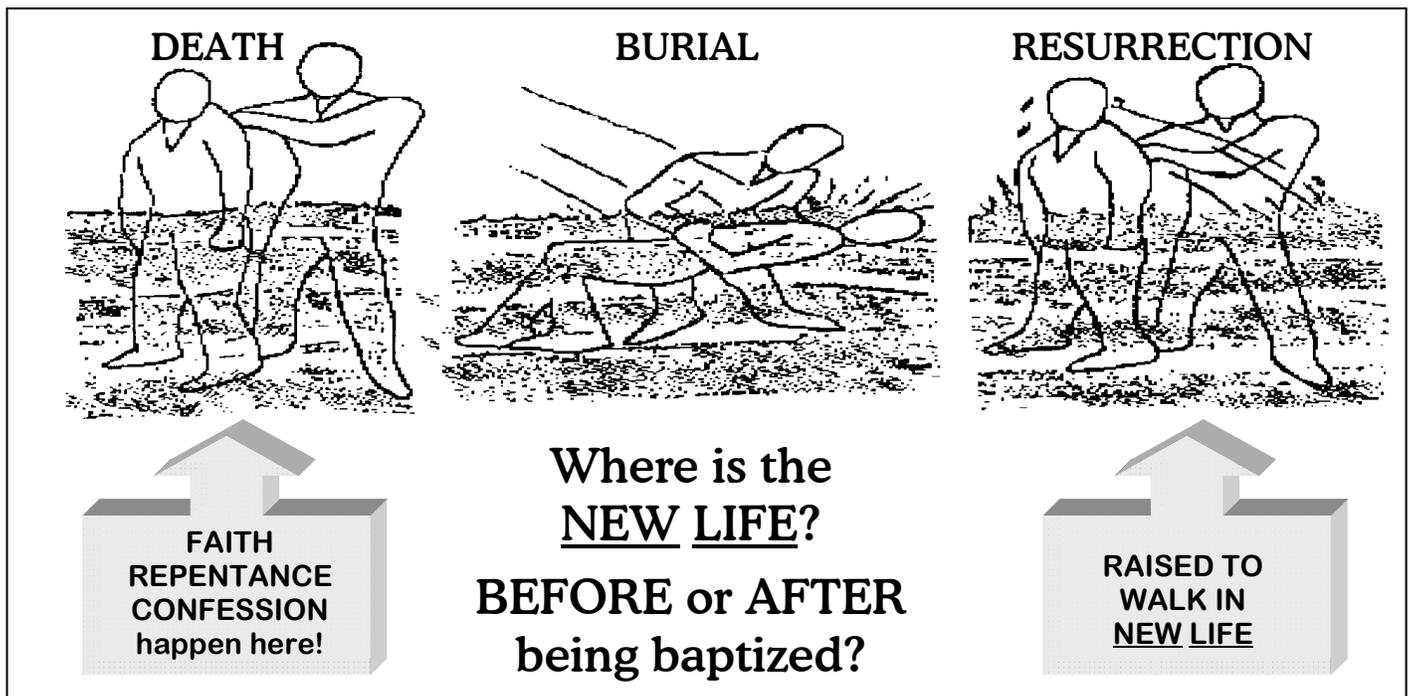
that is **DONE TO** the person, not **DONE BY** the person! A person cannot immerse himself!

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!**”⁴⁶ 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!



Two other passages, which contain 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”,⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁶ Doesn’t this sound a lot like what Jesus was saying to Nicodemus in **John 3:3-5** about being born from above?

⁴⁷ 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!

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 being baptized is that this is what God instructs a person who believes and is sorry for their sins to do to JOIN WITH the only thing which can take those sins away—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 FAITHFUL TO THE END**. The next three lessons will focus on this topic.

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

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the **CIRCLE** for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

1. The passage that gives us what is close to a **dictionary definition** of FAITH is
 - a) John 3:16.
 - b) Hebrews 11:1-6.
 - c) 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - d) 1 John 3:4.
2. TRUE or FALSE: **Until we are joined** with Jesus' death, we still have our sins!.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.

3. TRUE or FALSE: FAITH means only believing in God, and **has nothing to do with works**.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
4. The point James makes about faith in **James 2:14-26** is that
 - a) If a person says that they have faith but do not do something then they are wrong.
 - b) Even the demons believe in God, but they are wrong because they do not obey!
 - c) Abraham was made right with God because he obeyed God and not just because he believed.
 - d) All of the above.
5. TRUE or FALSE: Faith **without works is ok** because only faith saves us.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
6. The main point of **1 John 2:3-6** is
 - a) If a person says they know God but do not obey him then they are a liar.
 - b) A person is lost if they pray to idols.
 - c) Being right with God is achieved by FAITH ONLY!
 - d) All of the above.
7. TRUE or FALSE: Faith is a combination of belief plus action.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
8. The problem with the people Jesus described in **Matthew 7:21-23** is that they
 - a) Were not sincere in their belief in God.
 - b) Did not do enough good works.
 - c) Did not do **the will** of the father!
 - d) Did not give God the credit for what they did.
9. TRUE or FALSE: The **place** where we find the details of God's will is in the Bible.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
10. **Repentance** is
 - a) A change of mind only.
 - b) A change of mind followed by a change of action.
 - c) Believing in God.
 - d) Changing the way you think.
11. The passage where we read an **explanation about repentance** is
 - a) Mark 16:16
 - b) Isaiah 59:2
 - c) Acts 17:31
 - d) 2 Chronicles 7:14.
12. TRUE or FALSE: The **proof** that repentance had happened is in the actions of our life.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
13. The **first stage** of repentance is
 - a) Making a commitment to change.
 - b) Praying for forgiveness.
 - c) Going to church every Sunday.
 - d) Action.
14. The **second stage** of repentance is
 - a) Making a commitment to change.
 - b) Praying for forgiveness.
 - c) Going to church every Sunday.
 - d) Action.
15. TRUE or FALSE: Confession means saying that **we are ashamed** to believe in Jesus.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
16. TRUE or FALSE: Confession is **ONLY** what you say with your lips!
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
17. TRUE or FALSE: We can choose some of the instructions for salvation and ignore the ones we do not like.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
18. The **only correct method** for baptism is
 - a) Sprinkling.
 - b) Pouring.
 - c) Immersion.
 - d) Drinking.
19. The **reason** why baptism is immersion is because
 - a) Baptism requires much water.
 - b) Baptism has to be done in a church.
 - c) Baptism pictures a burial and resurrection.
 - d) Baptism is a religious word.

20. TRUE or FALSE: It is **acceptable** if we change the words God used in his original message.
- True.
 - False.
21. The meaning of **transliteration** is
- Translating.
 - Writing words in one language using the characters of another language.
 - Praying for forgiveness.
 - Reading the Bible.
22. 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.
23. TRUE or FALSE: A person receives NEW LIFE **before** they are baptized.
- True.
 - False.
24. The passage **Mark 16:16** shows a relationship between what **two instructions**?
- Faith and Confession.
 - Faith and Baptism.
 - Repentance and Baptism.
 - Confession and Repentance.
25. 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**⁴⁸, 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 PLEASED**, 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**.

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**.

⁴⁸ 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**.

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 is it a very serious thing to remain faithful to the teachings.

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.

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 that are **the will of the Father!**

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”, 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!

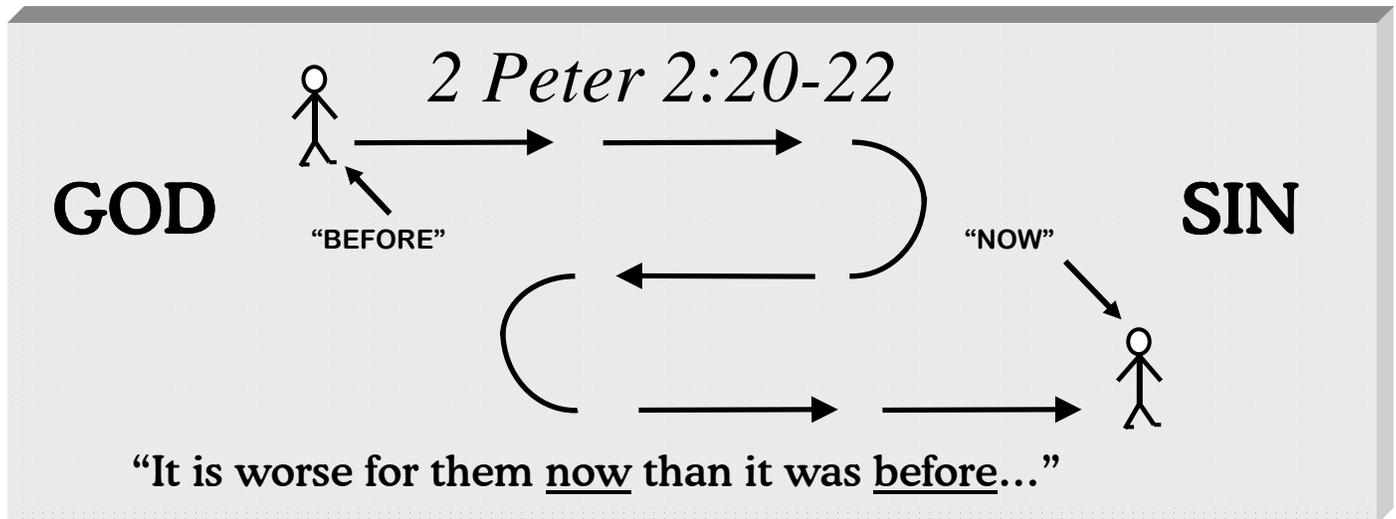
Therefore, we must enter into this relationship with the full knowledge and understanding that while God knows and understands that it will not be easy for us to do, he still demands complete faithfulness and loyalty from each person who receives his grace.

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:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the **CIRCLE** for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

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

5. TRUE or FALSE: Members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** are FREE to do whatever they desire.
- True.
 - False.
6. 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.
7. TRUE or FALSE: Christians in the time of Jesus were **allowed to deny** him in order to save their life.
- True.
 - False.
8. 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.
9. TRUE or FALSE: Once a person is saved, they will **stay saved as long as they remain faithful**.
- True.
 - False.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. TRUE or FALSE: According to **Galatians 1:6-9**, it is **acceptable** for people to change the original teachings.
- True.
 - False.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. TRUE or FALSE: The Bible **contains ALL** the teachings of the **NEW AGREEMENT**.
- True.
 - False.
16. TRUE or FALSE: After a person receives the blood of Jesus, it **does not matter** what they do with their life!
- True.
 - False.
17. TRUE or FALSE: We can be certain that we are accepted by God **IF we do what he says**.
- True.
 - False.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. TRUE or FALSE: God is faithful and **will not** let us be tempted more than we can endure.
- True.
 - False.
21. 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.

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

LESSON NINE

The Rest Of Your Life (Part 2)

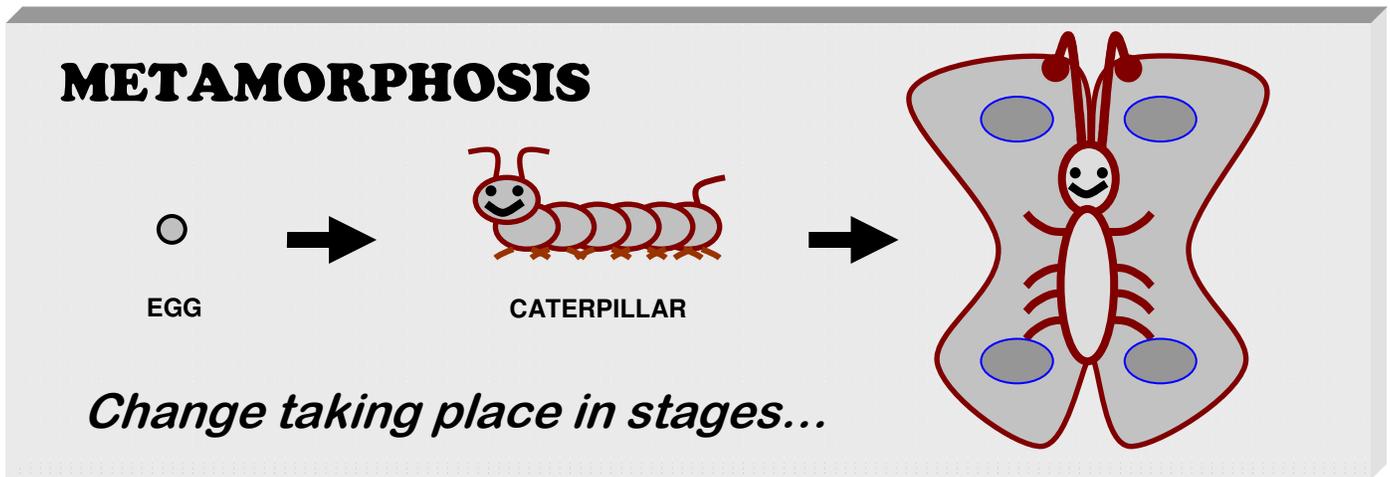
In our previous lesson, we began a search of the material contained within the New Testament that speaks about the topic of **REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE END**. In that study, we focused our attention upon on the **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY** of being a citizen of the Kingdom of God. We discovered the serious reality of God's expectations in the areas of **FAITHFULNESS**, and **LOYALTY**. It is important to remember that these expectations are not more than we can accomplish because God knows our limitation and he is careful to protect us from being forced to do things against our will. **WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE** and so **living faithfully to God involves making good and careful choices!**

In this lesson, we will continue our study by looking at **WHAT** God expects from us if we join the **NEW AGREEMENT**, and **HOW** we can accomplish those things!

IF You Are Not GROWING Then You Are DYING!

Please read **1 Peter 1:22-2:3** and record the main points on your paper. We know that Peter is speaking to people who are already Christians because he refers to them as people who **had their souls purified**, which can only mean Christians! How did these people get their souls purified? They did so **by obeying the truth!** Can this possibly mean anything other than **following the instructions we discovered in Lessons 6 and 7?** No! His next point is that they must fulfill their commitment to change, by putting away all the things in their lives that God does not like, and **GROW!** He tells them that they **must become like newborn babies!** Newborn babies **CRAVE**⁴⁹ milk so that they can survive and so, in the same way, we learn that we must also crave milk if **WE** want to survive and grow! However, context tells us that this milk is not the kind that a person drinks; **it is the message of the Bible!** We are told to **CRAVE THIS MESSAGE** so that we can **GROW UP!** If growing requires us to **FEED** on God's message then Bible study becomes the key to growth, and if we do not study then we will not grow! That is a simple idea that we can understand but **what are we supposed to grow up to be?**

⁴⁹ The word **crave** means to want something very much.



Back in **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**, we saw the answer to this when we studied about the word **METAMORPHOSIS**, commonly used in Biology to represent the life cycles of certain animals and insects. It represents the idea of **change that takes place in stages** and to illustrate the point we used the example of the life cycle of a **BUTTERFLY!** As the diagram at the right shows, a butterfly starts its life as an **egg**. When it hatches out of the egg, does it come out as a butterfly? No, it comes out as a **caterpillar**. This small worm crawls around eating leaves and growing until it gets big, then it goes to sleep in a special house until it comes out as a **beautiful butterfly!** As a butterfly, it no longer eats leaves, but instead drinks sweet juices inside flowers. It no longer crawls from place to place, but flies! Its form and abilities as an adult are very different from what it was just after it hatched from its egg. It experiences major changes as it goes through each of the stages until it reaches the final result, which is nothing like the way it was when it started. This is how growing as a member of the **NEW AGREEMENT** will be!

If you will remember that study of metamorphosis, we looked at **TWO passages** in the New Testament that use this word. One was **2 Corinthians 3:18**, where we found that the **TARGET** of our growth is **NOT** being a butterfly, but becoming like Jesus! The point is simple. **IF** we study about him a little each day, and we copy what we find into our lives, **THEN** we will slowly change to become like Jesus – “from one degree of glory to another!” The second passage we looked at was **Romans 12:1-2**, where we learned more details about the change God is expecting from us. He expects us to **change the way we think**. Back in Lesson 3 of this course, we discussed this matter when we were trying to understand how God could **write the laws of the NEW AGREEMENT on the hearts of people!** We concluded that this means God emphasizes **changing the thoughts**⁵⁰ of people because changing the way people think will bring about a sincere change in their actions.

However, no one can deny that **there MUST be a change of action** in the life of a person in the **NEW AGREEMENT**. Please turn to **Colossians 3:9-11**, and record the main points. Paul writes to people who are already Christians and tells them of the need to **change THEIR ACTIONS**. This fits together with all that we learned about **FAITH, REPENTANCE, and BEING FAITHFUL TO THE END**. Unless we **CHANGE OUR ACTIONS**, then **WE HAVE NO METAMORPHOSIS** and we are **NOT BECOMING LIKE JESUS!** However, changing our thoughts and attitudes is a necessary **starting point** if we ever hope to change our actions!

Change taking place in stages is the LIVING SACRIFICE we must offer to God and it is LOGICAL for God to expect it!

You Cannot Stay In ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Forever!

One of the most interesting and important passages about **GROWTH** is **Hebrews 5:11-6:2**. Please read this passage and record the main points. It is interesting because of the background of the passage. Not only was this written to people, who were already Christians, but they also had been Christians for some time and the writer is upset because they **had not grown**. Notice how he says that “by this time” they should have become teachers, but instead they needed to go back and start over. Then he goes into a discussion about **MILK** and **SOLID FOOD**. Notice how each of

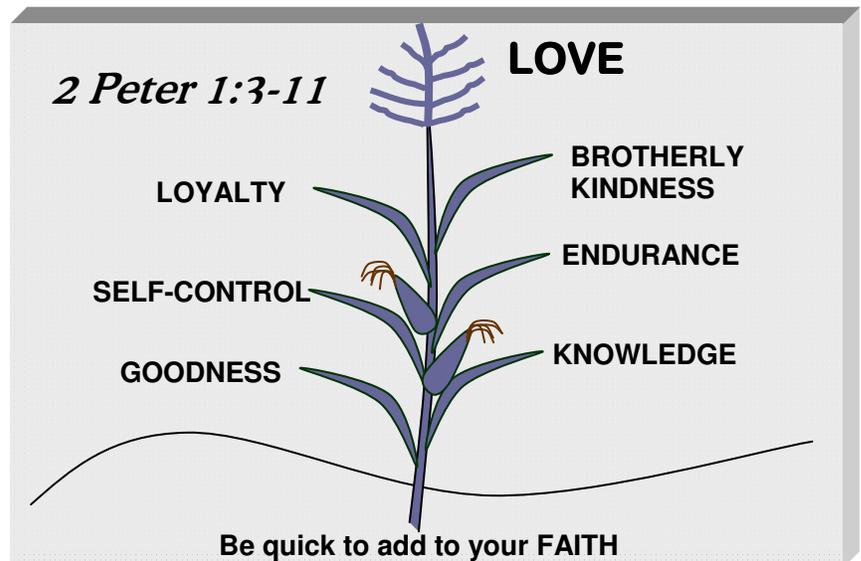
⁵⁰ Review your notes on **Matthew 5:27-28** and **Romans 8:5-8**.

these refers to a kind of teaching. **Milk** refers to **BASIC TEACHINGS** and **solid food** refers to **ADVANCED TEACHINGS**. He closes by encouraging the readers to go on to **more advanced teachings** leaving behind the **“elementary doctrines”** as some Bibles say. Then he gives a list of these basic teachings and please notice how all of the things we have been studying in this course are included in his list. This means that even though we have studied some great things and learned so much, these things are **ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT God wants us to learn!**

What was the problem with these Christians and why did they fail to grow? Look at what the writer says in verse 11. While the wording may sound strange in your Bible, the original language is very clear. He tells them there is much they need to learn, but at some time in the past **they became “lazy to listen” and they are still that way now!** We can understand their problem and the lesson for us is very simple. **IF** Bible study is the key to growth and we become **LAZY** to study the Bible **THEN** we will not grow! Let us never forget that once we enter into the **NEW AGREEMENT** we are under obligation to fulfill our responsibility!

We can easily understand what the writer is saying if we use the example of the difference between **elementary school** and **high school**. Elementary school is the place where we learn the most basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic. In high school, we learn the advanced skills that prepare us for surviving in the world. **We cannot stay in ELEMENTARY SCHOOL if we want to get a good job to support ourselves in the world!** This is what the writer means when he speaks about leaving behind the “elementary doctrines”, so **what are the advanced subjects we must learn?**

Please read **2 Peter 1:3-11** and record the main details. Peter starts by saying that everything God has done for us in his PLAN was done so that we might **SHARE HIS NATURE**. This sounds very much like those places in the Bible where God tells his people that they need to be **LIKE HIM** – **“You will be holy because I am holy!”** Because of this, Peter tells his readers to **make every effort⁵¹ to ADD** to their **FAITH, GOODNESS, KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, ENDURANCE, LOYALTY, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, and LOVE!** He continues saying that **IF** these things are present, and **IF** they are increasing, **THEN THEY will not let any person become USELESS or UNFRUITFUL TO GOD!** However, he also says that **IF** these things are lacking, **THEN** that person has not understood God’s **PLAN** and has forgotten that he or she **accepted the terms of being in the NEW AGREEMENT!**⁵²



His description is similar to the growth of a corn plant, like the one in the diagram on the right. When a corn seed germinates, a single leaf comes out of the ground and then slowly, other leaves are added as the plant grows taller. When the corn plant is fully-grown, a tassel appears at the top of the corn plant and baby ears of corn develop on the stalk below. The pollen from the tassel fertilizes the baby ears of corn and they grow and mature until they are ready to be harvested! We might say that the corn seed is like our **FAITH**. Peter tells us that once that seed germinates we need to **ADD** the characteristics he mentioned in his list. Therefore, the first leaf that comes out is **GOODNESS**, followed by **KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, ENDURANCE, LOYALTY, and BROTHERLY KINDNESS**. Once all the leaves are there, the only thing lacking in our corn plant is the tassel and that tassel is **LOVE!** This **LOVE** fertilizes the plant so that it produces fruit! There can be no corn without the whole plant reaching maturity. In the same way, if we do not put these things in our lives, we will never be useful to the Lord!

⁵¹ The meaning of the original word here includes the idea of **doing everything you can AND doing it as quickly as you can.**

⁵² We cannot forget that the source of our growth is the Bible message. Do not forget **2 Timothy 3:16-17!**

OVERCOMING The Obstacles

We know that **CHANGE** is not easy and earlier in our study we discovered that obstacles are certain to come, and so **HOW are we supposed to overcome them?** Do you remember what we learned from **Matthew 10:34-39**? The first Christians suffered in so many ways. They experienced abuse from family members, from the government, and many faced prison and even death, **just because they decided to accept the terms of the NEW AGREEMENT!** Even though their situation was difficult, we learned that they were told to reject wrong teachings and be **FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH!** Was God requiring too much from them? Of course not, because **faithfulness has ALWAYS been the most basic requirement of any relationship.** The fact that being faithful might require a person to leave behind family, or even die, does not excuse unfaithfulness! Did **ALL the ones who were baptized** remain faithful to their commitment? No! Throughout the history of the Bible, has God ever relaxed his requirement of faithfulness? **NEVER!** If this is what God expected from the people living in the Bible, **he expects that same thing from us!**

HOW then, were the people of the New Testament able to remain faithful in the face of such difficulties? How were they able to die rather than deny Jesus? How were they able to leave behind husbands, wives, children, and go to their deaths when all they would have to do to live was deny Christ when the police asked if they were Christians? Please read **2 Corinthians 5:14-17** and record the main points. Paul speaks of **being CONTROLLED by the love that Christ had for us.** He speaks of **being CONVINCED** that Jesus forgot about his own needs and **helped us**, and now **WE** should think just as Jesus did! **REMEMBERING CHRIST'S LOVE MOTIVATED THOSE PEOPLE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD!**

Please read **Matthew 10:28** and record the main points. This is an amazing passage because of the context and because of what it says! Jesus is speaking about dealing with things and people that oppose a person's effort to follow God and to make his point very clear, Jesus states that a person who wants to follow him should never be afraid of anyone who might say or do bad things to him or her. Instead, he says that we should be afraid of the one who can kill us and then throw us into **HELL!** Who is this that Jesus tells us to be afraid of? **It is HIS FATHER!** The early Christians were **CONVINCED** who God was and that he punishes unfaithfulness! **THIS helped them have the courage** to do what had to be done to remain faithful!

However, the **REASON FOR THEIR SUCCESS** was something that we learned at the beginning of this course. Please read **Romans 5:3-11** and record the main points. We **KNOW** that temptation will come into our lives but we **ALSO KNOW** that God will never allow us to be tempted more than we can bear. Paul tells the readers that when they are tempted they need to think very carefully about their choices and realize that **IF** they endure **THEN** they will grow stronger and this strength will help prepare them for future temptations! However, please do not be confused. This strength only comes if a person does not sin!

Without a doubt, it is important for each individual Christian is **TO SERVE AND OBEY GOD** and **there is NO EXCUSE** for giving up no matter what happens! God's expectation will never change, but **we KNOW** that he is not asking too much because we read in the Bible about many people who had faith, trusted God, and did whatever he told them to without hesitation and without concern for consequences!

Perhaps more than anything else, the fact that God promises we will never receive a challenge to our commitment that we cannot overcome is the greatest reason why **any person who wants to CAN BE FAITHFUL!** However, aside from **1 Corinthians 10:13**, does God offer any other assistance? **YES, there is MUCH more!**

God Gives Us A FAMILY!

If we look back into the various teachings of Jesus we find that **God's PLAN** contains other details that are meant to help us succeed in being members of the **NEW AGREEMENT.** Please turn to and read **Mark 10:28-31**, get your

HOW THEY ENDURED:

- They understood the demands of the contract!
- They were controlled by Christ's love!
- They remembered God's promise regarding temptation
- They knew it was suicide to go against God!

paper, and record the main points. Notice how Jesus describes the difficulties we discussed in our previous lesson. The reality of **LOSS** is something each person must struggle with throughout their life, however, notice also, what Jesus says a disciple that experiences loss can **receive** in return for their continued commitment. It is very remarkable! He promises that anyone that experiences losses for keeping their faith, **will receive back 100 times what they lost in this life and, after this life is over, HEAVEN!**

Those are comforting words, and most people understand that things will be **MUCH BETTER IN HEAVEN**, but what does Jesus mean when he speaks about **receiving 100 times back IN THIS LIFE?**

The answer can be seen by making a historical study of the **book of Acts**. We begin by looking at **Acts 2:37-47**. Please read this passage and record the main points. This passage provides us with a description of what life was like for the first Christians. The first portion of the passage tells about how the crowds of people listening to Peter were “convicted” in their hearts and how they were instructed to become Christians by **REPENTING** and **BEING BAPTIZED**. The passage also says that **on that one day, about 3,000 people** responded to the message, were baptized, and **were “added” into God’s group of believers**⁵³.

Beginning with verse 42, there is a description of how these people related to one another and notice what a **close relationship** these first Christians had. **They became A FAMILY!** They spent time with one another and they were very eager to share what they had with those in need, even though they were “strangers” to one another before they became Christians!

The needs of these people were not necessarily easy ones to fill, and as time passed, and Christianity spread, these needs became greater and more difficult to fulfill. Because of persecution, many people lost their homes and their way of making a living. At first, persecution came from the Jews, who considered Jesus as a fraud and anyone who followed him as a traitor to God! Many Christians were disowned by their families just because they believed in Jesus! This happened just as Jesus said that it would!⁵⁴

How were these new Christians to survive? They survived because in his **PLAN**, God instructed his children to take care of any of their Christian brothers and sisters who might have a need! This shows that each individual Christian, combined together with every other Christian, is used by God as a tool to fulfill his promise of assistance to those who suffer loss because of their commitment to Christ. The church is the fulfillment of what Jesus meant when he spoke about disciples who experience loss **gaining HUNDREDS of mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers!**

As the church began to spread outward from Jerusalem, the idea of the church being a “family” spread with it. Please read **Acts 4:32-37**, get your paper and record the main points. We see the same thing happening here that we found in Acts chapter 2. Once the church expanded outside of the city of Jerusalem the practice of Christians helping one another also spread. When the church spread to new countries, it always carried the **same FAMILY attitude!**

Several years later, the persecution in Jerusalem became so great that the church there could not satisfy all of the needs of the Christians living there. When we read **1 Corinthians 16:1-4** we discover that an appeal was sent to the Christians living in other countries to help the church in Jerusalem provide assistance for the needs of these Christians. The main point seems to be that **whenever and wherever a Christian has a need, the other Christians are called upon to do whatever is necessary to meet that need!** In every generation, from that time onward, this is a very important part of being a member of the **NEW AGREEMENT** because when Christians join together to help other Christians, they are helping God fulfill the promise he made through Jesus in **Mark 10:28-31!**

SUMMARY For This Lesson

A very good summary passage for all we have seen so far is **Hebrews 10:19-31**. Please read this and record the main points. It tells us that since God has done so much for us, **we must hold on to our faith, we must find ways to help one another continue loving and working for God**, and **we must NOT SIN DELIBERATELY because if we do then we will lose everything and “fall into the hands” of the living God**, which is a phrase often used in the Bible to refer to someone receiving a fair punishment for bad things they did.

⁵³ This “group of believers” is what other passages in the New Testament refer to as “the church”.

⁵⁴ **Matthew 10:35-39**

We can understand what the writer means when he says that we should be very afraid to be punished by God because **we KNOW** what he will do to those people he punishes! Therefore, we must be careful in the decisions we make. We must be active in our faith! **We must GROW!** We must study so that we will increase our understanding of what God wants us to do. As our understanding changes, our actions will also change! More than anything else, **we must be LOYAL** to God, to the promise we made when we stood in the water of our baptism. **God is always LOYAL to us** in every promise he makes! With the family he gives us, **there is no reason why we also cannot be just as loyal to him!**

ENDURING TO THE END

requires:

- **CHANGE** of mind!
- **CHANGE** of action!
- **GROWTH** through study!
- **RELYING** upon “**FAMILY**”!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 9:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

1. According to **1 Peter 1:22-2:3**, how did the people get their souls purified?
 - a) By saying a prayer to receive Jesus.
 - b) By obeying the truth.
 - c) By praying to the Saints.
 - d) All of the above.
2. TRUE or FALSE: The word **crave** means to want something very much..
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
3. TRUE or FALSE: Peter's point is that Christians do not have to want to grow because it happens automatically.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
4. The word **metamorphosis** means
 - a) Change that happens all at once.
 - b) A disease of the brain.
 - c) Changing into a butterfly.
 - d) Change taking place in stages.
5. TRUE or FALSE: The **goal** of metamorphosis is for us to become like Jesus.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
6. The **two** passage that tells us about metamorphosis are
 - a) John 3:16 and Acts 2:38.
 - b) Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.
 - c) James 2:14 and Hebrews 11:1-2.
 - d) 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 1 John 3:4.
7. The main point of **Colossians 3:9-11** is
 - a) We must stop doing bad things and start doing good things.
 - b) No human can live a sinless life.
 - c) God will forgive our mistakes because we are only human.
 - d) Salvation is a free gift.
8. TRUE or FALSE: The **proof that metamorphosis has happened** in our lives is our good intentions to do good.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
9. TRUE or FALSE: The problem of the people mentioned in **Hebrews 5:11-6:2** is that they did not grow!
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
10. The people of **Hebrews 5:11-6:2** did not grow because
 - a) They were lazy to listen.
 - b) They did not go on to advanced topics.
 - c) BOTH A and B.
 - d) None of the above.

11. TRUE or FALSE: In the lesson material, **elementary school** represents the basic teachings and **high school** represents more advanced teachings.
- True.
 - False.
12. TRUE or FALSE: God gives us his grace so that we will **become like him!**
- True.
 - False.
13. The passage that tells us about the “**rules**” for temptation is
- John 3:16.
 - Hebrews 11:1-2.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - 1 John 3:4.
14. TRUE or FALSE: God **automatically ADDS** goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, loyalty, brotherly kindness, and love to our faith.
- True.
 - False.
15. Christians in the New Testament **stayed faithful** because
- They were controlled by the love Jesus had for them.
 - They were convinced that going against God was not an option!
 - They remembered God’s promise regarding temptation.
 - All of the above.
16. TRUE or FALSE: God **does not** expect the same loyalty from us that he did the first Christians in the New Testament.
- True.
 - False.
17. TRUE or FALSE: God’s promise regarding temptation is the **only help** he gives us for being faithful to him.
- True.
 - False.
18. The main point of Jesus in **Mark 10:28-31** is
- Anyone who loses something as a result of being faithful will receive back more than what they lost.
 - 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.
19. TRUE or FALSE: The people in **Acts 2** who became Christians received Jesus **by saying a prayer**.
- True.
 - False.
20. The book of Acts records **that in the New Testament time God’s church**
- Was just like a family.
 - Took care of each other.
 - Spent a lot of time together.
 - All of the above.
21. TRUE or FALSE: Many of the early Christians lost their homes **because they could not make payments to the bank**.
- True.
 - False.
22. The **PLAN** that God made to take care of his children that would suffer losses states that
- Other Christians should take care of those with needs.
 - They should go begging on the streets.
 - They should collect assistance from the government.
 - None of the above.
23. TRUE or FALSE: According to God’s **PLAN**, Christians are only responsible for taking care of other Christians **living in their own town**.
- True.
 - False.
24. God’s **group of believers** is also called
- The Roman government.
 - The Jews.
 - The church
 - The Pharisees
25. If we read about the church in the early chapters of the book of Acts, one of the **most noticeable things** we find is that
- They were all Jews.
 - They spent a lot of time together.
 - They were not very kind to each other.
 - They never met on the Sabbath

LESSON TEN

The Rest Of Your Life (Part 3)

In our research into the **FIFTH instruction** for receiving God's grace, **ENDURING TO THE END**, we have found that we must **GROW**, and that this growth happens **IN STAGES** as we try to become more like Jesus every day. We learned that the changes God wants must begin with our **WAY OF THINKING**, but that it must also show itself in a **CHANGE OF ACTION!** The Bible is our resource for change because it contains all of the instructions for the **NEW AGREEMENT**. We discovered that keeping our commitment of loyalty will not be easy and that people who are close to us now may one day become enemies because of Christ. However, God has not left us to bear these burdens alone because he has provided us with a family to take care of us if we need it. **This family is Christ's BODY – his CHURCH – and God joined us in that FAMILY when we were baptized!**

In our third part of this series of lessons, we will look deeper into what the CHURCH is and see what we can find as far as descriptions of teachings and practices.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Almost everyone has heard of THE CHURCH. We began our journey talking about the fact that there are **more than 41,000 CHURCHES in the world today!** If you ask, most people will say that **the CHURCH is the PLACE people go to worship or pray.** Many will also say that **the CHURCH is the PLACE where God's presence lives on the earth.** Are these things taught in the Bible? Are they **TRUE?**

If we study about **the CHURCH** the first and most important thing we will discover is that **the CHURCH IS NOT a PLACE!** You will not read any Bible passage **in the NEW AGREEMENT** saying that **"going to church" meant going TO A BUILDING!** You will also not find any passages saying that the first Christians were **"going to church" in order TO WORSHIP!** Finally, there are no passages saying that **the CHURCH is the place where God lives!** All of these beliefs were started **BY MEN** who, whether sincere or not, **ADDED these teachings into original Christianity!**

If we look deeper into this matter, we **DO** find a very interesting passage. Please read **Acts 17:24-25** and record the main points. The context is very important. Paul is in Athens, Greece and is speaking to the people. They were very religious, but believed in many false gods. They had constructed many temples and altars for their gods to live in. Paul found one altar that was made "For The Unknown God." He told the people that **THIS was his GOD** and then he revealed **TWO very important facts about his GOD** to the people. First, he told them that **his GOD does not live in buildings made with human hands!** (verse 24) Second, he told them that **his GOD does not need any help from men!** (verse 25)

The modern idea that **the church is "God's house"** comes from human reasoning. It **seems NATURAL** for men to think that **GOD needs a PLACE to live.** We see evidence all over the world in every generation and in almost every religion that when man thinks he has found a god, he must make a place for him to live. Otherwise, the god might become angry and do bad things to people. However, the idea that the God of the Bible lives in a house could also be an attempt to bring forward from the **OLD AGREEMENT** things we find concerning God and the way he related to his people. After all, **WE KNOW** that in the Old Testament God commanded the people to make for him a special tent, which Solomon later changed to a marvelous temple. **We also KNOW** that God's presence stayed in that house and the people went there to pray and to "worship". People today could easily reason that **IF** this was how God did things in the **OLD AGREEMENT**, **THEN it SURELY MUST BE** how he will do things again in the **NEW AGREEMENT!** Unfortunately, **WE ALSO KNOW VERY WELL** that we cannot reason things according to **what SEEMS RIGHT TO US!**⁵⁵ We do not have the **AUTHORITY** to make assumptions and so **we must study God's NEW AGREEMENT and see what we find.** It may be the same as in the **OLD AGREEMENT** or it may be different!

⁵⁵ Do not forget what we learned in the beginning of our studies from **Proverbs 14:12!**

God's EKKLESIA

Every time we have encountered a topic, we have found answers by going back to the original language and looking at the meanings of words. We need to do the same for this study.

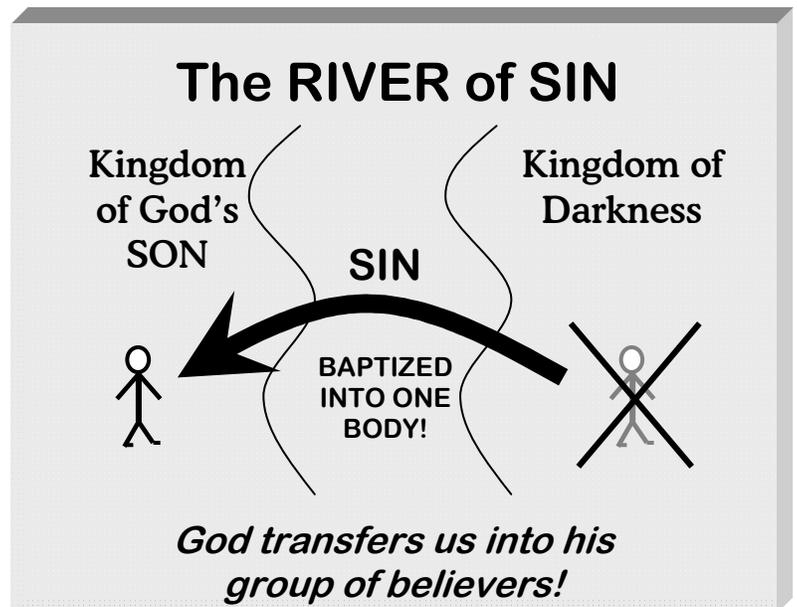
When you hear someone say the word **CHURCH**, you immediately think of religion because this word is only used to refer to a religious place or group. When you see the word **CHURCH** in your Bible, the Greek word that is in the original text is **EKKLESIA**.⁵⁶ It was used every day in the life of ordinary people and meant, "a group of people called together from their homes for a purpose", or "an assembly". Like all the previous Greek words we have studied, this word **WAS NOT** a religious word during the time of the New Testament. The truth of this can be seen in **Acts 19:23-41**. Please read this carefully and record the main points. We find what looks like a town riot that was caused by statements made by Paul regarding the town's idolatry. Verses 32, 39, and 41 use the word **EKKLESIA**, but we certainly cannot call this a church, in the modern religious way we usually think of the word. These people were not **IN A BUILDING**, and they were **DEFINITELY NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR GOD!** They were people who had gathered out of their homes and their purpose was to decide what to do about a "troublemaker" who had come to their town. From the passage, we can easily see that the word **CHURCH** means PEOPLE. It means **A GATHERING OF PEOPLE** or **AN ASSEMBLY OF PEOPLE!**

In the New Testament, we discover that part of God's **NEW AGREEMENT** involves a **CHURCH!** Jesus spoke about it first in **Matthew 16:18**. Please read this passage carefully. Jesus spoke of **building HIS CHURCH** on the rock that was the faith Peter had just shown in his confession.⁵⁷ Jesus was not speaking about a **church BUILDING**. If we apply the definition of **EKKLESIA**, then Jesus was saying that he would build his **GROUP OF BELIEVERS!** It is important to remember that the word **EKKLESIA** in the New Testament means an assembly of people, never a building.⁵⁸

We next encounter the church in **Acts 2:47**, where we discover that the 3,000 people who were first to be baptized, and all the others after them were **ADDED BY GOD DAY AFTER DAY TO THE GROUP OF BELIEVERS!**

Aside from the word **CHURCH** – or **GROUP OF BELIEVERS** – there are several other words and phrases used in the New Testament. Please read **Colossians 1:13-14** and record the main points. Paul speaks of God **transferring us out of the KINGDOM OF DARKNESS into the KINGDOM OF THE SON THAT HE LOVES.**

Several passages speak of the church as **the kingdom**. Please read **1 Corinthians 12:13** and record the main points. This passage is speaking about unity. Paul mentions baptism and says that when a person is baptized, in addition to their being joined with Jesus' death, they are also baptized **INTO ONE BODY**. Paul uses the word **BODY** to refer to **Christ's CHURCH**. He uses the idea of a human body to represent the church, where Jesus is the head and Christians are the rest of the body parts!⁵⁹ The interesting thing we discover in this passage is **the time and place where "God ADDS" people to his church**. God does this when a person is baptized!



⁵⁶ **EKKLESIA** is pronounced **ek-lā-sē'-ā**

⁵⁷ Some people mistakenly teach that Peter was the rock that Jesus built his church upon, but this is not very likely because of the wording of the original language in the verse. Besides that, all other passages in the New Testament that speak about the foundation of the church mention Jesus as the only head or chief!

⁵⁸ The New Testament has a word for "meeting place". The Greek word is **SUNAGOGE** and is pronounced **sūn-ā-gō-gāy'**. Even though the word has a simple meaning, it is **transliterated** (see footnote #45) in our Bibles as **synagogue!** This word usually refers to the Jewish meeting places in the New Testament, but in **James 2:2** the word is used to refer to a Christian meeting place. A **SUNAGOGE** is a place where an **EKKLESIA** could gather.

⁵⁹ You can see this in **Ephesians 1:22**.

BAPTISM not only puts us in contact with Christ's blood, but it also is the place and time that God puts us in his church!

A Family SPENDS TIME TOGETHER!

Most passages in the New Testament refer to the church as being **GOD'S FAMILY**, and as God's family, Christians are supposed to live, work, and serve the Father of this family **together!** **PARTNERSHIP** is an important part of the Christian life. As we already know, **A CLOSE FAMILY** is a successful and happy one. Unity among his followers was a great concern of Jesus and, without a doubt; **the closer Christians are the more unified they will be!**

If we survey all the passages that speak about the early church, one thing we see repeatedly is the fact that **they spent MUCH time together.** Please read **Acts 2:41-47** and record the main points. We learn that the practice of spending time together was something that these first Christians were taught **by the apostles.** In this early stage of development, the Christians **met every day** in the Jerusalem temple and in their homes, where **they shared each other's food and hospitality.** Notice how the passage mentions that these first Christians **DEVOTED THEMSELVES to certain things that the apostles taught.** As long as every member of the church submitted themselves to these things there would be unity, harmony, togetherness, and a caring, sharing attitude - just as God had planned. This spending time together seemed to strengthen their relationship and it motivated them to make personal sacrifices in order to care for the needs of their brothers and sisters.

As the church expanded outside of Jerusalem, **IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL Christians to continue meeting daily in Jerusalem.** Although we do not have much information about the meeting practices after the church spread out from Jerusalem, we do have several passages that need examination.

Please read **Acts 20:7.** Here we encounter a situation where the wording and context show that the Christians in that place were **in the HABIT of meeting on the first day of the week – or SUNDAY.** Paul was traveling and decided to meet these people **in their assembly** and he spoke to them because he was planning to leave the following day. Evidently, Paul took advantage of what seems to have been a **habitual meeting time** to speak to these Christians. This is evidence that the Christians set aside Sunday as a special day for Christians to assemble together.

Please read **1 Corinthians 16:1-2.** This is another passage that mentions Christians **assembling together on Sunday.** We find a situation where **new instructions** were being given to the Christians living in the town of Corinth, and that Paul also gave these same new instructions to the Christians living in Galatia.⁶⁰

The new instructions were concerning a special collection of money that was being organized to help struggling Christians back in the city of Jerusalem. If we look carefully at these instructions, we find that it was very logical to suggest that they take up their collection of money **EVERY first day of the week IF they were already meeting together on THAT day!** The fact Paul mentions "**EVERY** first day of the week" **is evidence** that it was their habit to meet together on Sunday. The fact that Paul gave the **SAME INSTRUCTIONS to the Christians LIVING IN GALATIA would ALMOST CERTAINLY have to mean that they were ALSO meeting EVERY first day of the week.**

God's CHURCH

- **HIS GROUP OF BELIEVERS!**
- **"APOSTLES' TEACHINGS"**
- **SPENT TIME TOGETHER!**
- **CARED FOR EACH OTHER!**
- **SUNDAY ASSEMBLY!**

From these two passages, we have good evidence that there **WAS a habitual meeting of Christians** in each place and that **this meeting took place on the first day of the week – or SUNDAY!** There are no passages in the New Testament that mention any other day of the week when Christians habitually gathered together. Therefore, even though the evidence is small, it is easy to understand and this explains why almost every "Christian" group today has a weekly assembly on Sunday.

⁶⁰ Please remember that **Galatia** was a geographical region, in what is now the modern nation of Turkey, that contained several towns that evidently had churches in them.

The Lord's Supper

In order to learn more about these Sunday gatherings, we will look for information about what activities the early Christians did when in their Sunday meetings. While it is not so clear how consistent certain practices were, one practice they had stands out and was referred to as “**The Lord's Supper**”. Please read **1 Corinthians 11:17-32** and record the pain points. Paul **first** speaks about his readers “meeting together as a church”—which context indicates was most likely a reference to the Sunday assembly. Careful analysis shows that he found two problems in their meetings. The first was a problem with **unity**. The second, which Paul goes into more detail about, has to do with this activity known as “**the Lord's Supper**” and in dealing with this issue he brings out several points that teach us about the Lord's Supper. We learn that the Lord's Supper is an activity where Christians assemble as a group and individually eat small portions of unleavened bread, which **symbolize Christ's body** that was sacrificed for sins, and then they drink small quantities of wine, which **symbolize Christ's blood** that was shed for sins.

Paul continues saying that the Lord's Supper is a way for Christians to **REMEMBER the death of Jesus**, to proclaim that death to the world, and to make a self-examination to see how each person is doing in their commitment. **The Lord's Supper is a TOOL that God has given to help keep both the individual Christian and the whole church going forward in the right direction.** From what Paul says, we learn that it is not an ordinary meal, that it is important for everyone to eat it together at the same time, and - if abused – it is something that will make God very upset.

The roots of the Lord's Supper can be traced back to **Matthew 26:26-29**, where we read about what many people know as the “Last Supper”. This event was actually a record of Jesus and his disciples celebrating the Jewish **Feast of the Unleavened Bread**, which was part of the annual **Passover Celebration**. The purpose of this festival was to remember what happened in the time of Moses when God freed Israel from Egypt through the 10 plagues. The participants ate a special meal together of bread that was made without any yeast. This is why it was called the “feast of the **UNLEAVENED** bread”!

Lord's Supper

- **REMEMBRANCE!**
- **PROCLAMATION!**
- **EXAMINATION!**

“Do this to remember me!”

The Lord's Supper was a part of the early Christian assemblies and, when practiced correctly, served as a unifying point based upon a common knowledge (of Christ as Lord), a common experience (baptism into the death of Christ), and a common struggle!

Collecting Money

A very common practice in religion today is the collection of money during the Sunday assembly. Many religious groups even impose the Old Testament practice of **TITHING**⁶¹ upon their members. The first thing you need to know is that **there IS NO passage** commanding members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** to **TITHE!** As we discovered earlier in our studies, God wants Christians to take care of each another and if that requires money then they should collect money and use it to help those with needs.⁶² The main instructions that people today say speak about collecting money in the **NEW AGREEMENT**, are found in Paul's letters to the Corinthians. However the Corinthian people received these instructions several years **after** they became Christians and since the Christians at Corinth were taught the same things as the new Christians in other places, and since we have seen that taking care of the needs of fellow Christians in one's place was part of the earliest teachings of the apostles, then it would be difficult to imagine that the Corinthians were not **ALREADY** taking care of any needs that the Christians **IN** CORINTH might have. All other Christians in all other places were doing this according to what we read in the book of Acts.

In **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**, Paul gives instructions concerning collecting and storing up money for helping needy Christians **living in Jerusalem**, which was very far away from Corinth. We looked at this passage earlier and found that these instructions were the same ones that he gave to the churches that were in Galatia. A logical reason why he might have told them to do this collection on Sunday was that **they were already in the habit of meeting on Sunday!**

⁶¹ This was a practice that God gave to Israel as part of their **AGREEMENT**. They were to give 10% - a tithe - of everything they had. These tithes were collected by the Levites and used to support their people because the Levites had no way to make a living for their tribe because God gave them no land! Their job was to serve God and so **HE supported them** through the collection of the tithes from their countrymen.

⁶² Remember what we learned from **Mark 10:28-31**.

Collecting Money

- **NEED BASIS!**
- **WHENEVER NEEDED!**
- **NOT FORCED!**

“God loves a person that is happy when they give!” 2 Corinthians 9:7

It was therefore reasonable to suggest that each family bring their contribution with them to the assembly, **collect it there AT the assembly**, and hold it in one place so that when Paul arrived he would not have to go from house to house all over town collecting each family’s contribution. He could simply go to one place, get the money, and then be on his way.

Evidently, the Corinthians made a commitment to help but did not keep it because in **2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9** Paul is disappointed that they had not done what they said they would do. He encouraged them to complete what they said they would do. In neither letter does Paul specify any amount or percentage, but simply tells people to do

WHAT THEY HAD DECIDED IN THEIR HEARTS and that giving **IS NOT FORCED**, and **SHOULD NOT BE DONE WITH PAIN IN THE HEART**, because God loves a person that is **GLAD** when they give!⁶³

Giving money is necessary **WHENEVER THERE IS A NEED** for money to help others! It is NOT a command that we give something every Sunday just to have a collection! The instructions of **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** were **NEW** because they related to something these Christians had never encountered before, helping with a **FOREIGN** need that was to be shared by **ALL** Christians living in **ALL** countries, through a **SPECIAL COLLECTION** that would be picked up by Paul and taken as quickly as possible back to the ones who needed it so badly.

In all the passages where giving takes place in the **NEW AGREEMENT**, there is **NEVER** a set amount, or percentage, demanded nor is there an “authorized time” for the giving to take place! It is regulated only **BY THE HEART** of the giver and **THE TIME OF THE NEED** and God expected the giver to give only what he or she committed to give and to give it when they committed to give it! Do not forget that God uses these commitments of giving to fulfill his promise⁶⁴ of support for his children who suffer loss because of keeping their commitment of loyalty to him! This is what collecting money is supposed to be about!

Encouraging One Another

One of the main purposes for the Sunday assembly is for Christians to strengthen and encourage one another. **1 Corinthians 14:26-40** gives us a picture of the activities those people did during their assemblies. Please read this, get your paper and record the main points. From what Paul says, we know that when these people came together in their assembly they sang songs, listened to people teach lessons, and people who had special gifts from the Holy Spirit did miraculous things. Notice that Paul did not command the people to do any of these activities, but instead told them that whatever they did **1)** should be for the purpose of building people up, **verse 26**, **2)** should be done by the men, **verse 34**, and **3)** should be done in an orderly way, instead of everyone doing whatever they wanted all together at the same time, **verse 40!** These three guidelines **should help US** determine what activities should be done in our assemblies today.

Another passage that helps us understand the purpose of the Sunday assembly is

Hebrews 10:23-25. Please read this passage and record the main points. One of the main points here is that people were encouraged **not to miss attending the assembly**. The reasons mentioned indicate that the assembly is to be a

Assembly Activities

- **SHOULD BUILD UP!**
- **SHOULD BE LEAD BY MEN!**
- **SHOULD BE ORDERLY!**

“We should not quit meeting together, that’s what some people are doing...”

⁶³ See 2 Corinthians 9:7.

⁶⁴ Remember Mark 10:28-31.

time when Christians meet together **TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER** in their struggles. The original language here is interesting because it speaks of “stirring one another up” to love and good works. The phrase “stirring up” is actually based on a Greek word that means, “to agitate someone”, or “try to start a fight with someone”. This was very necessary during that period of history because without the continual encouragement from others, individuals who faced hardships would most likely give up. This same need for encouragement exists today and will remain because as long as time continues then problems and temptations will also continue - until the Lord returns to put them away for the last time!

SUMMARY:

It is not easy to keep the commitment of the **NEW AGREEMENT**. However, God has given several things to help us achieve success. Aside from his promise about limiting temptation, he also gave us **HIS CHURCH**, which is **NOT a BUILDING, but A WORLD-WIDE FAMILY!** In addition, he gave us the Sunday assembly and the Lord’s Supper to help keep us going onward to the goal of faithfulness and IF we all will use these **TOOLS** in the way God intended, there is no reason for any Christian to be lost! However, we must remember that **it IS possible to DO things in a wrong way** and end up causing more harm than good, as we saw in the case of the Corinthians. In the end, **we will be accountable for our participation in the CHURCH** just as we are in everything else!

This concludes our study of the instruction, **REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE END**. There is more that we could study and need to study about these matters, but this is all we need to study at this time in order to see the main point, which is that being faithful involves not only each person keeping the promise of loyalty that each person makes when they stand in the water of their baptism, but also becoming an active part of God’s family—which is **God’s group of believers or his CHURCH!**

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 10:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

1. TRUE or FALSE: When the Bible speaks of the CHURCH it means a place to worship and pray.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
2. The **reason** why we have over 41,000 churches today is
 - a) There are too many languages for just one church.
 - b) People do not follow God’s message correctly.
 - c) Every person has the right to start their own church.
 - d) People cannot agree on one church.
3. The **two possible theories mentioned in our lesson** about why people think God lives inside of the church building were
 - a) Our observations about man’s religious thinking in the world around us and/or people trying to carry over the OLD AGREEMENT temple pattern into the NEW AGREEMENT.
 - b) God said to do it and/or Christ taught it in his message.
 - c) God said to do it and/or the religious leaders give us the pattern to follow.
 - d) People who have heard God’s voice on Sunday and/or they were told by an angel that this is true.
4. TRUE or FALSE: According to what Paul told the people in Athens, God **DOES NOT** live in buildings made by the hands of men.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
5. TRUE or FALSE: According to what Paul told the people in Athens, God **NEEDS** men too help him.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
6. TRUE or FALSE: **Most people today** think that the church is people and not a building.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
7. The word **EKKLESIA** means
 - a) A group of people called out of their homes for a purpose.
 - b) A group of people.
 - c) An assembly.
 - d) All of the above.
8. The Lord’s Supper is a meal where people eat and drink **enough so that they are filled**.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.

9. The passage that uses the word **EKKLESIA** referring to an ordinary group of people is
- Acts 2:47.
 - Acts 19:1-5.
 - Acts 19:23-41.
 - Acts 17:31.
10. When a person is baptized, which of the following happens?
- They join with the blood/death of Jesus.
 - They are added to God's church.
 - They get their sins forgiven.
 - All of the above.
11. The passage where Jesus **first spoke** about building his church was
- Mark 16:16.
 - Luke 22:50.
 - John 1:1-3.
 - Matthew 16:18.
12. TRUE or FALSE: When the Bible speaks of the "first day of the week" **it means Sunday**.
- True.
 - False.
13. **Galatia** was
- A galaxy of stars in the heaven.
 - A geographical region in what is now Turkey.
 - A place where Jesus went many times.
 - A lake in the northern part of Israel.
14. We can tell that the Sunday assembly was a **common practice** in the New Testament because
- We found a command from Jesus telling everyone to meet together every Sunday.
 - We find many examples of the early Christians meeting together on Sundays.
 - Christ changed the Sabbath Day from Saturday to Sunday.
 - Meeting on Sunday was necessary for taking up collections of money..
15. TRUE or FALSE: As Christianity expanded to more and more places, the members from all towns **would come to Jerusalem every Sunday** to attend the assembly.
- True.
 - False.
16. TRUE or FALSE: The Lord's Supper is a **real sacrifice** of Jesus!
- True.
 - False.
17. TRUE or FALSE: In the Lord's Supper, the bread **symbolizes** Christ's body and the wine **symbolizes** Christ's blood.
- True.
 - False.
18. The **Lord's Supper** is an activity for Christians to
- Examine themselves to see if they are making progress.
 - Remember the death of Jesus.
 - Proclaim Jesus to the world.
 - All of the above.
19. In the Lord's Supper, it **is not important** what we think about as we eat the bread and drink the cup.
- True.
 - False.
20. The **reason why** the bread of the Lord's Supper has no yeast in it is
- The bread Jesus used did not have yeast in it.
 - Christians should always copy the patterns of what was used by the Jews in their religion.
 - Bread with yeast is more expensive.
 - Yeast was not yet invented at that time.
21. The practice of people **giving 10%** in the Old Testament was called
- Transubstantiation.
 - Tithing.
 - Praying for forgiveness.
 - Reading the Bible.
22. The **purpose** of tithing was
- To make the people sacrifice for God.
 - To forgive Original Sin.
 - Buy animals for the sacrifices of the people.
 - To provide support for the Levites.
23. TRUE or FALSE: Giving in the **NEW AGREEMENT** is **based upon the 10% rule of tithing**.
- True.
 - False.
24. The **basic rule about giving money** in the **NEW AGREEMENT** is
- That people should give only the amount they have decided to give.
 - That people must give what they say they will give.
 - That giving is based upon NEED!
 - All of the above.
25. The **purpose** of the Sunday assembly is
- For Christians to spend time together getting to know each other better.
 - For Christians to encourage and strengthen each other.
 - For Christians to remember the death of Jesus.
 - All of the above.

LESSON ELEVEN

The LORDSHIP Of Jesus: Man Of The Bible (Part 1)

When we began this journey, at the start of **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**, we spoke of the fact that in the world today there are some 41,000 plus different “Christian” religions and that no two groups teach the same things! Now that we have completed our study about how God used Jesus as the instrument to bring into existence **HIS SCHEME OF REDEMPTION**, it is time to examine the situation of the 41,000 and see if we should be happy or sad with it.

The answer to the problem can be found by looking at one final picture of Jesus given in the Bible! This picture will settle the matter once and for all time!

Back in Lessons 7 and 8, we studied many examples of people becoming Christians in the time of the New Testament. One of these examples was of a Gentile soldier named Cornelius. Peter was told to go to this man’s house and teach him about Jesus. Please turn back to **Acts 10:34-43**, and read the speech Peter made to the people in Cornelius’s house. In **verse 36**, Peter made an interesting statement about Jesus. The thing that makes it interesting is that Peter stopped in the middle of his original thought, inserted the statement, and then continued with his speech. Many Bibles place the statement inside parentheses () – which is usually done to show that the words inside are completely separate from the main idea the speaker is discussing. However, it is also important to note that when someone does this, the point they are **ADDING** is usually an important one. What was so **important** that Peter would interrupt himself to make certain that these people heard? Peter wanted these people to know that Jesus Christ, **IS LORD OF ALL PEOPLE!**

Another passage we want to look at is **Romans 14:9**. In Romans 14, Paul is writing to Christians about being tolerant and patient with each other in matters where God does not say what should be considered right or wrong practices in their lives. He tries to get them to stop judging one other in these matters, and to convince them, he speaks about the fact that no Christian belongs to himself or herself any longer. In the middle of this, he says that Jesus died was raised out of the dead so that he might be **the LORD of BOTH THE LIVING PEOPLE AND THE DEAD PEOPLE!**

Aside from these, many other New Testament verses speak about Jesus being **the LORD** and this was a very important teaching in original Christianity, but what does it mean? **What IS a LORD?** Was this simply **a title** for Jesus?

What IS A LORD?

Once again, we must begin our search for answers in the Greek language of the New Testament. The word **LORD** comes from the Greek word **KURIOS**⁶⁵. As with all the other Greek words we have studied, this one was not a religious word, but was used in everyday life and it had a very simple meaning. It meant, **an absolute owner**, and it was used to describe people who owned things, like property or houses or animals, but it was also used to describe **PEOPLE WHO OWNED OTHER PEOPLE!** Another English word we could use is **MASTER!** The opposite of a **LORD** would be a **SLAVE!** Slavery was very common in the ancient world and in the time of the New Testament, there were **two basic classifications** of people in the world. Either you were **A FREEMAN** or you were **A SLAVE!**

People living in that time had a certain understanding of the word **LORD**. **We do not have this understanding today because SLAVERY IS RARE in our world!** Because of this, when we read and say, “**Jesus is LORD**” it may not be clear to us **how serious the meaning of this statement really is!**

A **SLAVE** was someone who **was OWNED by another person** and so they had **NO FREEDOM** and they had **NO RIGHTS!** They were property! **They were BOUGHT** and they could be sold, they were bred like animals to create more slaves, and their main reason for existing was to work in any way the **LORD** wanted. If a slave was useless or disrespectful then the **LORD** could have them killed! This was how life was for millions of people living in the time of Christ!

“LORD”

- **Absolute Owner**
- **Property/Things**
- **Also of PEOPLE!**

⁶⁵ This word is pronounced **kur’-ē-os**. There is another Greek word that means “lord” or “master”. It is **DESPOTES** (pronounced **des-po’-tās**) – but this word usually focused more on the owner of a house or property, including house and farm slaves!

HOW Did Jesus Become A LORD?

This question has two answers. The first can be easily seen in passages like **Philippians 2:6-11**. Look closely at **verses 9-11**. Paul states that God placed Jesus in a very high place and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus, **every knee will bow and EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!** The point is that since Jesus was completely obedient, even to the point of dying, **his Father MADE HIM TO BE LORD!**

This idea is explained better in another passage we looked at several times in our studies. Please look once more at the speech Peter made in **Acts 2:22-36**. He told the crowd many things about Jesus and at the very end, said that God **MADE JESUS BOTH LORD AND CHRIST!** When the people heard this, they were convicted in their hearts, asked what to do, and were told to **repent and be baptized!** Why did the people react the way they did when Peter told them that Jesus had been **MADE LORD?** These were God-fearing people and, because of their understanding of the meaning of the word in their time, what Peter said meant that **this Jesus that they had crucified OWNED** them and that they were **HIS SLAVES!** That made them afraid! After all, it is not a good thing **when slaves KILL their master!** The result of that encounter was some 3,000 people becoming Christians in a single day!

Therefore, the **first answer** to the question is that Jesus became a **LORD** because **GOD MADE HIM LORD!**

The second answer has to do with the basic meaning of **LORD**. **Every LORD who had slaves PURCHASED those slaves!** Evidence shows that Jesus is no exception. Please read **2 Peter 2:1**. Peter is not speaking about Jesus being **LORD**, but about how false prophets will come in the future. One thing they will do, he says, is “**deny the MASTER WHO BOUGHT THEM.**” This is a definite reference to Jesus **PURCHASING people** to become their Lord!

Please read **Acts 20:28**. Here, we find Paul speaking to a group of church leaders and in his message, he tells them to watch over the church that the Lord⁶⁶ **BOUGHT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD!** This passage not only speaks of Jesus **PURCHASING people**, but it tells us what he used to pay for them – **HIS OWN BLOOD!**

Therefore, there are **TWO factors to consider** in understanding **HOW Jesus is a LORD**. First, there is the fact that **Jesus is LORD because HIS FATHER MADE HIM TO BE LORD!** Second is the fact that **Jesus is LORD because HE BOUGHT US WITH HIS BLOOD!** Either way, **JESUS IS A REAL LORD!**

What Does It Mean?

From what we saw in the passages we read, **the word LORD** was a very strong word in that time and when people heard it they paid careful attention. People today are much less concerned. In fact, for many people, the word **LORD** is simply a religious term that applies to Jesus. For many, it is **JUST A TITLE!** However, **LORD is NOT simply a TITLE for Jesus.** It is a **description of WHAT he is!**

JESUS IS THE ABSOLUTE OWNER OF EVERYONE!

As we have traveled along, we read **Matthew 7:21-23** several times in our studies. Jesus said that **not everyone who called him LORD** would enter into the Kingdom, but only those who would **OBEY the will of his Father!** In a later study, we also came across **Luke 6:46**, where Jesus asked the people why they **called him LORD** but **DID NOT DO what he said!** These passages show that **Jesus IS A LORD** in the true sense of what a **LORD was** in the time of the New Testament! “**LORD**” is not simply a title of respect for Jesus! **He OWNS US and therefore he COMMANDS US!** The people in the New Testament time understood this very well. We must understand it if we hope to one day live with him in his Kingdom!

Jesus IS LORD!

- **APPOINTED!**
- **He BOUGHT us!**
- **Lord of the LIVING!**
- **Lord of the DEAD!**

Jesus is ABSOLUTE OWNER OF EVERYONE!

⁶⁶ Some ancient copies of the New Testament have the word “God” here instead of “Lord”. The strength of the evidence is such that it could go either way! However, if it is “God” or “Lord”, **we KNOW** that the blood used to **purchase the CHURCH** came from Jesus when **HE died!**

Religious UNITY!

It is now time to return to the matter of the 41,000 “Christian churches” existing in the world today. Is **THIS** what **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** wants, or is it what **MAN** wants? Is **GOD** pleased with this? After all, this is what really matters! Man may rejoice at the situation, and “Praise God” for all the people who are “coming to faith” but let us not forget **Matthew 7:21-23** and the rest of the warnings we found concerning people changing God’s original teachings! None of the people that Peter, John, and Paul referred to as false teachers in the church **THOUGHT of themselves** as false teachers! **THEY THOUGHT of themselves as Christians!** Remember that before Paul became a Christian, he **THOUGHT** he was a sincere and dedicated servant of God when he thought that Christ was a “fraud” and anyone claiming to be “a Christian” should be punished. Therefore, just because many religious leaders today **THINK** the situation, with so many churches is **GOOD** does not mean that it **IS** good! We need to study about this matter and see what the **NEW AGREEMENT** says about the topic of **UNITY**.

Our time is not unique. Maintaining unity was a big problem in the time of original Christianity. It is difficult for people to submit completely to a **LORD** who is not physically present, so that he can continually restate and enforce his law upon all of his slaves. In addition, the natural desire of each person to have their own way takes some time to change, and if people in the church are stubborn about studying, as they should, then the problem of maintaining the unity God wants becomes **even more difficult!** However, just because there were problems with unity in the time of original Christianity does not mean that it is impossible to have this unity! **UNITY under the one LORD is mandatory!**

UNITY under ONE LORD!

- ONE Church
- ONE Spirit
- ONE Hope
- ONE Faith
- ONE Baptism

ONE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL!

Please read **Ephesians 4:1-6** and record the main points. Paul is writing to people that are already Christians and he begins by describing himself as a **slave of the Lord**. Then he **encourages**⁶⁷ the readers to **walk the way God “called them” to walk**. He clarifies this **WALK** by stating that it should be **with humility** and **with meekness**⁶⁸, while **being patient with each other IN LOVE!**⁶⁹ He then continues by using that same word Peter used in our “Corn Plant Diagram” - **MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE!** The fact that Paul speaks as he did must indicate that there was a problem of unity in that place!

As we continue through **Ephesians 4**, Paul gives the list of **seven (7) points of unity!** He says that there is **ONE body, ONE Spirit, ONE hope, ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, and ONE God!**

We have very little difficulty accepting the fact that there is only **one SPIRIT, one HOPE, one LORD, and one GOD**. Even in its present divided condition, the religious world agrees almost completely upon these matters. However, this same passage also teaches that there is only **one BODY, one FAITH, and one BAPTISM**.

We discovered in previous lessons that Paul often uses the word “**body**” to refer to “**the church**” and so we must therefore agree that **there is really supposed to be only ONE CHURCH!**

We also must recognize that since the Bible speaks of only “**one FAITH**” then it does make a difference what we believe, what we practice, and what we teach! Only a faith that is based upon the teachings of the Bible is to be considered “**the ONE faith**”.

⁶⁷ This word can also mean, “**warn**”.

⁶⁸ This word means “power under control”, and carries the idea of self-control!

⁶⁹ It is important to point out here that when the Bible mentions “**love**” it usually means “**DOING what is best for another person regardless of how you feel about them**”. This is very different from what most of us think of when we hear the word **love** because we usually think of love as a warm emotional feeling for someone. However, this **IS NOT** what the word **love** in the Bible means. “Love” in the Bible is what many people call “**AGAPE** love”. They call it this because the most common Greek word for **LOVE** in the New Testament is **AGAPE** (pronounced **ă-gă-păy**). This love is **SHOWN BY ACTION** and is done regardless of how a person feels! It has almost nothing to do with emotions! (For two very good illustrations of this idea please read **Romans 5:8** and **Matthew 5:43-44!**) This is the **LOVE** Jesus had for mankind and it is **this Love** that should motivate us to want to be united with him.

Can the "**ONE baptism**" mean anything other than the one we studied in **Romans 6:1-4** and all the other passages, and the one we found being received in **EVERY example** of people becoming Christians in the Book of Acts?

Uniting ourselves to Christ and **living under his authority** will bring us into that same "one faith" and "one body" that the first Christians had. However, we must remember that this "faith" is not something that a person can determine simply by having a **FEELING of confidence and security in their heart**. It can only be proven by our complete and honest submission to the will of God. No passage better illustrates this point than our "old friend", **Matthew 7:21-23**. Remember that Jesus spoke of **many** who were very religious, who possessed supernatural powers, and who **felt very secure** about their faith. However, remember how shocking it was to hear him say that those people will not enter into heaven, not because they were **not active enough**, or **not sincere enough**, or **did not do enough** good things. These were not the reason why they were rejected. His point was that they did not do **THE THINGS that the Father wanted**. Considering this, we must conclude that having a good heart and doing good works are only important **IF we commit our efforts to doing THOSE THINGS that God wants** and **THIS can only be achieved IF we study and follow EXACTLY what the Bible says!**

*It **DOES** make a difference what we **BELIEVE**, **TEACH**, and **PRACTICE**!*

"So That They All MAY BE ONE"

There has never been a greater need for this **UNITY** than today. Religious confusion grows and unity is not something we see very much of. Shortly before he was crucified, Jesus prayed to his Father. Please read **John 17:20-21** and record the main points. Here is perhaps the **strongest statement of UNITY** to be found in the **NEW AGREEMENT!** Jesus not only wants **UNITY** for his disciples **who lived during that time** but also unity **for all generations of disciples in the future!** Our generation **IS INCLUDED!**

What **IS** this **UNITY** Christ wants? Look carefully at the last portion of the statement. Jesus asks that the unity he shares with the Father will be extended to his followers! **He wants Christians to JOIN THAT UNITY!** This sounds very much like the "**SHARING GOD'S NATURE**" that Peter spoke of in **2 Peter 1:3-4!**

Notice also that there is a **REASON** why Jesus wants **THIS UNITY!** "So that **THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE** that you sent me." If Jesus is the **LORD**, and his followers are not unified under his rule, then **HOW WILL THE LOST WORLD COME TO FAITH?** After all, **A LORD who cannot control his slaves gets NO RESPECT!** The world ignores them! However, **IF all of Christ's SLAVES are unified under his rule then the world cannot ignore HIS authority!**

Therefore, if God wants everyone to be united (or to "**be ONE**") then how can there be so many religious groups in the world today? We have Catholics, Protestants, "Born Again" groups of every kind, Evangelicals, Charismatic groups, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a wide variety of groups that are not so well known. If the different names are not confusing enough, we also will find that while **all of them CLAIM to follow God** they accept different teachings and very often oppose each other **while CLAIMING** to be united with Christ! From our point of view, this is very confusing, and, considering the prayer of Jesus above, one has to wonder if Jesus is really **IN CHARGE** of the situation!

Some CAUSES Of Religious Division

Before we can accomplish unity, the causes of disunity must be determined and then removed.

Perhaps the greatest cause of disunity is the widespread IGNORANCE of God's word. When people stop studying the message of the Bible, they become dependent upon following what others tell them to think and do. This can make a sincere person the unknowing target of false teachers who promote the teachings of men. Many good and decent people are unable to distinguish between truth and error because they simply do not know what the Bible teaches, or how to study the Bible! Unfortunately, some people simply do not see any need to study things for themselves, while others believe that a **daily READING** of the Bible is **the same as STUDYING!** Remember that in a learning situation, reading your lesson and studying your lesson are two very different things! If you do not know what the Bible teaches then how can you determine if what your religious leaders tell you to do is correct, and how can you know what the Bible teaches if you do not study it?

Another cause of disunity are the **DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS of the Bible found in religious groups today**. In Lesson 4 of **Jesus: Man Of The Bible** we learned that **interpretation** means to **explain something ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN OPINION**. One does not have to think very hard to realize that the dangerous part of this definition is the one that refers to the influence of personal opinion upon the explanation. Because different people might look at a situation in entirely different ways, it is possible for two people to look at a single passage from the Bible and come to different (even opposing) **interpretations**. If there are two opposing conclusions then common sense tells us that both cannot be correct. This explains how we can find different groups today, each one perhaps even reading the same passage of the Bible, coming up with **different** explanations. We should work to discover the exact meaning of the teachings of the Bible and never compromise truth for what we or someone else might **THINK!** Our opinions do not matter, but only what **GOD SAYS** matters!

Causes of DIVISION!

- Ignorance
- Interpretation
- Traditions

Another cause of disunity is the **introduction of human traditions and practices**.⁷⁰ There are many practices seen in religion today that cannot be found in the Bible and yet many people accept and follow these teachings as if they are genuine. In most cases, men who lived hundreds of years ago created these practices and they have been taught and practiced by people for so long now that they are assumed to have come from God. Of course, not everything being taught in the religious groups today is wrong, but there are many teachings in religion today that can only be traced back a few hundred years. This is a very important point when you consider that Jesus and his Apostles lived two thousand years ago! Therefore, if a certain religious teaching can only be traced back a few hundred years, how can anyone say that **IT WAS PART OF ORIGINAL CHRISTIANITY?** If we are to maintain the unity that Jesus prayed for then we ought to be able to trace our teachings back to the time of Christ! **If you and I cannot distinguish between man-made teachings and the true teachings from God then we may be sincerely following a religion that may seem sincere and may make us feel good inside but in fact is leading us away from Jesus!** This is a very serious and dangerous thing to consider!

This people honors me with the lips, but their heart is distant, far away from me, and their devotion to me is USELESS BECAUSE THEY TEACH COMMANDS OF MEN FOR THEIR TEACHINGS. Mark 7:6-8

If we compare the various teachings found in the 41,000 religious groups in our world today, we find that no two groups teach exactly the same things. However, if each group were to surrender its traditions and “creeds”, and unite with Christ on the teachings of the Bible, then the unity for which Christ prayed **could become possible! After all, Christ has ONLY ONE SET OF TEACHINGS and IF EVERYONE FOLLOWED THEM there would be UNITY and ONLY ONE CHURCH!**

In an attempt to achieve unity, some religious leaders have suggested that all existing religious groups today might combine into one very large group, with each smaller group keeping its own teachings and name. This would be **union**, but **NOT unity!** Unity implies **a common thinking, a common action, and it demands a common submission to Christ AS LORD!** This could not be true with a union because no single group would want to give up its individual beliefs and practices. Therefore, we would be left with the same confusing religious picture we already see in our world today, and **the LORDSHIP of Jesus would be reduced to ONLY BEING A TITLE!**

THE SOLUTION: Let The ONE TRUE LORD RULE!

The only solution for the situation in religion today is for people to **LET THE LORD JESUS RULE IN THEIR LIVES!** **Every person who claims to be a Christian MUST go back to the Bible**, search for the original message of the **NEW AGREEMENT**, make any changes in their understanding and actions so that they **become MEMBERS OF THAT AGREEMENT**, and then **LIVE in Christ’s ONE CHURCH of which he is the ONLY HEAD!** If that happens, there will only be **ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, and ONE CHURCH**, because that was what Jesus had when he started his rule as **LORD!**

⁷⁰ These are sometimes called **creeds**.

One thing is certain. **We CANNOT REMAIN IN A CHURCH that does not follow the pattern of Christ's church that we see in the Bible.** This is because **JESUS has only ONE CHURCH** and **THAT CHURCH** is the one we find in the Bible. **HIS CHURCH TODAY** must be the same as it was in the beginning of the **NEW AGREEMENT** and every church that **CLAIMS to be HIS, but does not follow HIM, is a fake!** What will he do to them when he returns? Please **do NOT forget Matthew 7:21-23!** Do you want to be with them when he comes? Please **do NOT forget 2 John 1:9-11!**

We Can Be "CHRISTIANS ONLY"

The believers in the New Testament were what we would call **Christians ONLY!** If we desire to be like this today then all we need to do is follow **that SAME "Christianity" they practiced.** We find this Christianity in the New Testament, and if we take the teachings of the Bible as our guide then **we can become "CHRISTIANS ONLY" today!** By separating ourselves from the confusing religious system we live in, it is just as possible for us to be "Christians only" today as it was for the people in the first Century.

Jesus died to become **our LORD** and so **we MUST become his slaves,** in the way the word **SLAVE** was used in the time of the New Testament. We must remember that **we were BOUGHT** and, as slaves, we have no rights or freedoms. We leave that behind in the water of our baptism, where we died! We now live to **SERVE THE MASTER AS HE WISHES** and he wants us to be faithful and productive. We must be careful to grow and we cannot make changes to the Lord's commands! Unfortunately, this also means that **we CANNOT JOIN** in the celebration of the religious world as they rejoice that so many are coming to God,

because what is actually happening is that people are not coming to God! **If they were coming to God there would only be ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, AND ONE CHURCH!** If the **PROOF of faith is in the actions,** then the actions of the religious world condemn it and no person who becomes involved in it can hope to be saved. The only way we can be saved is for us to leave behind the religious world, and **be joined to God's GRACE** through our faithful obedience from the heart to the teachings **we receive from HIM, trusting in HIS works to save us, and committing our lives to change and faithful service in his group of believers,** just as the original Christians did!

If we do this, then we will not be Protestants, Catholics, "Born Again" Christians, Evangelicals, Mormons, or Jehovah's Witnesses. We will be exactly the same thing the original believers were. **We will be CHRISTIANS only AND Jesus will be LORD!** We will have peace of mind because no matter what happens, we have a **FATHER who loves us, a LORD who sympathizes with us, and a FAMILY that will encourage us, and challenge us, and take care of us when we need help!** This all happens because **God made a PLAN** a long, long time ago!

You can be a
CHRISTIAN
without
joining a
denomination!

THIS is TRUE RELIGION!
THIS is the NEW AGREEMENT!
THIS is EXCITING!

Before proceeding, answer the following test questions for Lesson 11:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

- Cornelius** was
 - A soldier.
 - A believer in God.
 - The first Gentile to become a Christian.
 - All of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: Peter interrupted his own speech in the house of Cornelius to say that Jesus is the LORD of **only** the Jews.
 - True.
 - False.
- TRUE or FALSE: **Romans 14:9** says that Jesus is LORD of the living and the dead.
 - True.
 - False.
- The Greek word **KURIOS** means
 - Having a desire to know about something.
 - A title of respect.
 - Absolute owner.
 - All of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: A slave had rights and freedoms during the Bible times.
 - True.
 - False.
- The other Greek word that usually means a house owner is
 - BAPTIZO.
 - DESPOTES.
 - DIKAIOS.
 - EKCHEO.
- TRUE or FALSE: In the time of the Bible, a person was either a **slave** or a **freeman**.
 - True.
 - False.
- Jesus became a LORD because
 - God made him a LORD.
 - He bought us with his blood.
 - BOTH A & B.
 - None of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: Someday, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus **is GOD!**
 - True.
 - False.
- Peters point in **Acts 2:36** was that
 - God had made Jesus BOTH Lord and Christ.
 - Jesus was elected BOTH Lord and Christ.
 - Jesus paid to be BOTH Lord and Christ.
 - None of the above.
- Which of the following **is NOT** a fact we learned about Jesus' Lordship?
 - Jesus purchased us with his blood.
 - Jesus owns his followers.
 - Christians are slaves.
 - "Lord" is only a title for Jesus.
- TRUE or FALSE: If Jesus is our Lord, then we **MUST obey whatever** he says to do.
 - True.
 - False.
- The approximate **number** of "Christian religions" today is
 - Twenty.
 - One thousand.
 - One.
 - Twenty thousand plus.
- The **passage** that gives us the list of seven points of UNITY is
 - Matthew 28:18-20.
 - 2 Peter 1:3-11.
 - Matthew 7:21-23.
 - Ephesians 4:1-6.
- TRUE or FALSE: Paul uses the word BODY to refer to THE CHURCH and so his statement that there is ONE BODY means there is only ONE CHURCH.
 - True.
 - False.
- TRUE or FALSE: Christ has 41,000 churches in the world.
 - True.
 - False.
- TRUE or FALSE: Christ has many faiths.
 - True.
 - False.

18. The word **LOVE** found in the Bible means
- A warm emotional feeling for someone.
 - What you feel for a sweetheart.
 - Doing what is best for someone regardless of how you feel about them.
 - All of the above.
19. TRUE or FALSE: According to the Bible, the **proof** that we have for LOVE for God is our tears!
- True.
 - False.
20. Which of the following is **NOT** a reason for religious division today?
- People always study the Bible to prove their teachings are correct.
 - People often are ignorant of what the Bible says.
 - Teachings of men have been added over the years.
 - People interpret the Bible differently.
21. The point of Jesus in **Mark 7:6-7** is that getting involved in a religion **that has teaching of men**
- Is okay because as long as things are done in the name of the Lord it is acceptable to him.
 - Makes the person's faith useless.
 - Not the best situation, but it is okay.
 - Is okay because Jesus authorizes those leaders to make new teachings.
22. The **solution** to the problem of disunity is
- To make the people sacrifice animals to God.
 - For everyone to go back to the original teachings of Christ in the Bible.
 - Make all groups join together into a UNION!
 - There is no solution because too much has gone wrong.
23. TRUE or FALSE: A person can be a member of the **NEW AGREEMENT** and **stay in a church** that teaches wrong things.
- True.
 - False.
24. The reason why **we cannot be happy** with the 41,000 churches today is
- Jesus only has one church in the Bible.
 - These churches claim to follow, but they do not teach the same things as the original church!
 - The Apostles would never support the idea of many churches.
 - All of the above.
25. When Jesus comes back, **what will he do** to the churches who claim to be his, but do not teach the truth?
- Give them a reward for being so eager to give people the kind of Christianity they want.
 - Send them away because they divided his one church and confused people who were searching for truth.
 - Forgive them and let everyone go to heaven because he is a forgiving judge.
 - All of the above.

LESSON TWELVE

The LORDSHIP Of Jesus: Man Of The Bible (Part 2)

In our previous lesson, we introduced the **LORDSHIP** of Jesus and discovered that **the word LORD** actually means **an absolute owner**. The point of the lesson was that **the LORDSHIP of Christ and UNITY cannot be separated**. Unless we all accept Jesus as our absolute owner and master we will never have unity. On the other hand, unless we have unity how can we truly say that Christ is our absolute owner and master?

In this lesson, we will look at one final part of the **LORDSHIP** of Jesus and the **PLAN** of God.

In past lessons, we saw that God's **PLAN** for the church contains many things that benefit **Christians** who struggle to survive in a very difficult world. These are very important to us all, but there is much more to the **PLAN**. **God wants THE CHURCH to help him reach those who are NOT YET part of his family!**

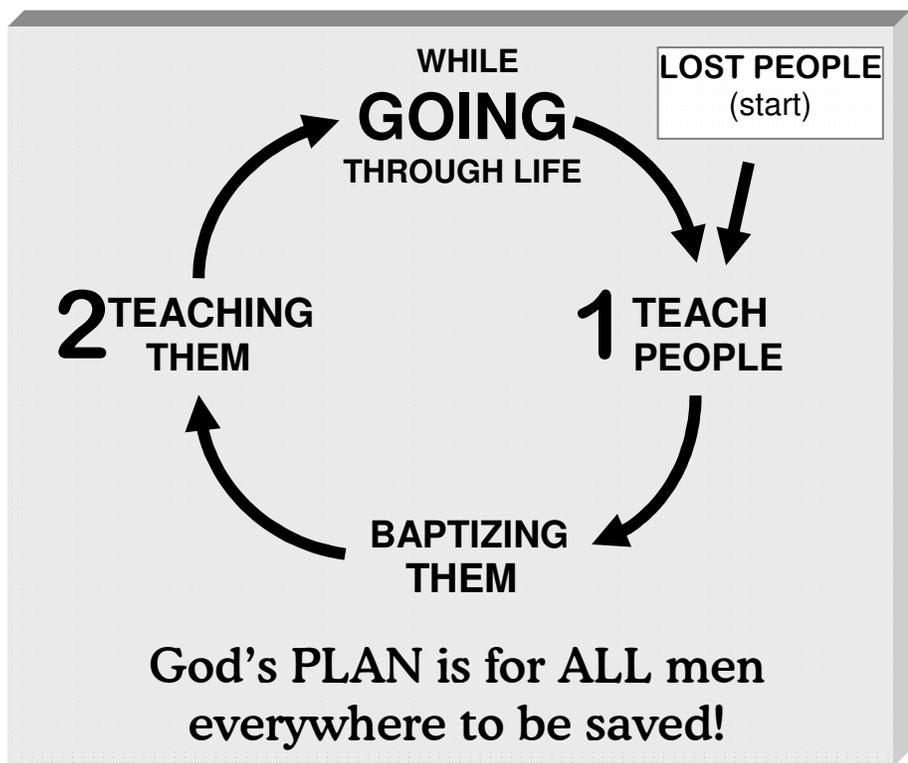
While it is true that Christianity gives a person **REST** from the problems of sin and separation, God is not calling his people to a life of leisure and relaxation. On the contrary, in many of his stories, Jesus spoke about **WORK** that the Father has prepared for his children to do. In fact, just before Jesus left the Earth, he called his disciples together one last time and gave them a **COMMISSION**⁷¹ to carry on the work that he himself started—seeking and saving the lost!

The GREAT COMMISSION⁷²

These words are contained in several passages that are actually different accounts of the same event. Many Bible scholars often refer to this event as the giving of the “**Great Commission**”. The most complete account of this is found in **Matthew 28:18-20**. Please read this passage and record the details. Jesus was speaking to his followers and sending them out into the world to seek out and preach **GOOD NEWS** to lost people.

He told them that **while they were going around** they were to **PREACH/TEACH the Good News** to every creature so that people from all nations might become disciples (learners). Next, they were told to **BAPTIZE** those who **BELIEVED** so that they would be joined with Christ’s blood and be saved! He also told them to **continue teaching those who were baptized to DO ALL THE THINGS** that he commanded them to do.

It is interesting to note that in saying these things, Jesus set in motion a **CYCLE**. The following diagram graphically illustrates this cycle, which by his own words would continue until “**the end of the age**”.



- The starting point is when **lost people** are taught the **GOOD NEWS** by a Christian who is “**GOING**” as Jesus commanded!
- Notice that there are **2 teaching phases** in the cycle!
- **The FIRST** is when a lost person studies “**Elementary School**” topics, which lead them to **BE BAPTIZED** so that they can join with Christ’s blood for salvation!
- **The SECOND** is when they study “**High School**” topics for the purpose of fulfilling their commitment to God and becoming an instrument that God can use to take the message of hope to **more lost people** in the world!
- This will start **THEM GOING**, and the cycle begins again!

Another passage that contains an account of the Great Commission is **Mark 16:15-16**. Notice how this parallels what we found in Matthew almost exactly and by combining the two accounts (as we learned to do from our study of Malchus’ Ear) we get a much better understanding of the Great Commission.

A third account is found in **Luke 24:46-49**, but you will notice how this account concentrates more upon the details of **HOW** the words of the Commission fit into God’s **PLAN**!

⁷¹ A **commission** is a set of orders given to someone to guide them in what they should do. A very common way this word is used today is in the military, where soldiers are commissioned to do certain things.

⁷² The Great Commission is called by this name because many see it as the “**orders**” Jesus gave to his followers before he left the earth.

The Great Commission was the foundation for the work of the early church, just as it was the foundation of Jesus' work while he was alive. In the same way that the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sent his disciples. Many religious groups today use this Great Commission as their reason for sending missionaries, priests, and pastors to teach lost people all over the world. However, many people make one mistake when they study about the Great Commission. They believe that these words were **intended for only a few Christians**—for the “professionals” who have special training and titles—or for those who have been **“CALLED to the ministry”**.

If we examine the history of early Christianity, we will find evidence that helps us see if the ideas people today have are correct. Consider carefully what we find in **Acts 8:1-4**. There was a great persecution and Christians living in Jerusalem had to leave but the apostles remained in the city. This passage says that the **“ordinary”** Christians went from place to place teaching **as they traveled**. It was these Christians, and **NOT** the apostles (the professionals), who first spread the Good News outside of Jerusalem!

Why did these people teach others about Jesus? Why should **ANYONE** teach people about Jesus? This topic was discussed by Paul in the second letter he wrote to the Christians living in the town of Corinth. He gave them several reasons why they should become teachers of the lost people.

Please read **2 Corinthians 5:10-11** and record the main points. **Verse 10** is a statement regarding the Judgment Day and it says that every person must stand before Jesus to be judged and that his judgment will be based upon the things each person did while they were alive. Then **verse 11** makes a very important point **about** this Judgment. It says that since Christians **KNOW** what God will do to people who do not obey him, then **THEY must try to persuade them to change**. **If those people do not become members of the NEW AGREEMENT, they will spend eternity in HELL** and no Christian should want that for anyone. Therefore, Paul shows that members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** must try to convince people to become Christians.

A second reason is given in **2 Corinthians 5:14-17**. Please read this passage and record the main points. Paul begins by saying that the **“love that Christ had for us”** should motivate us no longer to be selfish because Jesus did not die only for us, but for everyone and God is not only concerned with **OUR** salvation, but with the salvation of the whole world! Therefore, we must change the way we think about people and be concerned about them

just as God and Christ are concerned about them. Members of the **NEW AGREEMENT KNOW HOW GREAT IT FEELS TO BE FREE** from the burden of sin and they **KNOW** that God **wants every person living on this earth to experience this freedom!** Every member of the **NEW AGREEMENT** is supposed to be **A NEW CREATURE** with a new way of thinking! Because of this, members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** must try to convince people to change.

A third reason is found in **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**. Please read this passage and record the main points. It begins with a summary point from the previous section. Paul says, “All **this** is from God.” By “this”, he is speaking about the reality of the Judgment Day, the love that Christ had for us, and our changed way of thinking. He then speaks about how **God did TWO things** for each member of the **NEW AGREEMENT**; **1)** God made peace between us and himself, through the favor he did for us, and **2)** God gave to us the work of bringing other people into peace with him, through the Great Commission Jesus left for all disciples! In most Bibles, this phrase, “work of bringing people into peace with him”, is translated, **“ministry of reconciliation”**.

Do YOU Want To Change The World?

You will often hear people refer to the work of the church as **“the ministry”** and preachers, pastors, and priests often speak of how they were **“CALLED to the ministry”**. If you listen to them talk, you will think that only certain people are **CALLED** to the ministry, however, Paul speaks very clear in this passage and gives us a test to use to see exactly **WHO** is called to this ministry! He says that God reconciled us to himself **AND** God gave us the ministry of reconciliation! Notice the word **“AND”** in the passage. This means that these two points are **JOINED** together and cannot be separated! What this means is simple. **IF you have been reconciled to God THEN you have also been given the ministry!** Therefore, **every member of the NEW AGREEMENT is CALLED to the ministry!** They are

Members of the NEW AGREEMENT

- **KNOW** what it means to be **LOST!**
- **KNOW** what it means to be **SAVED!**
- **HAVE BEEN GIVEN** the **“Great Commission”** by God!

called **BY GOD** and he makes his appeal to the world **through his ministers** – through his people! Paul closes with the point that members of the **NEW AGREEMENT** are **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!**

That has always been God's **PLAN!** Every Christian is a "new creature" and **must have a different attitude about lost people.** Paul says that all of this happens **as a result of a CONVICTION down deep in the heart** and that the conviction causes one to think and act in a new way! The only proof that a change of conviction has happened is **IF there is action.** Only when **ALL** of God's people become **ACTIVE** in this "Great Commission" will the lost people of the world be won for Christ!

This is the final "term" in our study of the **NEW AGREEMENT.** Each member must be willing to become an instrument God can use to bring others into salvation! As we learned from **Romans 6:11-17**, each person must use the parts of their body as instruments of **GOD'S JUSTICE**—to live **AS SLAVES OF GOD!** In this lesson, we now add that we **must live as his AMBASSADORS, representing HIS WILL FAITHFULLY TO THE END!**

Does the fact that the religious world is so divided make you sad? Are you frustrated because you yourself were a victim of the confusion until you began studying the Bible? Do you want to do something about it? **You CAN if you want to! YOU can change the world as one of God's children, through the example of your life and through teaching!** After all, look at what one person (Jesus, who was just like us in every way) was able to do!

If you believe in Jesus, are willing to make the commitment to change, are willing to admit publicly that you will follow him, and if you are willing to be immersed in water to be joined with **HIS BLOOD**, which is the only thing that can take away your sins, and if you are willing to remain faithful to your promise of loyalty until the day you die, **THEN WHY NOT JOIN THE NEW AGREEMENT TODAY?** Start your journey to completeness with Jesus as your model and Lord! Join with us in the Lord's church and together we will spend our lives growing and working for God to help others escape the confusion of religion and have the chance to be where you are right now – **having an understanding of God's PLAN, and what he expects of those who accept the terms of his agreement!**

God loves you and Jesus wants you to come to him! **HE DOES** have rest for your soul, and **HE DOES** stand at the door and knocks and **HE WILL** come in and eat with you! **You KNOW everything you need to know!**

However, **YOU** must decide!

You have to open the door and let him in!

***IF you are willing to accept
the terms of **GOD'S AGREEMENT**,
THEN you can **EXCHANGE** your sin
for the blood of **HIS SON!*****

Why not join with Jesus TODAY?

Please answer the following test questions for Lesson 12:

The questions for this lesson work the same as the ones for the previous lessons. Read each question and review the lesson material carefully. Choose the answer that best fits the question and darken the CIRCLE for that answer choice on the answer sheet. Remember to bring the answer sheet with you and turn it in to your teacher. We will grade your answers and record your grade in our records.

- The **GREAT COMMISSION** is the combination of
 - The final statements of Jesus that are recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke.
 - All the teachings in the Old and New Testaments.
 - The books of 1 and 2 Timothy.
 - Faith and works.
- TRUE or FALSE: Being a Christian means that we have **rest from work**.
 - True.
 - False.
- TRUE or FALSE: The **most complete account** of the Great Commission is in Matthew 28:18-20.
 - True.
 - False.
- The **first phase** of teaching mentioned in the Great Commission is
 - "Elementary School".
 - People learning the 10 Commandments.
 - "High School".
 - All of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: The **GOOD NEWS** is the details of God's PLAN we have been studying in our course.
 - True.
 - False.
- The **second phase** of teaching mentioned in the Great Commission is
 - "Elementary School".
 - People learning the 10 Commandments.
 - "High School".
 - All of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: The Great Commission was **only for the original apostles** and **we today are not included**.
 - True.
 - False.
- The Great Commission passage that speaks of people being baptized **in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit** is
 - Matthew 28:18-20.
 - Mark 16:15-16.
 - Luke 24:46-49.
 - None of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: According to God's PLAN, **ONLY the men** are supposed to teach lost people about Jesus.
 - True.
 - False.
- The Great Commission passage that speaks of people **believing and being baptized** is
 - Matthew 28:18-20.
 - Mark 16:15-16.
 - Luke 24:46-49.
 - None of the above.
- The Great Commission passage that speaks of people **being witness of Christ beginning from Jerusalem** is
 - Matthew 28:18-20.
 - Mark 16:15-16.
 - Luke 24:46-49.
 - None of the above.
- TRUE or FALSE: The Great Commission was the **foundation for the work of the early church**.
 - True.
 - False.
- In **Acts 8:1-4**, the **ones who taught people** about Christ outside of the city of Jerusalem were
 - The apostles.
 - Jewish priests.
 - Ordinary Christians.
 - The Pharisees

14. According to the verses we studied in **2 Corinthians**, the reason Christians are supposed to teach lost people about the Good News is
- Every Christian knows what it means to be lost.
 - Every Christian knows what it means to be saved.
 - Every Christian has been called by God to be a minister.
 - All of the above.
15. TRUE or FALSE: The good example of **just one person** can change the world!
- True.
 - False.
16. TRUE or FALSE: **2 Corinthians 5:14** says that **our love for Christ** controls us.
- True.
 - False.
17. TRUE or FALSE: **Every Christian** is a “new creature” and must change the way they think about lost people.
- True.
 - False.
18. The **2 Corinthians 5** passage that speaks of Christians being **ambassadors for Christ** is
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
 - None of the above.
19. **Everyone** who has been reconciled to God has been given the ministry of reconciliation.
- True.
 - False.
20. The **2 Corinthians 5** passage that speaks of Christians being **new creations** is
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
 - None of the above.
21. The **2 Corinthians 5** passage that speaks of people **standing before Christ in judgment** is
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
 - None of the above.
22. The **2 Corinthians 5** passage that speaks of Christians being **controlled by Christ’s love for us** is
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
 - None of the above.
23. TRUE or FALSE: If a Christian is **afraid of being rejected**, he or she does not have to teach people the GOOD NEWS.
- True.
 - False.
24. TRUE or FALSE: The passage that says that it was the **ordinary Christians who started spreading the GOOD NEWS outside of Jerusalem** is **Acts 4:1-8**.
- True.
 - False.
25. TRUE or FALSE: If a person wants to be part of the **NEW AGREEMENT**, they **must be willing** to become a teacher of lost people.
- True.
 - False.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the material for our course **Jesus: Lord Of Our Lives**, which is the follow-up course to **Jesus: Man Of The Bible**. We hope that you have enjoyed this series of courses and they have helped you get a clearer and better understanding of the Bible. We enjoyed having you in class and if you have any questions, or need assistance in any way, please contact your instructor or any of our staff members here at the Bible Study Center.

Do not forget that we offer other courses here at the Center. We highly recommend that you take **What is Real Christianity?** for your next Major Course. Please consider enrolling again next session so that you can continue your journey through the Bible.

Bible Study Center

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

**Student Worksheets
For Lessons 6 and 7**

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

Worksheet 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 classroom 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. The **combination of all the details, AT THE END OF THE PROCESS**, will give us the results we are looking for. Also, please remember to check the wording of the verses in as many different translations of the Bible as you can so that you will limit the possibility of being confused.

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. 7:21-23**
3. **Mt. 18:3**
4. **Jn. 3:3-5**

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 about the idea of “**becoming/being becoming children/sons 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**

G. Passages that talk about “**joining with Jesus**”.

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

H. 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. 6:17-18**
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.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Jesus: Lord of Our Lives

Worksheet for Lesson 7

Recorded Examples Of People Becoming Christians

Who?	Does the passage record what they were told to do?	According to the text, what were they told to do?	Anything else learned from the context?	Were they baptized?	When were they baptized and why then?	Did they say a prayer to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior?
People at Pentecost Acts 2:1-41						
People of Samaria Acts 8:4-13						
The Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-39						
Saul of Tarsus Acts 9:1-19 Acts 22:12-16						

Who?	Does the passage record what they were told to do?	According to the text, what were they told to do?	Anything else learned from the context?	Were they baptized ?	When were they baptized and why then?	Did they say a prayer to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior?
Cornelius the Soldier Acts 10:23-48						
Lydia Acts 16:13-15						
The Jailor at Philippi Acts 16:25-34						
Crispus and the Corinthians Acts 18:8						
The Disciples of John Acts 19:1-7						