Graceful Living
Experience a life of freedom and joy!

Melanie Newton
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Discover who Christ is, what he has done for us on the cross, and our new identity and way of living in him—a life of freedom and joy!

MELANIE NEWTON
We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tim Stevenson who created the original T.E.A.M. Training course upon which the core of this study is based. We also appreciate the many women who served as editors for this study guide—Brenda Sharp, Dawn Paradise, Rita Geismar, Samantha Smith, Lana Schara, Michelle Burns, Hannah Ware, Pat Archer, and Joye Messerli. Without your help, we would never have accomplished this monumental task in a timely manner.

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We pray that you and your group will find Graceful Living a resource that God will use to strengthen you in your faith walk with God.
Melanie Newton

Melanie Newton is a Louisiana girl who made the choice to follow Jesus while attending LSU. She and her husband Ron married and moved to Texas for him to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. They stayed in Texas where Ron led a wilderness camping ministry for troubled youth for many years. Ron now helps corporations with their challenging employees and is the author of the top-rated business book, *No Jerks on the Job.*

Melanie jumped into raising three Texas-born children and serving in ministry to women at her church. Through the years, the Lord has given her opportunity to do Bible teaching and to write grace-based Bible studies for women that are now available from her website (melanienewton.com) and on Bible.org. *Graceful Beginnings* books are for anyone new to the Bible. *Joyful Walk Bible Studies* are for maturing Christians.

Melanie is currently a disciplemaking trainer with Joyful Walk Ministries. She equips and encourages Christian women everywhere to pursue a lifestyle of disciplemaking. Her heart’s desire is to encourage you to have a joyful relationship with Jesus Christ so you are willing to share that experience with others around you.

“Jesus took hold of me in 1972, and I’ve been on this great adventure ever since. My life is a gift of God, full of blessings in the midst of difficult challenges. The more I’ve learned and experienced God’s absolutely amazing grace, the more I’ve discovered my faith walk to be a joyful one. I’m still seeking that joyful walk every day...”

Melanie
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Using This Study Guide

This study guide consists of 11 lessons covering foundational principles of Christianity — who Christ is, what he accomplished on the cross for us, what his resurrection means for us, and our identity in him. As a topical study, the lessons cover a lot of scripture passages. Because of the importance of clearly communicating the truth of our faith in Christ, each lesson contains several paragraphs of teaching interspersed between the questions. If you cannot do the entire lesson one week, please read the teaching paragraphs so you will grasp the main idea of the lesson.

The Basic Study

Each lesson includes core questions covering the passage narrative. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? (Observation: what's actually there)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation: the author’s intended meaning)
- How does this apply to me today? (Application: making it personal) Graceful Living questions are the application questions in this study. These lead you to introspection and application of a specific truth to your life.

Study Enhancements

To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, five additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:

- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- From the Greek/Hebrew (definitions of Greek or Hebrew words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)
- Deeper Discoveries (optional research)

Graceful Living

The core information provided in this study is derived from the T.E.A.M. Training course developed by Tim Stevenson in the 1990s. The heart of the course has remained the same—the message of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ and the reality of “Christ alive and living in me.”

What Jesus offers to his followers is life full of his grace. “Graceful living” is life overflowing with his grace, resulting in freedom and joy!
New Testament Summary

The New Testament opens with the births of John and Jesus. About 30 years later, John challenged the Jews to indicate their repentance (turning from sin and toward God) by submitting to water baptism—a familiar Old Testament practice used for repentance as well as when a Gentile converted to Judaism (to be washed clean of idolatry).

Jesus, God’s incarnate Son, publicly showed the world what God is like and taught His perfect ways for 3 – 3½ years. After preparing 12 disciples to continue Christ’s earthly work, He died voluntarily on a cross for mankind’s sin, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven. The account of His earthly life is recorded in 4 books known as the Gospels (the biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John named after the compiler of each account).

After Jesus’ return to heaven, the followers of Christ were then empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread God’s salvation message among the Jews, a number of whom believed in Christ. The apostle Paul and others carried the good news to the Gentiles during 3 missionary journeys (much of this recorded in the book of Acts). Paul wrote 13 New Testament letters to churches & individuals (Romans through Philemon). The section in our Bible from Hebrews to Jude contains 8 additional letters penned by five men, including two apostles (Peter and John) and two of Jesus’ half-brothers (James and Jude). The author of Hebrews is unknown. The apostle John also recorded Revelation, which summarizes God’s final program for the world. The Bible ends as it began—with a new, sinless creation.

Discussion Group Guidelines

1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You’ll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.

2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to get to know Jesus. He will change your life.

3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.

4. **Respect each other’s insights**. Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative.

5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.

6. **Maintain confidentiality**. Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the group (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).

7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.

8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses, though.

*Enjoy your Joyful Walk Bible Study!*
The Message of God’s Grace

Jesus Christ said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (JOHN 10:10) He said on another occasion, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (MATTHEW 11:28-30)

Jesus Christ presented himself as the answer to every need of the human heart. The New Testament writers unanimously taught the same. Multitudes of people throughout the centuries since have witnessed that he does indeed do what he promised for those who trust and follow him.

How Jesus Discipled Me

I have been a Jesus follower for more than 40 years now. Not once have I regretted that decision. I am a lifelong learner, a student of God’s Word and my Lord’s life. He teaches me in many ways. Recently, someone asked me, “How has Jesus discipled you? What has made the most impact on my life?” When it comes to knowing who I am and where I stand with my God, without a doubt, the best course I have ever taken was T.E.A.M. Training, created by Tim Stevenson and offered through Crossroads Bible Church in recent years. I found that this course effectively covered the foundational principles of Christianity—who Christ is, what He accomplished on the cross for us, what the resurrection means for us, and our identity in him. It communicated clearly and succinctly to me what I needed to know to live dependently on Christ and rest in my assurance of life in him and through him. Through this course, I learned more about the purpose for the cross and the resurrection than I had ever heard before. I learned how to recognize the poison of legalism in a Christian’s life. I also became aware that my flesh is not getting better the longer I know Christ. I need to depend 100% on him now as I ever did as a young believer in the 70s. Hundreds of others also found their lives transformed as they understood God’s grace toward them and active in their lives. They, too, experienced a life of freedom and joy!

Times change; people change; circumstances change. T.E.A.M. Training is no longer being taught. Yet, these truths are essential for every believer to enjoy the life God has planned for her. So, I’ve adapted the course (given as a series of lectures) to a women’s Bible study. The core of the study is based on what was taught in the original course, including many of the charts. I’ve revised a lot of the wording and added information where needed to make the studies flow better.

The heart of the course has remained true to the original—the message of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ and the reality of “Christ alive and living in me.” This study will help you build a foundation for successful, enjoyable Christian living and to equip you for personal ministry to others. All based on “grace.” You will experience a life of freedom and joy!

Importance of the Theology of Grace

It is critically important for women who know Christ to have sound theology (rational, systematic understanding of God). Theology is inescapable. Any thoughts you have about God or information you receive about God is theology. We live according to our theology. Our theology can be based on truth or error. Truth and error lead to dramatically different results. Jesus told those who believed in him, “...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32) If truth sets you free, then the opposite is also true: it is error that binds you.
Jesus Christ invites you to follow him in discipleship—not to imprison you but to give you abundant life and rest for your soul. What Jesus offers to his followers is life full of his grace.

What is grace? In particular, what is God’s grace?

*Focus on the Meaning:* “Transformation takes place in the context of grace. Grace is commonly defined as unmerited favor... an undeserved gift. We understand grace is required for salvation and yet too often, grace is forgotten afterwards. We move into a graceless-centered life and instead tie our spiritual growth to works-based performance. God cannot love us more, and he refuses to love us less. Performance does not earn salvation, love, transformation or spiritual growth.” (Debby Rowe, *The Disciplemaking Ministry Guide*, “Navigate” page 9)

Understanding God’s grace given to you is essential to enjoying the life that God has planned for you. May our “Grace-giving” God completely fill your heart with his grace so that you become a “Grace-giver” in your life. “Graceful living” is a life overflowing with his grace—a life of freedom and joy!

_Melanie Newton_
Lesson 1: Christ, the Grace-Gift

“From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

(John 1:16-17)

Christianity is Christ!

You heard the good news of the gospel and believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God who gave himself for your sins so that you could have eternal life just by believing in him—the Savior. But more than salvation, Jesus Christ calls you into a relationship with himself! Christianity is Christ! It is not a lifestyle, rules of conduct, or a society whose members were initiated by the sprinkling or covering of water. Christ calls us into a close relationship with him as brothers (sisters) and friends.

Yet, he is also our Lord, the one who sits at the right hand of his Father God as head over everything else in heaven and on earth (Ephesians 1:20-22). As Lord, Jesus Christ is our master—the one to whom we should willingly give our obedience. He is our model of how to live as humans in a dependent relationship with God, and he is our mentor in walking with us in that dependent relationship. Jesus Christ calls us to a new life, clothes us with himself, commissions us with a purpose, and empowers us to fulfill that purpose.

Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to make disciples—the very ones who watched him make disciples of them. They saw him do it! They knew what he was commissioning them to do. They experienced that relationship with him that changed their own lives. So, they were willing to bring that experience to the lost, hurting, hopeless populace in their neighborhoods, cities, and destinations. They brought good news that was real, relevant, and life-giving.

Jesus’ disciples 2000 years ago were no different than we are except they physically beheld the risen Christ. We must see him through eyes of faith and allow the gospels to leap off the page revealing our Lord so that we may know this God-man who changed our lives as we received the Good News—Christ. We need to frequently read the Gospels, watch movies based on them, and tell the stories about Jesus as often as needed to know his life well because…Christianity is Christ! Let’s get to know this Christ who is the ultimate grace gift to us.

Day One Study

The claims of Jesus Christ

According to the Bible, God chose to reveal himself to the nation of Israel and, through Israel, to the world. Many truths about God (“attributes”) are taught in the Old Testament. Our God is:

- **One**
- **Infinite**
- **Personal**
- **Eternal**
- **Self-existent**
- **All-powerful**
- **Creator**
- **Spirit**
- **Unchangeable**
- **Holy**
- **Compassionate**
- **All-knowing**
- **Just**
- **Good**
- **Righteous**
- **Love**
- **Merciful**
- **Omnipresent**
- **Gracious**
- **Patient**
- **Faithful**
- **Forgiving**
- **Wise**
- **Sovereign**

If there is anything clearly and relentlessly asserted about God in the Hebrew Scriptures, it is that there is only one true and living God. The Jewish statement of faith is from Deuteronomy 6:4-5:
"Hear, 0 Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is one! Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

God desires man to worship him alone (Isaiah 42:8; 43:10-13). Jesus of Nazareth appeared and issued his challenge within this most monotheistic of cultures. When he came on the scene, Jesus called people to a spiritual relationship with himself and God the Father (John 17:3; Matthew 11:28-30). He claimed to be the answer to the needs of the human heart. Of all the world’s religions, Jesus is the only “founder” who claimed to be equal with God. Let’s see what the scripture says about who Jesus Christ is.

1. Notice what Jesus claims about himself in each of the following sections of John 5:16-47.
   - John 5:16-27—
   - John 5:31-40, 46—

2. Christ made claim to divine rights and authority. What right or authority does Jesus claim in the following passages?
   - Mark 2:1-12—
   - Luke 8:26-33—
   - Luke 17:11-19—
   - John 14:12-14—

3. Jesus claimed preexistence. What do these verses reveal about his preexistence?
   - John 6:32-35, 38, 49-51—
   - John 8:56-59—
   - John 17:5, 24—
Think About It: Was Jesus just a great religious teacher? "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse ...You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, pages 54-55)

Day Two Study

Jesus Christ claimed to possess a unique relationship with God the Father, a unique authority from the Father, and to be the center and goal of the Hebrew Scriptures. He accepted worship, claimed the authority to forgive sins and pronounce judgment, demonstrated authority over demonic powers and claimed the ability to answer prayer.

4. What else did Jesus claim about himself in John 8:28-29, 46?

Scriptural Insight: The innocence of Jesus—Though Jesus was executed by Rome as a state criminal (the meaning of crucifixion), his innocence was repeatedly confirmed by others: Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:4,13-15,22), King Herod Antipas (Luke 23:8-12,15), a crucified criminal (Luke 23:41), and a Roman centurion (Luke 23:47).

   • What position of authority would the promised Messiah hold?
   • What did Jesus claim about himself regarding this position in Mark 14:61-64?

6. Deeper Discoveries (optional): The coming of Jesus Christ into human history was not an event that suddenly burst upon an unsuspecting world. It was the fulfillment of a long line of prophecies that started with the beginning of human history in Genesis 3:15. The arrival of Jesus in human form was planned before the creation of the world (1 Peter 1:20) as well as the mission he was sent to accomplish (2 Corinthians 5:18-20—reconciling the world to God.
   • Some of the most astounding prophecies about Jesus concern his crucifixion. Psalm 22 was written hundreds of years before the life of Christ, yet it contains a detailed description of what took place at the cross. It is interesting to note that the practice of crucifixion was introduced hundreds of years after this prophecy. Read Psalm 22:1-18. List the prophecies from this Psalm that you see fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the gospels.
The book of Isaiah deals more with the person of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, than any other Old Testament prophetic book. Every major aspect of the life and ministry of the Messiah is foretold. The most remarkable part of all of Isaiah's prophecies are the detailed description of Jesus’ suffering and death by crucifixion in our place. Remember that Isaiah was written 700 years prior to the death of Jesus. Read Isaiah 53:1-12. What prophecies from this chapter do you see fulfilled by the death of Christ?

7. **Graceful Living**: Read Matthew 16:13-16. Notice the question Jesus asked his disciples. This is the world’s most important question: "Who do you say Jesus is?" Evaluate the diagram below for your options then declare your response.

- Jesus Christ claimed equality with God.
- **Either** He was not God, or He was God.
- **He was not** God. **He is** God.
- He was not God but **thought** he was. He was not God but **knew** he wasn’t.
- He was a **lunatic**. He was a **liar**.

**What is YOUR response?**

**Day Three Study**

*What others claimed about Christ*

Many modern skeptics say that Jesus never claimed to be God and that the writers of the New Testament never claimed that he was God. It is important that we test these statements against what the New Testament writers did claim about the deity of Christ.

8. Read the following passages to answer the question, “What claims do the New Testament writers make about Jesus Christ?”

- John in John 1:1-3, 14—
- Peter in Acts 2:32-36—
9. The New Testament writers are consistent in their claims about Jesus. What would you conclude about these writers if they knew that he was not God and yet claimed that he was?

10. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. What is claimed about Jesus in these verses?

**Historical Insight:** A Historian’s View of the Resurrection—"There were, to be sure, ways of coping with the death of a teacher, or even a leader. The picture of Socrates was available, in the wider world, as a model of unjust death nobly borne. The category of 'martyr' was available, within Judaism, for someone who stood up to pagans, and compromising no-better-than-pagans, and died still loyal to YHWH (the Hebrew name for God). The category of failed but still revered Messiah, however, did not exist. A Messiah who died at the hands of the pagans, instead of winning YHWH’s battle against them, was a deceiver...Why then did people go on talking about Jesus of Nazareth, except as a remarkable but tragic memory? The obvious answer is the one given by all early Christians actually known to us (as opposed to those invented by modern mythographers). Jesus was raised from the dead.... The resurrection, however we understand it, was the only reason why his life and words possessed any relevance two weeks, let alone two millennia, after his death." (N.T. Wright, Jesus and the Victory of God: Christian Origins and the Question of God, Volume 2)

From the beginning, the church has maintained that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, is Savior and Lord of heaven and earth. Apart from his resurrection from the dead, historians have no feasible theory for the birth and progress of the Church.

11. Read Acts 5:34-39. What advice is given to the skeptical ones back then?
12. **Graceful Living**: Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead according to the eyewitnesses who claimed this truth? How does your faith about this truth influence your life?

**Scriptural Insight**: "The Christian church rests on the resurrection of its Founder. Without this fact the church could never have been born, or if born, it would soon have died a natural death. The miracle of the resurrection and the existence of Christianity are so closely connected that they must stand or fall together. If Christ was raised from the dead, then all his other miracles are sure, and our faith is impregnable; if he was not raised, he died in vain, and our faith is vain. It was only his resurrection that made his death available for our atonement, justification, and salvation; without the resurrection, his death would be the grave of our hopes; we should be still unredeemed and under the power of our sins. A gospel of a dead Saviour would be a contradiction and wretched delusion." (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church, Volume 1*, page 172)

**Day Four Study**

**The God you can know**

A relationship with God must be based on a true knowledge of the God who is (John 4:20-24; 17:3). The Bible teaches that man can know truth about God (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10). God has revealed himself as tri-personal:

- The Bible clearly teaches that there is only one true God.
- From the start of the Christian movement, believers have worshiped Jesus Christ and have spoken of him in terms appropriate only of deity.
- The Bible clearly teaches that there are three Divine Persons, each rightly called God. The doctrine of the Trinity (or "Tri-unity", a man-made label not in the Bible) is a summary of the teachings of the Bible regarding the nature of God. See the discussion of the Trinity at the end of this lesson.

The New Testament asserts that the invisible God can be known through his Son.

13. What does John 14:6-10 reveal about our being able to know God?

**Think About It**: Jesus is our savior and our ultimate grace gift from God!
14. **Graceful Living:** Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6. God invites all men into a personal relationship with himself through faith in his Son Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is who he claimed to be, then **knowing him** is the single most important issue in all of life. If knowing him is the most important issue in all of life, what choice(s) do you need to make in order to grow in the process of knowing him?

**Think About It:** “Today, all sorts of subjects are eagerly pursued; but the knowledge of God is neglected...Yet to know God is man's chief end, and justifies his existence. Even if a hundred lives were ours, this one aim would be sufficient for them all.” (John Calvin)

15. **Graceful Living:** You can have a personal relationship with God through faith in his Son Jesus Christ. Describe the significance of that relationship to you through words (prose, prayer, poem) or any other means (song, art, craft).
The Revelation of the Triune God

The doctrine of the Trinity ("Tri-unity") was formulated by the church after many years of reflecting on the biblical data and after rejecting many inadequate theories. The "problem" answered by the doctrine was created by apparently contradictory assertions:

- Biblical monotheism - the insistence that there is only one true God. *Exodus 20:2-3; Isaiah 42:8; 45:5*
- That *without denying biblical monotheism*, the apostles and early church worshiped Jesus Christ, and honored three Persons as God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14*
- Therefore, outsiders accused the church of falling into either *polytheism* (belief in more than one God) or *idolatry* (improperly worshiping someone as God - in this case, Jesus).

The doctrine of the Trinity was defined after careful Bible study and debate. Since the early century it has stood as an accurate representation of the Bible's teaching: *God is one in essence, three in Person*. The diagram at right is an attempt to picture this.

**Historical Insight:** Church leaders gathered in Nicene (modern Turkey) to verbalize what God revealed about himself: one in essence, three in persons. They wrote what is known as the Nicene Creed.

"I believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary...And I believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified..." *(Nicene Creed, AD 325)*
Lesson 2: Grace-Covered Sin

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29)

Understanding the Gospel Message

The ultimate grace gift came—Jesus Christ. But, why did he come? What was his purpose?

From the time sin entered into mankind’s relationship with their Creator God, the one question that continually demands an answer is, “How can guilty sinful man be made right in the eyes of a holy God?”

Man’s spiritual problem can be compared to death caused by a fatal disease: (1) Sin (“the disease” Romans 3:23—all sinned) and (2) Death (“result of the disease” Romans 6:23—wages of sin). Man’s twofold problem demanded a twofold solution:

- For the problem of sin, man needs forgiveness and righteousness. **Answer:** Christ’s **death** (the cross). Mankind can now be cured of the disease.
- For the problem of death, man needs regeneration (the restoration of **life**). **Answer:** Christ’s **resurrection.** Mankind can now be given life that is forever.

The Gospel message included the answer to both spiritual problems. The following quote by 20\(^{th}\) century Bible teacher, Major Ian Thomas, captures the gospel message in a nutshell.

“Jesus Christ **laid down** his life for you...so that he could **give** his life to you...so that he could **live** his life **through** you.” (Ian Thomas, *The Saving Life of Christ*)

This summary provides our subject outline for the next few lessons. Lessons 2-4 examine what it means that Jesus Christ “laid down his life for you.” Lesson 5 then explains how he “gives his life to you.” Lesson 6 will cover how Christ “lives his life through you.”

The Cross: God’s Solution to the Sin Issue

Day One Study

*God’s holiness & man’s sickness*

Our God is a holy God, meaning he is completely separated from anything that is sinful or evil. There is no sin in him at all. He is perfect. It is a unique part of his character—who he is.

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** (1 John 1:5)

Man is not holy.

1. What is revealed about mankind’s “sickness” in the following verses?
   - Jeremiah 17:9—
   - Romans 1:18-23—
   - Romans 3:10-18—
2. What is God's pronouncement of judgment on man's "sickness" in Genesis 3:19 and Romans 5:12? See also Romans 1:18.

God's response to all evil and sin is righteous, holy wrath (Romans 1:18). We must not project our experience with human anger onto God and assume that "his is the same, only bigger." God's wrath is not a mood or a fit of temper. God's disposition toward sin and evil is as constant and unrelenting as his love and goodness. He hates and rejects evil in a perfect and holy anger. He will never bend or compromise with it. His own nature demands that he judge it through action.

Focus on the Meaning: "Since God's first concern for His universe is its moral health, that is, its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under His eternal displeasure. Wherever the holiness of God confronts unholiness, there is conflict: This conflict arises from the irreconcilable natures of holiness and sin. God's attitude and action in the conflict are His anger. To preserve His creation God must destroy whatever would destroy it. When He arises to put down destruction and save the world from irreparable moral collapse He is said to be angry. Every wrathful judgment of God in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation." (A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy, page 106)

3. Because God is holy, sin must be judged. God prescribed a substitute to pay the penalty for mankind's sin. What are the substitutes in the following verses?

   - Genesis 3:21—

   - Exodus 12:3, 5-7, 12-13—

   - Leviticus 16:3-5—

Scriptural Insight: The purposes of the animal sacrifices prescribed in the Old Testament were:

   - To teach the seriousness of sin.
   - To teach that God is forgiving, but that forgiveness comes only at a price, through the death of an innocent substitute.
   - To serve as an objective aid for man's faith.
   - To provide a place for man to transfer his guilt & receive temporal forgiveness.
   - To point symbolically to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

Forgiveness under the Mosaic Law

People in Old Testament times were accepted by God and received eternal life in the same way as we are today: by faith in the merciful grace of God (though the content of their knowledge was different). For daily living, however, forgiveness was taught and dispensed differently under the Law. Forgiveness under the Law came through "atonement," literally, a "covering." Guilt was "covered" for some undetermined time. Forgiveness under the Law was dispensed in a piecemeal fashion. Forgiveness could be obtained "up to date" but not given in advance. Forgiveness under Law was at best temporary."
4. Forgiveness under the Law had its limitations. Read Numbers 15:22-31 and discuss what sacrifices could and could not cover regarding sin.

Forgiveness under Law was generally for "minor" or "unintentional" sins. For deliberate and serious offenses (the "sin with the high hand"), there was no forgiveness through the Law apart from the once per year removal on the Day of Atonement. Otherwise, one must throw herself on the mercy of God. And, forgiveness under Law was not automatic! Heart attitudes were measured.

5. Read Hosea 6:6 and Micah 6:6-8. What does God say about his desire regarding man’s heart?

6. Read Hebrews 10:1-4. Why was forgiveness through the Law ultimately inadequate?

Day Two Study

Christ’s Finished Work On the Cross


8. What did the apostles emphasize about Jesus’ death in the following verses?
   - 1 Peter 2:24 and 3:18—
   - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4—
   - Romans 5:6-8—

10. Compare the incident in Matthew 27:51 with the benefit to us described in Hebrews 9:7; 10:19-22.

**Scriptural Insight:** “God tore the curtain, for when the Lord Jesus Christ ‘became sin for us,’ and purchased our salvation by his own blood, the regulations of the old covenant were rendered null and void. Never again would God require the blood of a bull, a goat or a lamb. The priesthood was now defunct, the temple redundant and the law abolished.” (Charles Price, Alive in Christ, page 80)

Man’s disease problem is cured. Christ has through his sacrifice done all that needs to be done to reconcile guilty men to a holy God. This is the meaning of the phrase, "justification by faith." All that is required to benefit from what he accomplished is to believe or trust in him.

**Justification** is God’s act as Judge, where he declares a guilty sinner to be totally righteous on the basis of Christ’s finished work on the cross and that person’s faith in him. Justification involves both a negative and positive aspect. Negatively, justification is the removal of guilt from the offender (“forgiveness”). Positively, justification is the addition of righteousness to the one who believes (Romans 5:17). This is called the “Great Exchange.” Paul describes it clearly in 2 Corinthians,

> “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

11. Read 1 John 5:10-13. What can we know for sure and why?

**Think About It:** Assurance of salvation can be known and experienced by (1) clearly understanding the gospel, and (2) trusting God’s promises in Jesus Christ. Assurance is not confidence in our own ability to hold on to Christ but confidence in him and his promises to hold on to us!
Day Three Study

Justification by faith alone

12. As you read the following verses, what evidence is presented that our justification before God comes through faith alone as a gift of God? (We’ll cover this again in Lesson 4.)

- Romans 3:19-28 (often called the heart of the Bible)—

- Romans 5:1-2—

13. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach about our salvation?

14. Graceful Living: Remember that grace is “unmerited favor.” What are some of the benefits of knowing that not only is your salvation by faith alone but also your justification (your “not guilty” standing before God) is by faith alone rather than through any works you must do to earn God’s forgiveness?

Think About It: “Do you want to give up the guilt? Or, do you prefer to hang onto it like an heirloom? Forgetting you’ve been cleansed from past sins makes you nearsighted and blind and keeps you from developing maturity in Christ (2 Peter 1:9). A failure to recognize and trust that the sin issue between you and God is over will effectively stop your spiritual growth in Christ...We can become totally preoccupied with the thing that God is finished dealing with—sin—that we neglect what God is trying to do with us today—teach us about life!” (Bob George, Classic Christianity, p. 60)
Day Four Study

13. **Graceful Living:** Reflect on the words to the song below. Respond in any way you choose (journaling, prayer, poem, art, song) to illustrate your thanks to God for ending the sacrificial system and completely forgiving you by your faith in Christ alone.

**Before the Throne of God Above**

*Old Irish hymn by Charities Lees Smith written in 1863 under the name “The Advocate”*

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea (Heb 4:15-16)
A great high Priest whose Name is Love (Heb 4:14)
Who ever lives and pleads for me (Heb 7:25)
My name is graven on His hands (Isa 49:16)
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me to depart (Rom 8:34)
No tongue can bid me to depart

When Satan tempts me to despair (Luke 22:31-32)
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there (Acts 7:55-56)
Who made an end to all my sin (Col 2:13-14)
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied (Rom 3:25)
To look on him and pardon me (Rom 3:24-26)
To look on him and pardon me

Behold him there the risen Lamb (Rev 5:6)
My perfect spotless righteousness (1 Cor 1:30; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
The great unchangeable I am (Heb 13:8; John 8:58)
The King of glory and of grace
One with himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood (Acts 20:28)
My life is hid with Christ on high (Col 3:3)
With Christ my Savior and my God! (Tit 2:13)
With Christ my Savior and my God!
“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

(COLOSSIANS 2:13-15)

Announcement to the World: It is Finished!

The gospel is an announcement to the world of an accomplished fact. What God set out to do for mankind, he accomplished. The apostles declared this from the time of Pentecost (Acts 2) and beyond.

“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the Law of Moses.” (Acts 13:38-39)

Salvation is available on the basis of a single condition: faith (or “belief”). God acted; we are to respond to his action.

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

Those who respond with faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, receive a firm assurance of security (1 John 5:13), a secure new identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), and a true knowledge of God as seen through all that he has done through Christ’s finished work on the cross. This lesson and the next will explore 6 “words of the cross”—the direct result of Christ’s finished work on the cross. These 6 terms describe how our relationship with God has changed because of our faith in Jesus Christ.

The diagram at right shows these 6 “words of the cross” and an image representing each. This lesson will cover 3; the next lesson will cover the other 3.

Adapted from T.E.A.M. Training, “Results of Christ’s Finished Work on the Cross”
Christ’s Finished Work on the Cross

Day One Study

*Propitiation: “God’s holy wrath is fully satisfied”*

*Propitiation* is an old word we do not use in our daily vocabulary. Using a dictionary for its verb form *propitiate*, you would see that it means, “to conciliate or appease.” Basically, it means to satisfy or appease someone in order to win favor from him. That implies you have done something to lose their favor, usually something incurring anger.

Most of us can recall a time when we incurred the anger of those we love and needed to make some kind of restitution to “appease” their anger. The act of appeasement leads to that person now being **satisfied** because restitution has been made. So, the relationship can be restored.

Similarly, biblical *propitiation* represents an important change in our relationship with God. It is often associated with God’s mercy toward us. Mercy is commonly defined as “not getting what we deserve.” Our problem before Christ: God’s righteous anger toward man’s sin. [Remember in the last lesson, you learned that God’s wrath is an action against sin to preserve his creation, not a mood or fit of temper.] Without appeasement, all people are justly destined for eternal punishment. But God, out of his great mercy, provided a way for his anger against man’s sin to be satisfied through blood sacrifice on the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament (Leviticus 16) and finally through Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross.

In the New Testament, the Greek word used to describe God’s “satisfaction” with Jesus’ blood shed for man’s sin is *hilasterion*. Interestingly, that word is used of the cover of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies (the “mercy” seat as in Hebrews 9:5), which was sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice (a perfect lamb) on the annual Day of Atonement. By this ceremony, God’s anger at sin was appeased, and the people’s sins were forgiven up to that point. Jesus’ death on the cross provided the permanent way that God’s anger against man’s sin was appeased. The New Testament writers teach that Jesus’ **sacrifice of atonement** fully satisfied God’s righteous anger against man’s sin for those who trust in him (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 1:2; 4:10).

1. To help you get a handle on what this concept of appeasement of anger means, describe a situation where your anger was fully satisfied by restitution someone else made. If that happened, what was required? How did that feel?

2. Read Romans 3:25 and 1 John 4:10. What did God do for us? Why? How do we receive it? [Note: your translation will not likely read “propitiation,” but “sacrifice of atonement” or “atoning sacrifice” instead. The concept of God’s satisfaction is the same.]
Scriptural Insight: The NIV text note on Romans 3:25 says the phrase “a sacrifice of atonement” could also be translated as “the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away sin.” (NIV Study Bible, page 1710)

3. From 1 John 2:2, to whom does this mercy extend?

Think About It: Because Jesus Christ has endured in our place the full wrath of God for our sins, God is able to extend mercy without compromise with evil. His holiness has been fully satisfied with the offering of Jesus Christ. The payment has been made for the whole world; God’s mercy extends to the whole world. But it must be individually acknowledged. God acted. The response he asks is belief in his Son. Why would anyone not jump at the opportunity to take this wonderful offer?!

4. Why could the image of an empty, unused altar be a good symbol for propitiation?

5. Graceful Living: Dwell on the FACT that God’s anger at man’s sin was fully satisfied by Jesus’ finished work on the cross. The second verse of the beautiful song, In Christ Alone, says this:

   In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
   This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones he came to save:
   ’Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –
   For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

Knowing that God is no longer angry at the sin of those who believe in his Son, how does that make you feel? Do you live with the confidence that God is no longer angry with you?

6. Graceful Living: If God’s holy wrath against you has been satisfied, and you live in the freedom of knowing his graceful love more than his wrath, how are you at being a grace-giver to those who have angered you? If you are holding onto anger toward someone and no restitution has been made, pray that God will enable you to surrender the anger and rest in his love and peace.
Day Two Study

Reconciliation: “The barrier of sin has been taken away, and a bridge has been built. Man is able to be saved.”

7. Define reconcile using a dictionary. What does it mean to reconcile?

8. Most of us are aware of personal relationships that have required reconciliation. Think about one such conflict. What were the circumstances? Describe the pain caused by the broken relationship. What was done to pursue reconciliation? How did it turn out?

How sad it is when a broken relationship continues to remain broken and isn’t reconciled. What joy we experience when we see a broken relationship repaired and healthy again! Reconciliation is certainly a reason for rejoicing! And, there is even rejoicing in heaven as we experience repentance (Luke 15:7, 10) that results in reconciliation with our God. Reconciliation is a present reality for Christians and is worthy of our rejoicing. Before Christ, our problem was a state of alienation (separation) from God because of sin (Isaiah 59:2). But God did something about that...

9. What did our God do for us according to these verses?
   - Romans 5:10-11—
   - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20—
   - Colossians 1:19-22—

Scriptural Insight: “Reconcile to himself all things” does not mean that Christ by his death has saved all people...When Adam & Eve sinned, not only was the harmony between God and man destroyed, but also disorder came into creation (Romans 8:19-22). So when Christ died on the cross, he made peace possible between God and mankind, and he restored in principle the harmony in the physical world, though the full realization of the latter will come only when Christ returns.” (NIV Study Bible, note on Colossians 1:20, page 1814)
10. According to John 3:16 and Romans 5:8, what was God’s motivation for reconciliation?

11. From 2 Corinthians 5:19, to whom does this reconciliation extend?

Think About It: Jesus Christ has fully paid man’s debt, removing the barrier between God and men. God’s "books" have been balanced, the debt having been paid. God stands eagerly welcoming anyone who will believe the good news and come home (repent).

12. Why would the image of a bridge in the form of a cross over a canyon be a good symbol for reconciliation?

13. Graceful Living: Dwell on the FACT that the barrier of sin has been taken away and a bridge has been built between man and God because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross. This was God’s act of reconciliation.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, announcing to our world that God is no longer counting men’s sins against them through Christ and imploring those in our sphere of influence to be reconciled to God. Suggest some ways you can be intentional in your outreach to nonbelievers. Where are you likely to run across them in your daily routine? Where can you go outside of your routine to interact with them? Make an intentional “connection” to spend time with one woman who needs to know Jesus this week. Being intentional requires being strategic, deliberate, and planned.

14. Graceful Living: The same power of reconciliation is available to you through Christ for your relationships. If you are in the midst of a relationship that is broken and in need of reconciliation, pray that God would work his mighty hand in the relationship and provide you with his wisdom in pursuing reconciliation. What steps can you pursue to reconcile the relationship?
Day Three Study

Redemption: "Man has been purchased by the blood of Christ out of slavery and released into freedom."

15. Look up the definition of redemption. Try to think of modern examples of redemption.

Did you think of the payment of a ransom for a kidnapped person? Another example of redemption might be the pawning of an item of value then going back later to pay what is owed on the "loan" to get that item back. Some energetic people like to buy "fixer upper" houses and flip them, turning each into a beautiful home. All those are examples of redemption.

Biblical redemption is based on an understanding of the pain of slavery—a common practice in the Roman Empire at the time. Nearly 50% of the people were slaves—1 out of every 2 men, women, and children! The readers of the New Testament were very familiar with the hopelessness of being owned by a slave master, the buying and selling associated with the slave market, and the only two ways out of the miserable cycle—either die or be bought by someone who would set you free.

The biblical doctrine of redemption is found in the combined meaning of four Greek words:

- **Agorázo** - the ordinary word, "to buy" or "to purchase." (1 Cor. 6:20)
- **Exagorazo** - "to buy out of the market"; i.e., to remove from further sale. (Gal. 3:13)
- **Lutroo** - "to loose by a price; to ransom." (Mark 10:45)
- **Apolútrosis** - "a loosing away." (Eph. 1:7)

Redemption represents an important change in our relationship with God. Before Christ, mankind was in a state of slavery to sin and to death (spiritual & physical). Biblical redemption means that man has been purchased at a price, the blood of Christ, out of slavery and released into freedom.

16. Read Mark 10:45. What did Jesus declare about his purpose?

**Focus on the Meaning:** "Ransom" refers to the "price paid for release from bondage."

*(NIV Study Bible, note on Mark 10:45, page 1515)*

17. How are we redeemed (Ephesians 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:18-19)?
18. From what did Jesus Christ redeem us? Why?
   - Galatians 3:8, 13-14—
   - Titus 2:14; 3:3—

19. What do the following verses teach about the purpose and results of our being redeemed?
   - Romans 3:24—
   - Colossians 1:13-14—
   - Revelation 5:9—

_Spiritual Insight:_ In the Bible, to redeem means to free someone from something bad by paying a penalty or a ransom (see Exodus 21:30; 13:13). Likewise, in the Greek world slaves could be redeemed by the payment of a price, either by someone else or by the slave himself. Similarly, Jesus redeems believers from the “curse of the law” (Gal. 3:13) and “all wickedness” (Titus 2:14). The ransom price is not silver or gold, but Christ’s blood (Eph 1:7; 1 Peter 1:19; Rev. 5:9). (_NIV Study Bible_, note on 1 Peter 1:19, page 1889)

20. Why would the image of an opened chain be a good symbol for redemption?

_Scriptural Insight:_ How far does redemption extend? Some of the biblical words describe a work _universal_ in scope ("for the whole world," “the sovereign Lord who bought” the false teachers in 2 Peter 2:1), while others seem to be _particular_ ("for believers" in Ephesians 1:7). While controversies occasionally erupt over which view represents the "true" one, the bottom line seems clear: The death of Jesus Christ is _fully sufficient for the whole world_, but it is _efficient_ only for those who put their trust in him.
21. Read Romans 6:15-23. Contrast the life of slavery to sin from the life of freedom offered through your redemption.

22. **Graceful Living:** Dwell on the FACT that you, as a believer, have been purchased by the blood of Christ out of slavery to sin and released into freedom as God’s act of redemption. The third verse *In Christ Alone* (see Question 5), says this:

There in the ground his body lay; light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day; up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory **sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,**
For I am his and He is mine - **bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

Are you experiencing the freedom from slavery to sin in your life right now? If not, do you have confidence that you do not have to listen to the voice of your old slave master sin? Reflect on this.

You have a new master with greater power living inside of you, the Spirit of God himself, who can give you freedom from any entrapping sin. Claim that freedom now. Choose to obey the Spirit inside you who will lead you and empower you to say “no” to sin.

**Think About It:** Since Jesus Christ has paid a full ransom price, the believer is a possession of God and is secure in freedom until his complete redemption (of the body) is accomplished.
Day Four Study

23. The chart below gives a good review of what you have learned in this lesson. Each one of these is the result of Christ's finished work on the cross on your behalf. The law of learning states that the best test of whether you have really learned anything or not is by explaining what you have learned to someone else. Review each of these “3 words of the cross” one at a time. Then, write how you would explain that concept (what the concept means for the believer, not necessarily the definition of the word) to someone who hasn’t had this course but needs to know what she has in Christ. Think in terms of someone from a particular age group or stage of life.

For example:

- How would you explain “propitiation” to a woman who thinks God is always angry with her because she makes mistakes?
- How would you explain “reconciliation” to a woman who feels that God is so far away because she has been taught she has to go through someone else to reach him?
- How would you explain “redemption” to a teenager?

You get the idea. Now start explaining…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word of the Cross</th>
<th>Extent</th>
<th>Need Addressed</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propitiation</td>
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<td>The just wrath of God against man’s sin.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redemption</td>
<td>The whole world. 2 Pet. 2:1 Believers Eph. 1:7</td>
<td>Man’s state of slavery to sin and death.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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PROPITIATION —
RECONCILIATION —

REDEMPTION —
Lesson 4: Grace Triumphant, Part 2

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known…This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood…” (ROMANS 3:21-25a)

Christ’s Finished Work on the Cross

Salvation is available on the basis of a single condition: faith (or “belief”). God acted; we are to respond to his action. Those who respond with faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, receive a firm assurance of security (1 John 5:13), a secure new identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), and a true knowledge of God as seen through all that he has done for us. Last lesson began our study of 6 “words of the cross”—the direct result of Christ’s finished work on the cross. These 6 terms describe how our relationship with God has changed because of our faith in Jesus Christ.

The diagram at right shows these 6 “words of the cross” and an image representing each. The last lesson covered the first 3 terms and their meanings:

- PROPITIATION: “God’s holy wrath is fully satisfied.”
- RECONCILIATION: “The barrier of sin has been taken away, and a bridge has been built. Man is able to be saved.”
- REDEMPTION: “Man has been purchased by the blood of Christ out of slavery and released into freedom.”

Because of the cross, you can dwell on the FACT that God was fully satisfied by Jesus’ finished work on the cross. God is no longer angry at the sin of those who believe in his Son. You can dwell on the FACT that the barrier of sin has been taken away and complete reconciliation between man and God is possible because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross. You can dwell on the FACT that you, as a believer, have been purchased by the blood of Christ out of slavery and released into freedom as God’s act of redemption. You have a new master with greater power living inside of you, the Spirit of God himself, who can give you freedom from any entrapping sin.

In this lesson, we explore the blessings of FORGIVENESS, JUSTIFICATION, and SANCTIFICATION.

Adapted from T.E.A.M. Training, “Results of Christ’s Finished Work on the Cross”
Day One Study

**Forgiveness: “Man’s guilt has been transferred to a substitute and taken away.”**

**Focus on the Meaning:** The Greek word translated “forgiveness” means literally, “to send off or send away.” The result is “to separate the sin from the sinner” as described in Psalm 103:12 and Leviticus 16:20-22 (the “scapegoat” illustrated in the symbol at right).

Forgiveness represents an important change in our relationship with God. Our problem before Christ: Mankind is guilty before a holy God. God’s answer is to take away the guilt.

1. What did God promise in Jeremiah 31:34 about man’s sins?


3. According to Hebrews 9:22, what was required for God to offer forgiveness?

4. Read Colossians 2:13-14. What did God do for us? How many of our sins are covered by this action?

5. What do you learn from 2 Corinthians 5:19 about God keeping track of our sins now?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. The action of God described in this verse is called the “Great Exchange.” What is being exchanged?

Think About It: Since the believer’s sins have been taken away, God does not hold them (sins) against him/her. Sins are applied to Jesus who takes them on our behalf. Forgiveness is complete and continual. As 2 Corinthians 5:19 says, [God] is “not counting men’s sins against them.” Only one sin separates any man or woman from eternal life with God—rejecting faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18).

According to Ephesians 1:7, forgiveness is something we possess as believers through Jesus’ blood shed for us. We receive God’s forgiveness for all our sins (past, present, and future) from the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, many believers continue to live in guilt.

8. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. What has God promised to do with your guilt as a result of Christ’s offering?

9. Graceful Living: Dwell on the FACT that Jesus will cleanse your conscience from guilt. Will you take him at his word? If there is any past sin for which you are still feeling guilty, claim God’s complete forgiveness today. You can simply tell God,

"Thank You for forgiving me, thank You for cleansing my sin and turning something evil into something good. Thank You for being bigger than my sins, and being able to turn things around in ways I cannot imagine. With Jesus’ help, I receive the assurance that You have forgiven me. Help my heart catch up with my head on this. Help me to see that You allowed me to go down that dark path into sin because You are able to redeem even the worst things we do." (Sue Bohlin, Probe Ministries, Sept. 2012)

Now, CHOOSE to believe you are forgiven and allow Jesus to cleanse your conscience from any residual guilt. Every time you think about it again, thank God for his amazing gift!

10. Graceful Living: Read Ephesians 4:32-5:1. Since you have been completely forgiven, what is Jesus now calling you to do in your relationships with others?
Day Two Study

**Justification:** "The believer in Jesus Christ is declared righteous before God."

Justification is a legal term that literally means, “to declare righteous, to declare not guilty.” We introduced this in Lesson 2. English New Testaments use “justified” and “made righteous” interchangeably. Justification represents an important change in our relationship with God. Our problem before Christ: Man’s need for perfect acceptability before a holy God.

11. What did Jesus Christ do for us according to Romans 3:20-26?

12. God’s justice demands punishment for sin. Based on what you have learned, how is his justice satisfied?

**Scriptural Insight:** God’s forgiveness and justification of the believer are not due to compromise on God’s part or a relaxing of his holy standards. These are possible because the sacrifice of Jesus Christ fully honored and satisfied the righteous demands of a holy God.

13. Who gets to receive the “not guilty” verdict?

In our culture, we use the term “acquitted” for someone who is declared not guilty. And, this acquittal is for the one wrong act of which the person is being accused. Yet, we do many other wrong things. For us as believers, God declares us “not guilty” of all sin, once and for all, based on our faith alone in his Son! What a deal!

14. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, a “great exchange” is described. Jesus gets our sin. What gift do we receive?

**Scriptural Insight:** “The term ‘justified’ describes what happens when someone believes in Christ as his Savior: from the negative viewpoint, he [God] declares the person to be not guilty; from the positive viewpoint, he [God] declares him to be righteous. He cancels the guilt of the person’s sin and credits righteousness to him...God will declare everyone who puts his trust in Jesus not guilty but righteous...Christ’s righteousness (his obedience to God’s law and his sacrificial death) will be credited to believers as their own. Paul uses the word ‘credited’ nine times in [Romans] chapter 4 alone.” (*NIV Study Bible*, Romans 3:24 note, p. 1710)
So, God not only declares us “not guilty” of all sin through our faith in his Son, he also gives us a new status called “righteousness before God.” It is not our own righteousness that does it. When God looks on you and me, he sees his Son’s righteousness taking the place of our sin—even our sin after we’ve been believers for a long time. Picture an accountant’s spreadsheet dedicated to your life. On the left side of the page is the heading “your sins”; on the right side of the page is the heading “Christ’s righteousness.” When you and I sin (intentionally or unintentionally) for the rest of our lives, God replaces that sin on the “your sins” side with Christ’s righteousness and puts your sin on his side—your sin is taken away (forgiveness). It is a continual balancing. Your sin never stays on your side of the page because God declares in 2 Corinthians 5:19 that he is “not counting men’s sins against them.” You are forever declared “not guilty” in his sight. Isn’t that great news?!


17. Why would the image of a judge’s gavel be a good symbol for justification?

Focus on the Meaning: Justification is God's act as Judge, where he declares a guilty sinner to be totally righteous in His sight, on the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross and that person's faith in him. Justification is by faith alone and not depending upon any works a believer can do to earn acceptability in God's sight.

18. In Philippians 3:2-6, Paul describes his “confidence in the flesh” (including his efforts) to achieve righteousness before God.
   - What “confidence in the flesh” did Paul have? Efforts he made?
   - What did Paul conclude about his efforts in verses 7 and 8?
   - In verses 8-9, what did he find to be better?
   - What had Paul done to obtain his new righteous standing before God?
   - How does he describe this in Galatians 3:27?
19. **Graceful Living**: Are you still wrestling with the notion that you are not good enough to please God? Can anyone ever be good enough on her own merits to please God? No! Dwell on the FACT of your justification—being declared righteous so that you are now perfectly acceptable to a holy God based on your faith in his Son. How do you feel about this? When you are tempted to think that God could not possibly accept you because of your weaknesses and guilty past, what should you declare to yourself?

Day Three Study

**Sanctification**: "Set apart as God's possession for his exclusive use."

Like propitiation, sanctification is a word we do not use in our daily vocabulary. To be sanctified means to be made holy. To be “holy” means to be “set apart for special use.” Every believer has been set apart as God's special, beloved possession for his exclusive use. That’s sanctification. To be set apart for special use is similar to using fine china and silverware for special occasions (as in the symbol for sanctification at right). It carries the idea of being opposite of the ordinary and common.

Sanctification represents another important change in our standing with God. Our problem before Christ: Man's need to be separated from the world and separated to God. God demands that we be holy as he is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Because the two words are so closely connected, sanctified and holy are used interchangeably in our English translations. They mean the same thing, though.

20. Read Acts 26:17-18. From what are believers being separated?

21. Read Hebrews 10:10. How are we made holy/sanctified in God’s sight?

22. Sanctified ones are called “holy ones” and “saints” in the New Testament. Read Romans 1:7, 2 Corinthians 1:1, and Ephesians 1:1. Who are being called saints?
**From the Greek:** The word “saint” comes from the Greek word *hagios*, “holy,” meaning separated from sin and dedicated to God. All believers are called “holy ones” (*hagioi*) based upon their faith in Jesus Christ, not on any exceptional behavior. A saint is identified by position, what God declares to be true about you. Every believer is one of God’s saints, totally loved and accepted by him—considered a saint of God by position, not by behavior. (*Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, pages 307-308)

23. Believers are made holy by Christ’s death on the cross in their relational status before God. Believers are also “being made holy” in their thoughts, words, and actions by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is ongoing from the moment of salvation until the Lord comes or the believer dies when our “being made holy” is complete. What is the goal of the Spirit’s work?

- Romans 8:29—

- 2 Corinthians 3:18—

24. **Graceful Living:** Dwell on the FACT that God declares you holy because of your faith in Christ. You are set apart by him, for him. This is your status before God because of your faith. Your behavior matches your position when you submit to the Spirit’s work to intentionally separate you from what God calls sin and then commit yourself to being used for his purposes—24/7.

Describe how you could commit yourself to God’s use throughout a typical day as you dress, eat, interact with the people around you, care for your household, be a mother or grandmother to children, work for an employer…

**Think About It:** Mankind’s disease was sin. Because of this disease, we were: 1) never able to make ourselves well, 2) in bondage to the disease, 3) alienated from the one who could heal us, 4) carrying the guilt of having the disease, 5) experiencing cumulative effects of the disease, and 6) unable to live a purposeful life. Jesus’ finished work on the cross removed all these effects of the disease so that “by his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24)”—truly healed!
Day Four Study

An understanding of Christ's finished work on the cross is the basis for a firm knowledge of our identity in him—a foundational truth for successful Christian living. It was totally God's work to make sinners acceptable again in his sight. Our proper response is to trust and rest in his work, and to continually offer him thanks from grateful hearts along with our willing service.

In a way—in spite of the power and importance of the six words of the cross—it can be said that they all have been accomplished to make the seventh great word possible: "Regeneration," the restoration of spiritual life. This is the subject of the next lesson.

But, for now, the chart below gives a good review of what you have learned in this lesson. Each one of these “words of the cross” is the result of Christ's finished work on the cross on your behalf.

The last lesson stressed that the best test of whether you have really learned anything or not is by explaining what you learned to someone else. So...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word of the Cross</th>
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<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Believers 1 Cor. 6:11</td>
<td>Man's need to be separated from the world and to God.</td>
<td>The believer has been set apart as God's possession for his exclusive use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. Graceful Living: Review each of these “3 words of the cross” one at a time. Then, write how you would explain that concept (what the concept means for the believer, not necessarily the definition of the word) to someone who hasn’t had this course but needs to know what she has in Christ. Think in terms of someone from a particular age group or stage of life.

For example:

- How would you explain “forgiveness” to a woman who has had an abortion in her past and is feeling awful about it?
- How would you explain “justification” to a woman from a very strict, legalistic background?
- How would you explain “sanctification” to a woman who has trusted Christ after years of rebellion and immorality?

You get the idea. Now start explaining on the next page…
FORGIVENESS —

JUSTIFICATION —

SANCTIFICATION —
Lesson 5: Grace-Given Life to You

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (EPHESIANS 2:4-6)

Introduction

We stated in a previous lesson that from the time sin entered into mankind’s relationship with their Creator God, man had a spiritual problem that can be compared to death caused by a fatal disease: (1) Sin (“the disease” Romans 3:23) and (2) Death (“result of the disease” Romans 6:23). Man’s twofold problem demanded a twofold solution:

- For the problem of sin, man needs forgiveness and righteousness. Answer: Christ’s death (the cross). Mankind can now be cured of the disease.
- For the problem of death, man needs regeneration (the restoration of life). Answer: Christ’s resurrection. Mankind can now be given life that is forever.

The Gospel message included the answer to both spiritual problems and is simply illustrated by the quote by Ian Thomas (at right).

The powerlessness of much modern-day Christianity can be traced to its failure to clearly state and maintain two vital truths: (1) Christ’s finished work on the cross to secure our complete acceptance before God, and (2) “Christ in you” as the dynamic of daily Christian living.

As a result, the average Christian in our time has:

- A fairly solid understanding of God’s grace as it relates to his initial salvation experience.
- An inconsistent, wavering understanding of God’s grace in his ongoing life as a Christian.
- Next to no understanding of the significance of his having received the very life of God through the Holy Spirit.

Thus, spiritual immaturity reigns. Christians are often being led down a path of failure, discouragement, and despair by attempts to be perfected “by human effort.” (Galatians 3:1-5)

The previous two lessons covered our complete acceptance before God because of Christ’s finished work on the cross. The next two lessons will address the life given to us by Christ himself as our power for daily Christian living. Through this life, we experience freedom and joy!

**Historical Insight:** “The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters [New Testament epistles] is that to us it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code or, at best, a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them.” (J.B. Phillips, Introduction to Letters to Young Churches)
The Resurrection: God’s Solution to the Life & Death Issue

Day One Study

When God created man in his own image (Genesis 1:27), mankind was created with a body, a soul (conscious life made up of mind, emotions and will), and a spirit that enables every man and woman to relate to God. Man's spirit is the source of his inner drives for love and acceptance, a sense of identity, and for meaning & purpose in life. The human spirit was created to be a container for God's Spirit and was the means through which both man and woman enjoyed perfect fellowship with God.

Based on that relationship, God had access through Adam’s spirit into his soul (teaching his mind, guiding his emotions, directing his will) and, thereby, influencing his behavior. The same was true of Eve. So, every thought, emotion, word and deed of Adam and Eve as created were a perfect representation of the invisible God. They were then truly fulfilling their purpose in life: walking in a dependent love relationship with their Creator and, through that relationship, bearing the image of God.

Focus on the Meaning: Is man a “trichotomy” (made up of three parts: body, soul and spirit) or a “dichotomy” (made up of two parts: body—the seen—and soul/spirit—the unseen)? The best answer seems to be “it depends”: Structurally, man is a dichotomy; Functionally, he is a trichotomy (the spirit of man being either inhabited by God or empty).

Through free choice (Genesis 2:16-18; 3:1-7), Adam and Eve forfeited the life of God and introduced sin and death into the creation. Adam died physically 930 years later (Genesis 5:5). However, he and Eve died spiritually that day in the garden—they lost the life of God.

Natural man (in Adam)

1. Read Romans 5:12, 18 and Ephesians 2:1-3. Describe the effects of Adam’s sin on every one of his descendants, including you.

Scriptural Insight: “Why did Paul and God hold Adam responsible (Romans 5:12) for the sinfulness of the race when it was really Eve who sinned first? They did so because Adam was the person in authority over and therefore responsible for Eve (Gen. 2:18-23; 1 Cor. 11:3). Furthermore, Eve was deceived (2 Cor. 11:3), but Adam sinned deliberately (1 Tim. 2:14).” (Tom Constable, Dr. Constable’s Notes on Romans, page 59)
Having been born into this world "in Adam"—i.e., out of his family line—all men and women are born spiritually dead and are sinners by nature. As A.W. Tozer, a 20th century Christian author, put it, “We may not understand how we can inherit evil from our fathers, but there is no argument with the fact that as soon as we are big enough to sin, we go directly into the business of sinning.” Anyone who has been around small children knows for a fact that this is true!

All men and women are also born spiritually wanting. A French philosopher and physicist (Blaise Pascal) described it this way in the 17th century, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.” The diagram at right illustrates this "vacuum." Every human being seeks to fill this vacuum with something that gives them meaning and purpose in life.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. Contrast the understanding and behavior of the “natural” man/woman with the one who has the Spirit of God. [Note: natural man refers to unsaved man and woman.]

3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. Discuss the roadblock the “natural” woman experiences. How does that hinder her life?

Think About It: Natural man (outside of Christ) is already: (1) alienated from God, (2) under the wrath of God, and (3) spiritually dead to God. The problem of man is not just that he is a sinner in need of forgiveness. He is dead and in need of life!

4. Graceful Living: When we become Christians at a young age or forget what it was like to live as a nonbeliever before Christ came into our lives, we can be very harsh on those who are living without Christ in this world. We expect nonbelievers to think like we do. Considering how God describes the nonbeliever in his Word, shouldn’t their blindness and lack of understanding generate compassion in us rather than condemnation? Discuss.
5. **Graceful Living:** If you became a Christian as an adult, what was life like for you before you experienced Christ’s liberation? What drew you to him? In what ways do you recognize the above elements of the “natural man” in your life at that time?

Day Two Study

**Jesus Christ – the Second Adam.**

Although he was God from all eternity, the Son of God took on a human nature and flesh, totally identifying with us in our humanity (John 1:1-3, 14; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 2:14-18). Through his virgin birth, Jesus Christ entered the world spiritually alive and without sin (John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21). He was the first complete man, from God’s point of view, to live on earth since the Fall—thus he is called the "Second Adam."

6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-49. Compare the first Adam and the Second Adam.

7. Read the following verses to see how Jesus in his humanity demonstrated the way God designed mankind to live.
   - John 5:15-19,30—
   - John 12:44-50—
   - John 14:8-11—
   - Acts 2:22—
Jesus completely identified with us in our humanity, sin and death, so that we could be totally identified with him in his resurrected humanity, righteousness and life (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 6:4). God provided a cure for our sin disease through Christ’s finished work on the cross, BUT we were still dead and in need of life!

8. **Graceful Living:** If Jesus lives as a man dependent on God, how much more so should we recognize our need to do the same? In what areas of your life do you tend to live in self-sufficiency? Generally, it is in your areas of strength—the skills and abilities in which you are proficient.

The danger we face is getting too confident in our own abilities so that we don’t seek to rely on God in that area. What should you do when you recognize that you are acting through your own strengths and abilities without relying on the power of God to work through those same strengths and abilities but yielded to his way of doing it? Pray about this today.

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**Day Three Study**

*Regeneration: The restoration of life is God’s solution to man’s state of spiritual death*

The English word “regeneration” [Gr. **palingenesia**, from **palin** (again) and **genesis** (birth)] means simply a new birth, a new beginning, a new order. Regeneration is often used to denote the restoration of a thing to its pristine state, its renovation, as a renewal or restoration of a piece of furniture or a car. In the New Testament, regeneration refers to the giving of life after death.

9. According to John 10:10, why did Jesus come?

10. Salvation is described as receiving "life." What do the following verses reveal about this?

- Ephesians 2:4-5
- John 3:3, 6—
- John 5:24—
11. According to these verses, how do we receive this “life?”

- John 14:16,17—

- Romans 8:9-10—

- Romans 8:15-17—

**Focus on the Meaning:** “The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself.” (John Calvin, *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3.1.1)

12. As the Holy Spirit indwells us, he unites (fuses) us to Christ (Romans 6:5). How is this further described in these verses?

- Galatians 2:20—

- Colossians 1:27—

We, who were once dead, are made alive by the indwelling Holy Spirit who unites us to Christ so that “Christ in you” is a fact of our new existence. It happens at the moment of salvation (Romans 8:9) and lasts forever (John 14:16). We are born again as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

13. According to John 15:4-5 and Galatians 2:20, how should a new creature in Christ live? [Note: to remain/abide means “to dwell.”]

14. We are to live by faith (total dependency upon God) as Jesus himself lived (John 14:10). Read Romans 6:11-14. What now should be our relationship to sin?
15. **Graceful Living:** Give an illustration as to how living in a humble, teachable manner, saying no to sin, might look in someone’s daily life (perhaps yours). Consider an everyday situation in which the old slave master “sin” tempts you.

**Think About It:** Does grace give people a "license to sin?” No. A proper emphasis on Christ's finished work on the cross does not promote sin for a simple reason: in forgiving us, **he did not leave us as we were.** God transforms our hearts through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. We who believe have God's law written on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10). The Christian is not just a "forgiven caterpillar"; he has been transformed into a "butterfly." His greatest daily need is, first, to grasp the freedom of God's acceptance through Christ; and, second, to learn how to present his humanity to the indwelling Christ and experience true and abundant life. Salvation is not just receiving something we did not have before (i.e., forgiveness of sins). It is **becoming someone we were not** before!

16. **Graceful Living:** You should know with confidence that God's life is now indwelling you forever. Considering the condition of the “natural man” you learned earlier in the lesson, thank God for his indescribable gift of life to you. What are the benefits of having his life in you?

**Day Four Study**

As Ian Thomas said, “Jesus Christ **laid down** his life for you so that he could **give** his life to you so that he could **live** his life through you.” All this is possible because of Christ's finished work on the cross and his resurrection on the third day. We'll continue our study of how he “lives his life through you” in the next lesson.

The chart below contains all 6 “words of the cross” from previous lessons and the “word of the resurrection” from this lesson.
The Completed Work of the Cross and Resurrection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word of the Cross</th>
<th>Extent</th>
<th>Need Addressed</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propitiation</td>
<td>The whole world. 1 John 2:1-2</td>
<td>The just wrath of God against man’s sin.</td>
<td>God’s justice has been satisfied. He is able to extend mercy without compromise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>The whole world. 2 Cor. 5:18-19</td>
<td>Man’s state of alienation from God because of sin.</td>
<td>The barrier of sin has been taken away, and a bridge has been built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redemption</td>
<td>The whole world. 2 Pet. 2:1 Believers Eph. 1:7</td>
<td>Man’s state of slavery to sin and death.</td>
<td>Man has been purchased by the blood of Christ out of slavery and released into freedom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgiveness</td>
<td>Believers Acts 13:38-39</td>
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<table>
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<th>Need Addressed</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regeneration</td>
<td>Believers Ephesians 2:5-6</td>
<td>Man’s state of spiritual death.</td>
<td>The believer has been made alive spiritually through the indwelling Holy Spirit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. Graceful Living: As you did before, write how you would explain regeneration (what the concept means for the believer, not necessarily the definition of the word) to someone who hasn’t had this course but needs to know what they have in Christ. Why should “regeneration” make a difference in her life? If it helps, think how you would explain regeneration to someone who feels her life has no purpose. Now start explaining…

REGENERATION —
Lesson 6: Grace-Created Identity

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

A New Identity that Rocks the World

In our world, identity drives everything about life. You likely carry some kind of identity card (ID) with you—a driver’s license or a work-related card. What’s on it? Your name and picture, some identifying characteristics like address or job title, and the authority that issued the ID to you. Often, your signature is on the card representing your choice to enter into contract with the issuing authority. If someone asked, “Who are you?” you could answer with the information on that card.

Identities tell us who we are, where we live, how and where we can travel. Our identity drives what we can buy with our finances and qualifies us for employment. That’s why we are so devastated when it’s stolen! Knowing our spiritual identity is even more important.

The government offers a “Witness Protection” program to those who testify against organized crime. The witnesses, helpless against the revenge of the criminals, receive a new identity and all the details that go along with it—new name, new background, new address, and new career. They can never go back to being what they were before. That’s what God does for us. We each have a new spiritual identity. And, there are wonderful perks to discover about our new position in life.

The world is not going to validate our new identity. From a worldly point of view, you and I are the same as we’ve always been—all our “baggage” is still hanging around our necks; nothing will ever change. And, the world does things to punish us, like credit scores and memories of all that we’ve done wrong in the past. But, every Christian is a new creation with a new identity in Christ, declaring how God, our authority, now views us! It’s what he has done for us and to us that counts.

So far in this study, we have learned how our faith in Jesus Christ sets us free from our previous sin-stained existence to enjoy a new life. But, our ability to live out this freedom depends upon our understanding of who we now are. How we see ourselves directs how we live our faith walk. We need to grasp the FACT that believers get a new life with a radical new identity—something we never had before. Something no one before Jesus’ resurrection ever had!! And this new identity sets us free to live a radically new kind of life—a joyful life. But, not knowing our identity enslaves us to shoddy thinking and behavior.

Most Christians throughout the past 1700 years or so only knew they could have their sins forgiven and go to heaven when they died. And, even then, they weren’t sure of that. The information about who they were in God’s sight got lost in 2 things: (1) illiteracy of the Bible—lack of education and knowledge of what it actually says, and (2) slavery to poor teaching that one has to live by the church’s rules to maintain God’s acceptance—any church.

About 500 years ago, Martin Luther and other faithful believers who followed him rediscovered this identity treasure by reading and studying the Scriptures. Imagine that! For 300 years after that, believers were taught their identity in Christ before the teaching waned. Once again, a Christian was mainly someone who had her sins forgiven and went to heaven when she died, as long as she lived by certain rules to maintain God’s acceptance. Enslaved once again to illiteracy of the Bible and poor teaching. A great Grace Awakening has taken place since the 1970s. Teaching about our new identity in Christ is everywhere in bookstores and on the radio, TV, and Internet. Yet, most believers still have no idea what their new identity is and all the benefits that come with it. Do you? And, if you
and I don’t know who we are, how will we know we’ve been set free to live a different kind of life? This lesson will certainly fill your mind and heart with truth about your grace-created new identity—an identity that will fill your life with freedom and joy!

Day One Study

The basis of identity

1. List some ways that we try to establish our identity apart from Christ.

2. What happens to us when we try to determine who we are by these things?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. From God’s point of view, there are two kinds of people in the world: (1) those who are in Adam, and (2) those who are in Christ. Read Romans 5:12-21 and fill in the chart below contrasting Adam and Christ from this passage. Include in your chart contrasts between the consequences of being in Adam and being in Christ.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Adam</th>
<th>In Christ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who you are in determines your identity and your inheritance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) To be in Adam means that you have inherited his nature (sinful), the consequences of his actions (condemnation), and his destiny (death).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) To be in Christ means that you have inherited his nature (righteous), the consequences of his actions (justification), and his destiny (eternal life).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **Graceful Living**: How you see yourself will influence how you think and live. How do you see yourself? In Christ? Or, as just another one of the billions of human beings walking around on our planet? Reflect on how the way you see yourself (past and present) influences your life.

Day Two Study

**God has changed the believer’s identity through the baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The word translated *baptized* came from the process for dyeing cloth. It didn’t matter if the cloth was sprayed, dipped, or immersed. The significance was taking on the identity of the dye. So, in Spirit Baptism, we are “dyed” with Christ. The practical outcome is a total identification (uniting) with him.

5. Read Romans 6:1-11. List all the ways we are identified (united) with Christ in this passage.
   [Note: Although water baptism is a picture of what the Spirit does to us, there’s no mention of water in this passage. Spirit baptism is much more significant and has far greater effects.]

6. What else is revealed about our union with Christ in Ephesians 2:4-6?

Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit—of which water baptism is a picture—the Christian has been totally identified with Jesus Christ. We are united with him in his death (Romans 6:3; Galatians 2:20), in his resurrection (Romans 6:4), and in his ascension (Ephesians 2:5-6). The Greek word translated “united” in Romans 6:5 literally means, “to make to grow together, to fuse.” Being united with Christ, therefore, means that we become *fused together with him*. At that moment of fusing, we are no longer on our own, but Jesus’ transforming life-giving power now lives in us. We are now connected to the King who has supreme power and authority. John Wesley, the great 18th century Methodist preacher, said this, “Never think of yourself apart from Christ.” We are continually fused together with him and can live to enjoy the benefits of being in him.
7. **Graceful Living:**

- Consider items that are fused together (fabrics, welded metal, ingredients baked into a cake). What is the purpose of fusing? Does the fusing usually create something stronger and/or better than the original items?

- Reread Ephesians 2:4-6, inserting your name in place of “we, us, or you.” Dwell on what it means to you to be fused with Christ.

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**Day Three Study**

**Benefits of being identified with Christ**

The moment we believe, the old self that was born in Adam died; a new self with the same body but a new interior started life as a new person with a new nature and a new inheritance. This radical new identity means you can never go back to not being in Christ. Never!

8. Our new identity in Christ contains at least 35 characteristics or benefits. We get **all of these benefits at once**. God is not a vending machine parceling out these benefits one at a time. Everything about our new identity and all the benefits are God’s gift based on his love for us. We receive all of them at the moment of our salvation because we are in Christ. What God does to us is his choice, not ours. These benefits are **unconditional**. The burden of performance is upon God, not upon us.

Fill out the chart below by reading the word/phrase describing what is true about you. Then, look up the verse reference and reflect on what that means to you now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JUSTIFIED, DECLARED RIGHTEOUS</strong> (Romans 3:23-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MADE AT PEACE WITH GOD</strong> (Romans 5:1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAFE FROM THE WRATH OF GOD</strong> (Romans 5:9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECONCILED TO GOD</strong> (Romans 5:10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REDEEMED</strong> (Ephesians 1:7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FREED FROM CONDEMNATION (JUDGMENT)</strong> (Romans 8:1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (*Romans 8:9*)

ADOPTED AS SONS (*Romans 8:14-15*)

ACCEPTED BY GOD (*Romans 15:7*)

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST’S BODY (THE CHURCH) (*1 Corinthians 12:13*)

CHosen by God (*Ephesians 1:4*)

SAVED BY GRACE (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

FREED FROM GOD’S ANGER (*1 John 2:2*)

FREED FROM THE LAW (*Romans 7:4*)

TRANSLATED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT (*Ephesians 5:8*)

FORGIVEN (*Colossians 2:13-14*)

WASHED CLEAN (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)

MADE HOLY AND BLAMELESS (*Colossians 1:22*)

SEALED IN CHRIST (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

CLOTHED WITH CHRIST (*Galatians 3:27*)

GIVEN CHRIST’S RIGHTEOUSNESS (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)

MADE INTO A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (*1 Corinthians 6:19*)
MADE PERFECT FOREVER *(Hebrews 10:14)*

TRANSLATED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE *(John 5:24)*

BORN AGAIN *(1 Peter 1:3)*

SANCTIFIED (MADE HOLY) *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

MADE A NEW CREATION *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

MADE CHILDREN OF GOD *(John 1:12)*

MADE COMPLETE *(Colossians 2:9-10)*

MADE HEIRS OF GOD *(Romans 8:17)*

MADE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN *(Philippians 3:20-21)*

MADE INTO A HOLY AND ROYAL PRIESTHOOD *(1 Peter 2:5,9)*

GIVEN CONFIDENT ACCESS TO GOD *(Hebrews 10:19-23)*

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING *(Eph. 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3)*

SECURE IN GOD’S LOVE *(Romans 8:38-39)*

A list containing the same 35 characteristics of your new identity is found at the end of this lesson. Keep that handy for a quick reference when you are attacked by the world’s view of who you are!
9. **Graceful Living:** One of the fundamental questions of the human race is that of identity, "Who am I?" The one secure, eternal answer is that through faith in Jesus Christ you can say, "I am in Christ, a child of God, one of God’s saints, totally loved and accepted by God"—an identity that no circumstance can change! Write a short description of your identity in Christ based on what you discovered in the verses you just read. "I _____________ (your name) am in Christ..."

---

**Day Four Study**

**Knowing our identity sets us free from the world’s viewpoint**

As stated before, the world isn’t going to validate our new identity. From a worldly point of view, we are viewed as the same we’ve always been—with the baggage still hanging around our necks. But, we can know our true identity—what God has done to change us from the inside out. And, knowing it sets us free from the world’s constraints and expectations, from our past, and from the garbage that others feed us about our failures.

*Think About It:* “Some of us are drawn in by circumstance [wearing ourselves out by our own efforts] because we don’t know who we are. The greatest crisis is not outside; it’s the identity crisis within those of the faith! Men and women of God are so focused on the darkness that they’re missing the adventure.” (Michelle Wallace, “Fruit of the Vine: The Greatness of God,” Living Magazine, October 2012)

10. **Graceful Living:** Read the chart below contrasting the world’s lies about who you are with the FACT of God’s truth about who you are. (Adapted from Dr. Timothy Warner, *Resolving Spiritual Conflicts and Cross-Cultural Ministry*, Freedom in Christ Ministries, 1993.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The World’s Lies (are)</th>
<th>God’s Truth (says)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• You are still a sinner because you sometimes sin.</td>
<td>• You are a saint (one declared righteous by God) who sometimes sins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You get your identity from what you have done.</td>
<td>• You get your identity from what God has done for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You get your identity from what people say about you.</td>
<td>• You get your identity from what God says about you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your behavior tells you what to believe about yourself.</td>
<td>• Your belief about yourself directs your behavior.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respond through any means you choose (journaling, prayer, poem, art, song) to illustrate what you have learned from this lesson.
## The Believer’s Identity in Christ

These descriptions are true for every believer from the moment each person trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation. You are…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Identity Description</th>
<th>Scripture Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JUSTIFIED (DECLARED RIGHTEOUS)</td>
<td>“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MADE AT PEACE WITH GOD</td>
<td>“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SAFE FROM THE WRATH OF GOD</td>
<td>“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him.” (Romans 5:9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>RECONCILED TO GOD</td>
<td>“For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.” (Romans 5:10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>REDEEMED</td>
<td>“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FREED FROM CONDEMNATION (JUDGMENT)</td>
<td>“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1) “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT</td>
<td>“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” (Romans 8:9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ADOPTED AS SONS</td>
<td>“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God…you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him, we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:14-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ACCEPTED BY GOD</td>
<td>“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST’S BODY (THE CHURCH)</td>
<td>“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CHOSEN BY GOD</td>
<td>“For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.” (Ephesians 1:4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SAVED BY GRACE</td>
<td>“For it is by grace you have been saved, though faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>GOD HAS BEEN PROPITIATED (SATISFIED)</td>
<td>“he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FREED FROM THE LAW</td>
<td>“So, my brothers, you also were died to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.” (Romans 7:4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>TRANSLATED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT</td>
<td>“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>FORGIVEN</td>
<td>“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>WASHED CLEAN</td>
<td>“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>MADE HOLY AND BLAMELESS</td>
<td>“But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation…” (Colossians 1:22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SEALED IN CHRIST</td>
<td>“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth…Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s own possession…” (Eph 1:13-14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLOTHED WITH CHRIST "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Galatians 3:27)

GIVEN CHRIST’S RIGHTEOUSNESS "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

MADE INTO A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

MADE PERFECT FOREVER "Because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10:14)

TRANSLATED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death into life." (John 5:24) "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions..." (Ephesians 2:1,4-5)

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Lesson 7: Grace-Based Freedom

“The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Although you began with the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by human effort? Have you suffered so many things for nothing? – if indeed it was for nothing. Does God then give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law or by your believing what you heard?” (GALATIANS 3:2-5)

Introduction to Law and Grace

You have a great foundation now, knowing what Christ has done on the cross for you and how his resurrection provides the means for you to receive a brand new life with a new identity. Praise God for his indescribable gift! But, as seen in the Galatians 3 scripture quoted above, many Christians start out accepting the gift of salvation but then are thrown into a works-related way of living out this brand new life in order to maintain acceptance before a holy God. The issue is broadly called “Law and Grace.” Understanding the difference between these two concepts is the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the basis for experiencing a joyful Christian life.

Understanding the difference between Law and Grace answers important biblical questions:

1. What is the difference between the Old and New Testaments? What Old Testament promises can be claimed by New Testament believers?
   - Old Testament—The dietary laws, practice of circumcision, sacrificial system, and observance of the Sabbath by Jews.
   - New Testament—Freedom from those same laws and practices for both Gentiles and Jews based upon what Christ did on the cross to fulfill the purpose for the Old Testament religious laws.

2. What must we do to be saved or to even stay saved?

3. Where do we fit in God's plan of history? What should we expect from God and from life in this phase?

4. How are we to live to please God?
   - Our motivation for Christian living—Is our motivation to live the Christian life based on love and gratitude for what Christ has done for us, or is it based on fear of what God will do to us every time we fail?
   - Our power for Christian living—Do we think the power to live the Christian life is self-generated or Spirit-empowered? Through self-effort or through dying to self?
   - Our relationships—We often treat others the same way we think God treats us. If we think of God as mean and spiteful, we will often relate to others that way. Are we trying to motivate others to obedience through fear of punishment—given out by God or by us?

Probably the simplest way to understand Law & Grace is to see it as the issue of God's acceptance: "On what basis is a person made acceptable before a holy God?" Based upon what you've learned so far in this study, how would you answer that question?

[Note: This lesson is longer than usual, containing more teaching to clearly communicate the topic.]
Day One Study

What is “The Law?”

Reading through the New Testament, you will often see this phrase mentioned—“the Law.” Generally, the New Testament writers mean “the Mosaic Law” by this phrase. The Law is, “The covenant between God and the nation of Israel instituted at Mt. Sinai after the Exodus from Egypt.” Let’s gain some perspective on this.

In Genesis 12:1-3, God promised to Abraham that he would make Abraham into a great nation and that all the peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham. Abraham’s descendants multiplied greatly while living in Egypt, and God delivered them out of Egypt to form the nation he had promised to Abraham. At Mt. Sinai, God proposed a contractual agreement (the Law) to the new nation (Exodus 19:3-6). After God spoke the outline of the Law (the Ten Commandments) and the provisions of the Law to the people (Exodus 20-23), the nation agreed to keep the contract (Exodus 24:3-8).

From the simplest, big-picture point of view, the Law of Moses [Mosaic Law, hereafter designated as the Law] described the conditions under which: 1) Israel would be allowed to dwell in the land; and 2) the people of Israel would enjoy the presence of God dwelling in their midst. The Law was bilateral (two-sided), meaning that God offered earthly blessings for obedience and earthly curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). The Law was not a means of salvation. The Law was primarily national in scope and earthly in application.

1. Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8. What was the purpose of the Law? See also 1 Timothy 1:8-10.

2. Read Galatians 3:19-26. What was the intended duration for the Law?

The nation of Israel was to be a holy nation as God was a holy God. “Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:2). For a person to be holy required separation from sin. So, much of the Law includes animal sacrifices for the sin of the people so God could remove their sins from them (Leviticus 16:20-22), making them holy again.

God promised to redeem human beings from their sin based on his grace (to Eve and to Abraham) earlier than the Law was given to Israel.
That promise of grace was not nullified or changed. The Law—a separate arrangement for a temporary purpose—was for managing sinful people until fulfillment in Christ.

The purpose of the Law was to teach central truths about God. There had to be a nation on earth that knew something about God to teach the rest of the world (Deuteronomy 4:5-8). The purpose of the Law was also protective to preserve Israel as a distinct people through whom the promised Messiah would come to bless the whole world. And, the Law would lead people to a trust relationship with the Lord by showing them their sin and leaving faith—trusting in the mercy and grace of God alone to forgive one's guilt—as the only way to be right with God (Romans 3:19-20), preparing the way for the work of Christ. Salvation for Old Testament believers came through faith in a merciful God (Habakkuk 3:17).

3. Because the Law had limitations, God promised a New Covenant. Read Hebrews 8:6-13. Examine the following chart. Notice the contrast between the old and the new. Comment on the differences in the right column of the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>Old Covenant (the Law)</th>
<th>New Covenant</th>
<th>Why the New Covenant Is Better</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motivation</strong></td>
<td>EXTERNAL/REWARD &amp; PUNISHMENT See Deuteronomy 28.</td>
<td>INTERNAL / CHANGE OF HEART “I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts.” (v.10b)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship</strong></td>
<td>CONDITIONED ON OBEDIENCE “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.” (Exodus 19:5)</td>
<td>UNCONDITIONALLY ESTABLISHED “I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (v.10c)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to God</strong></td>
<td>OPEN TO THE HIGH PRIEST ALONE “But only the High Priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year…” (Hebrews 9/7) “…anyone else who approaches the sanctuary must be put to death.” (Numbers 3:10)</td>
<td>OPEN AND EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL BELIEVERS “No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (v.11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forgiveness &amp; Acceptance</strong></td>
<td>CONDITIONAL AND INCOMPLETE “For the Law...can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.” (Hebrews 10:1)</td>
<td>UNCONDITIONAL AND COMPLETE “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (v.12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under the Law (Old Covenant), blessings were *conditional* and the burden of performance was on *man*. Under the New Covenant, the promised blessings are *unconditional* and the burden of performance is upon *God*. Man's sole responsibility toward the fulfillment of the New Covenant is to enter into that relationship through faith in Jesus Christ. God then *commits himself* to complete the work he began in us (Philippians 1:6) until we are conformed to the image of his Son (Romans 8:29). This doesn't mean that Christians have no responsibilities at all! We are called to follow Jesus Christ diligently and live worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). God's plan is too easy for many to accept. And, old habits of performance-based religion are hard to die. Enter Galatianism...
Day Two Study

**The problem of Galatianism**

The term “Galatianism” developed because of issues addressed in Paul’s letter to the Galatians—believers in several churches in the area of what is now central Turkey. As recorded in Acts 13-14, Paul and Barnabas spread the gospel in this area on their first missionary journey about 15 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Galatian churches were composed of mostly Gentile (non-Jewish) believers. Many of the Jews in the region rejected the preaching of Paul about Christ’s death and resurrection. They did not respond with faith in Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life (Acts 13:46). The Gentiles, however, were “glad and honored the word of the Lord” (Acts 13:47-48). After Paul left the area, some unnamed teachers (usually called “Judaizers”) followed in his wake, contradicting his teachings. Eventually the controversy grew so heated that it was brought to Jerusalem to be decided by the apostles (Acts 15:1-6).

4. Read Acts 15:1-5. What are the Judaizers teaching? [Note: though not capitalized in most translations, “the law” is referring to the Law of Moses.]

It is important to remember that the Mosaic Law was a covenant between God and the nation Israel only. At no time was it imposed on other nations of the world. While the Old Testament frequently describes prophetically the blessings the whole world will receive through the Messiah (Christ) and his kingdom, there was a great secret (a “mystery”) held in the heart of God: that Gentiles, who were held separate from the Jews by the Law, would be included in God’s promises through the gospel.
5. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and answer the following questions.
   • Describe the state of the Gentiles before hearing of Christ.
   - In verse 14, Christ made the two groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one by breaking down the barrier of the dividing wall. What was the dividing wall?
   - Why did the barrier have to come down?
   - What are the results of this barrier coming down? See also Ephesians 3:4-6.

6. According to Colossians 2:13-14, what happened to the Law (written code)?

7. According to Romans 6:14; 7:6 and Galatians 2:19, what is the Christian’s relation to the Law now?

8. After open debate, the apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gave an answer to the Judaizers’ position. Read Acts 15:6-11. What did the apostles conclude?

9. Although the book of Galatians as a whole was written to address the panic created by the Judaizers’ teaching, what is Paul’s response specifically in these verses to the Galatian believers (and us) who thought they had to follow the Law to be true Christians?
   • Galatians 1:6-9—
   • Galatians 3:1-5—
   • Galatians 5:1-3—
10. So, is the Christian under the Mosaic Law in any way, shape or form? Why not?

So, if Christians are not under the Law of Moses, why read and study the Old Testament? Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:16-17,

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

When Paul wrote those words under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, ALL Scripture at that time was the whole Old Testament. God has revealed himself through what is written—his holiness, goodness, sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, love and more. For the people of Israel (and for Gentile converts who voluntarily took on the yoke of the Law), the Law served as their rule of life—learning to approach life God’s way. The Law God gave to Israel included 3 sections: civil (how to govern the nation), religious (how to worship a holy God), and moral (how to treat one another). Though Christians are not under the civil or religious laws, God’s moral law has not changed and is reinforced in New Testament writings. So…

1. The Law can be properly used:
   - As a lens through which to see the perfect character and righteousness of God (though Jesus Christ is a far greater revelation of God: John 1:17-18; 14:5-8).
   - As a mirror in which to see oneself truly in comparison to the righteousness of God, especially the moral law (dealing with murder, marriage, relationships, etc.). It can’t clean you up, but it can reveal that you have a problem (Romans 3:19-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-10).

2. The Law is improperly used as a ladder on which to climb up to try to earn the acceptance of God. By the time of Jesus, rabbis taught that the whole law could be summed up with two sentences,
   
   “...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)

   That hasn’t changed. And, the rest of the New Testament describes how to live that way.

11. Graceful Living: Based upon what you just learned, what kind of message does a Christian’s insistence on propagating “The Ten Commandments” from Exodus 20 give to other believers or to the unbelieving world? Give some New Testament verses that would be far more effective in communicating God’s grace to an unbelieving world than posting the “Ten Commandments” (the Law).
Deeper Discoveries (optional): Which of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17)...

- Emphasize “Love the Lord your God” and are repeated in New Testament writings as the right way to live for one who is forgiven and redeemed? Give verses.

- Are related to God’s moral law – how we are to treat one another – and repeated in New Testament writings as the right way to live as one who is forgiven and redeemed? Give verses.

- Is given specifically to Israel as a nation but not to the rest of the world, yet has been erroneously taught that it applies to the Church (and on the wrong day!)? See Colossians 2:16 regarding this one.

Day Three Study

The tendency toward legalism

You may be thinking, “What does this have to do with me?” Be aware that Galatianism is still present in the modern church. We call it “legalism” (legal = relating to the law). Legalism has both a technical and a practical definition:

- Technically: Legalism is the imposition of the Mosaic Law on Gentile (non-Jewish) believers (especially observance of the Sabbath and circumcision, but also paying a penalty or penance for sin).

- Practically: Legalism is the addition of any other conditions to faith in order to gain and maintain acceptance from God.

  ✓ The insistence of “faith plus ______.” In order to maintain good standing with God, you must have faith plus other evidences: good works… refraining from certain sins…church membership… ordinances or sacraments (baptism, communion), etc. Whenever God’s acceptance of you has an "IF" attached to it (other than faith in Jesus Christ), you know you are in the vicinity of legalism.

  ✓ Another example involves repentance. Repentance means a change of mind. True repentance is changing your mind regarding your sin (that it separates you from God) and regarding Christ (that he alone is the answer to your sin problem). Legalism teaches that repentance means you have to give up your sins before coming to Christ.

Legalism has seriously damaged the church through the centuries. It leads to a dramatically different experience of Christian living. Many groups or individuals begin with a clear presentation of the gospel of grace to receive salvation, then proceed to live by works, trying to earn or maintain God’s acceptance by performance.

At this point, we move our attention from the Law as referring to the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, and all the statutes and ordinances (found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and
Deuteronomy) to law as a principle. Living by law can be any man-made system of works by which a person attempts to approach God on her own merits or performance. That’s what legalism does.

[Note: This discussion of legalism is not about what is clearly taught as right and wrong from God’s perspective in Scripture. That which God calls “sin” will be covered more in lesson 9.]

Whether a person is trying to live by the God-given Mosaic Law (particularly the 10 Commandments), by human laws imposed by others (standards of what they consider spiritual and necessary to please God and/or prove you are saved), or even by self-imposed laws, the effects on the individual are the same: fear, guilt, and condemnation.

A person is “living according to law” (legalism) whenever she tries to approach God on the basis of her own merits or performance. Though the outward effects are often subtle, a believer trying to live by legalism will actually be drifting her focus away from the Person of Jesus Christ. She is straying from enjoying a relationship to practicing a religion.

12. Give examples of modern legalism.


Out of God’s mercy comes his grace. Remember that grace is unmerited favor. It is a gift that is undeserved. Grace is a gift God chooses to give because of his great mercy, apart from the Law (Romans 3:21). The Law (Mosaic or man-imposed religious standards) is incompatible with “Grace!” Like Jesus’ example of pouring new wine into new wineskins rather than into old ones (Matthew 9:14-17), grace cannot be added to the Law. It is one or the other. You cannot accept both. Which one would you rather guide the course of your life?

14. What examples does Paul give to show why law and grace are incompatible in the verses below?
   - Romans 4:4-5—
   - Romans 11:6—
   - Galatians 3:15-18—
   • What does Paul tell the Galatians (and us)?

   • Based on what you have learned so far, discuss why falling away from grace cannot mean losing one’s salvation.

16. **Graceful Living:** Think back to your Christian life so far and try to recognize the influence of *legalism* on what you’ve been taught. List any “faith plus ______” teaching that has influenced your life and manmade rules you’ve been taught to obey to remain acceptable to God. If you have been taught any faith plus any other condition in order to maintain acceptance to God, get to heaven, or get any other blessing (*which you already have in Christ!*), how has this affected your life, your emotions, your thinking, or your relationship with God and others?

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**Day Four Study**

**Part 1: “Law” motivates us to obedience by fear of punishment**

The issue of “Law and Grace” often arises in practice because of two reasons: 1) the tendency to think you can control sin through lots of rules and 2) the persistent tendency to interpret events. Let’s explore the second reason some more.

Everyone must deal with disappointments, problems, and tragedies in life. The human tendency is to try to interpret events as *signs* of God's anger or favor, asking questions such as: "*Why did this happen? What does it mean? What is God trying to tell me?*" Through this tendency, people (even Christians) lapse into the patterns of *paganism*, the natural religion of the human race. The underlying assumptions of paganism are: 1) When things go well, the gods are happy with us. 2) When things go wrong, the gods are angry with us. Therefore, the essence of paganism is this: how to stay on the good side of the gods so bad things won't happen.

Professing Christians may acknowledge grace as true but live as though their own performance of religious standards determines their fate in life. They live in fear of God, not a healthy fear, but an unhealthy one—a fear of what God will do to them every time they fail. That becomes the motivation for their Christian living. Why do some believers succumb to this thinking? The answer is that we probably don’t understand the difference between *punishment* and *discipline*.

• Punishment is a penalty imposed on an offender for a crime or wrongdoing, and generally connotes retribution (a payback) rather than correction of future behavior. It is backward-looking toward the offense, impersonal, automatic, and chiefly concerned with "balancing the books of justice."
Discipline is training that develops character, self-control, orderliness and/or efficiency. It is forward-looking to a change of behavior and/or character, is individually tailored, personally applied, and is chiefly concerned with what will benefit the individual in question. Discipline is not always corrective or applied in response to sin; it is ongoing. Think “training.”

Punishment and discipline sometimes look alike (especially to the one on the receiving end), but the difference can be seen in both the attitude and the goal of the one applying them.

- The attitude behind punishment is anger and indignation, and the goal is justice.
- The attitude behind discipline is love, and the goal is the development of the person.

You can probably think of a time or two when you have confused these two concepts in your life.

17. What does the New Testament adamantly declare to you, as a believer, about freedom from punishment in Romans 5:9 and Romans 8:1-2?

**Scriptural Insight:** The Bible teaches that every believer will be judged at the “Judgment Seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10). This, however, is not a criminal trial where the fate of the defendant is in question, nor his guilt or innocence. It is an evaluation for the purpose of rewards (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). Believers are already declared not guilty of sin...in Christ...forever!

18. What further confidence do we gain from 1 John 4:17-19?

Under the grace of the New Covenant, believers are disciplined (trained), not punished. God’s discipline stems from his love (Revelation 3:19). Confidence in his love for you should cast out any fear of punishment you may have.


20. For what purpose does God discipline his children?

- Romans 8:28-30—
• Philippians 1:6—

• Hebrews 12:4-11 [Note: the Greek word translated “punish” in verse 6 means “to whip,” in essence “give a spanking.”]—

Because we live under the grace of God in Jesus Christ, believers can rest in the fact that all of God's purposes for us are good. We have a loving Father who teaches, trains, and corrects. Even when evil occurs (because we still live in a fallen world), we can rest confidently in the promise of Romans 8:28: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." Our God is good all the time to us—even in the tough times, in different ways to each of his children, and by what he allows and doesn't allow into our lives.

21. **Graceful Living:** What has God used to train (discipline) you to trust him more? To depend upon him more? To say "no" to selfishness and "yes" to selflessness? Are you grateful for those lessons that overflowed from his grace and love towards you even if they hurt?

**Part 2: Grace motivates us to obedience out of love and gratitude**

So why do some Christians so easily stray away from grace into legalism? Why would someone want to retain the Law or create additional laws for Christians to follow? Often, it is because of the fear of lawlessness. All agree that lawlessness is wrong and is to be opposed. Yet, there is the tendency to think sin can be controlled through lots of rules. We all know how much that does not work! (See Romans 7:7-13.) The answer, however, is not that we should keep believers under law. It is teaching and exhorting believers to “live by the Spirit”—the better way.

Through our adoption as sons and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have received a status as spiritual adults. Adults live on the basis of mature character with FREEDOM and responsibility. Knowing and understanding your new status in Christ, based on all that Christ has done for you and what you have in him, helps to answer the question, “Why should I live a godly life, if I’m not under law?”

22. Read Galatians 5:13-16. In contrast to living by law, how are Christians exhorted to live with our Grace-Based Freedom, and why would this be a better way? [Note: we'll cover this more in the next lesson.]
23. According to Romans 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, what should motivate us to obey God with our lives if not legalism?

Historical Insight: “A preacher of the Law comes down on men with threats and punishments; a preacher of divine grace coaxes and urges men by reminding them of the goodness and mercy which God has shown them. For He [God] would have no unwilling workers nor cheerless service; He wants men to be glad and cheerful in the service of God.” (Martin Luther, comments on Romans 12)

24. What are the benefits of living by grace rather than by law?

- Matthew 11:28-30—
- John 10:10—
- Titus 2:11-14—

Think About It: “What God wants is for us to trust him and His Word—the Word that tells us that Christ has done it all—and to act on it by approaching ‘the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need’ (Hebrews 4:16) ...But if you don't trust that you have been made totally acceptable in God's sight, you will never have the boldness to approach him. You will linger outside His throne room, trying to find a way to get ‘worthy’ enough to go in. The end result is that you will avoid going to your only source of help (God) when you need him the most!” (Bob George, Classic Christianity, page 102)

25. Graceful Living: Read Philippians 3:3-10 and 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Paul understood the plight of those who had been relating to God through outward performance under the Law for years. He had been there! Those who have been freed from the Law (both Jews and non-Jews since Christ) can now have a relationship with God on the basis of his grace, as Paul describes about his own life (1 Timothy 1:12-17). Grace motivates us to obedience by love and gratitude for what Christ has done.

- In what areas of your life have you been relating to God through outward performance (on the basis of law), with the accompanying feeling of obligation, guilt, and fear of punishment for not doing it right? How has that affected your life?
God wants you to relate to him on the basis of his grace, so that your motivation to obey him is based on his love for you, your love for him, and gratitude for what Christ has done for you. Relax! Thank him that you have FREEDOM to relate to your God on the basis of his Grace to you. And, enjoy your Grace-filled relationship with your God today, tomorrow, and forever! Paul responded to God’s grace call on his life with a statement of praise in 1 Timothy 1:17. How will you respond? Feel free to use any creative means including drawing a diagram of your freedom in Christ now.
Lesson 8: Grace-Centered Living

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

How Are Christians Meant to Live?

God does not want believers to live by law, but by the Holy Spirit. Whether someone is living by law (God's Law or man-made laws) or by grace is determined by two key issues:

   - Under law, a person works in order to earn the acceptance of God.
   - Under grace, a person trusts in Jesus Christ as her acceptance and works out of love and gratitude.

   - Under law, a person lives from his own power and resources.
   - Under grace, a person lives by Christ's life and power imparted by the Holy Spirit.

Life by the Holy Spirit is consistently presented in contrast to living by law.

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.” (Galatians 5:18)

"He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:6,17)

“For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.” (Romans 7:5-6)

Let’s explore what this looks like.

Day One Study

The Old Testament background of the ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit was active throughout history from creation until the New Testament age. Nehemiah recounts the role of the Spirit in the life of Israel as a nation. Read Nehemiah 9:19-20, 30. What was the Spirit’s role?

2. How did the Holy Spirit empower ("anoint") the following individuals for special service?
   - Exodus 35:30-36:1—
• 1 Samuel 10:1,6-9—

• 1 Samuel 16:12-13—

3. The anointing of the Holy Spirit on Old Testament believers was not promised to believers of that time nor promised to be permanent when given. (See 1 Samuel 16:14; Psalm 51:11.) However, the prophets spoke of a future day, the time of the New Covenant or Kingdom. Read Joel 2:28-30 and Ezekiel 36:24-28. What did God promise about his Spirit at that time?

The announcement of the Kingdom and the coming of the Spirit

4. What announcement did John the Baptist make in Mark 1:4, 7-8?

5. What did Jesus promise about the Spirit in the following verses?

• John 3:1-10—

• John 7:37-39—

• Acts 1:3-8—

6. How were the promises fulfilled in Acts 2:1-21, 32-36?

**Scriptural Insight:** Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God himself, the Third Person of the Trinity. He is described as possessing all the divine attributes and is referred to as God (Acts 5:3-4). It is important to remember that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not a “force” or merely an impersonal attribute or influence of God. He is described as having all the elements of personality: intellect (1 Cor. 2:11), emotions (Eph. 4:30), and will (1 Cor. 12:11). Personal pronouns are used of him, such as “he” or “him” (John 16:7-8).
7. **Graceful Living**: Does the concept of the Holy Spirit’s existence seem like science fiction to you? Like something out of a movie, e.g. “the force is with you” from *Star Wars*? We often feel this way because his name is more like a title. We have God the Father (we can relate to “father”) and God the Son (whose name is Jesus, we can relate to “son” and “Jesus”). Paul often refers to the Spirit as the Spirit of Christ or God’s Spirit to help us relate to him. Be honest with God here. Let him know how you feel. Ask him to help you trust what he says in his Word about his Spirit’s presence in our world and in our lives.

**Day Two Study**

*The relational ministry of the Holy Spirit*

Jesus said, "Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me?" (John 14:10). He then said that when the Holy Spirit comes, "On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you" (John 14:20). Authentic Christian living is when we live in the same relation to Jesus as he did with his father (faith, dependence). We trust; he supplies life and power!

Your position in Christ is your:

- Acceptance before God.
- Assurance of salvation.
- Identity.

Christ’s presence in you is:

- Life (regeneration).
- Power for living.
- The basis of a relationship.
- Promise and hope – the Holy Spirit is called a “deposit” or “down payment” on our salvation, giving assurance of the completion of his work. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

When a person hears the gospel and places her faith in Jesus Christ, several things happen instantaneously as a one-time event regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. Let’s look at these.

8. At the moment of salvation (when one believes), the Holy Spirit’s ministry to the believer is...

- Titus 3:4-6—
- Romans 8:9—
- Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:4-7—
- 1 Corinthians 12:13—
- Ephesians 1:13-14—
9. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ has established with believers a relationship to himself similar to the one he enjoyed with the Father. Read John 14:15-21, 26 and John 16:12-15. Describe the Spirit's role in our relationship to Jesus.

**From the Greek:** "The Greek word translated "Helper" or "Counselor" in John 14:16 is *parakletos*. Both of these English words have connotations that are absent from the Greek word. Helper connotes an inferior, which the Holy Spirit is not. Counselor can call to mind a camp counselor or a marriage counselor whereas a legal counselor is more in harmony with the Greek idea. In secular contexts *parakletos* often referred to a legal assistant, an advocate, or simply a helper (e.g., a witness or a representative in court). The verbal form of this word, *parakaleo*, literally means to call alongside and, therefore, to encourage or to strengthen." (Dr. Tom Constable, *Constable's Notes on John*, pages 219-220)

**The Empowering Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

From the beginning of our faith relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit anoints us with God's presence and power. We need both to live the kind of life Jesus intends for us to live. After this one-time work of the Spirit to establish God's presence within us, he has an ongoing empowering ministry in the life of the believer.

10. According to the following verses, how is genuine Christian life to be lived?
   - Galatians 2:20—
   - Philippians 2:12-13—
   - Colossians 1:29—

11. Read the verses below about the Spirit's empowering ministry to the believer. What does the Holy Spirit empower or enable the believer to do in order to live the genuine Christian life described above?
   - Acts 4:31—
   - Romans 5:5—
LESSON 8: GRACE-CENTERED LIVING

- Romans 8:26-27—

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-16—

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11—

- Ephesians 3:14-19—

The Holy Spirit is the means by which Christ is "with us" and "in us" (Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 2:20). Christ is in a glorified human body in heaven. He is with us by means of the Holy Spirit. To sum up: The ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit has been well expressed by scholar Gordon D. Fee in the phrase, "God's Empowering Presence." (Gordon Fee, God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul)

11. Graceful Living: Briefly describe a great need that God has met in your life or a remarkable thing that God has done in your life through his Spirit's empowering presence in you.

Day Three Study

The Holy Spirit's Unseen Presence

We cannot see the Holy Spirit inside of us. But, we know he is working inside us because we become aware of the evidence. These are some of the things the Spirit does for us:

- **He helps us understand what the Bible teaches.** Has someone explained something to you about the Bible, and you understood what she was saying? That's the Spirit inside of you helping you to understand. John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:13

- **He gives us the words to tell others about Jesus and say that Jesus is God.** Have you wanted to tell someone about Jesus but didn’t know what to say, then all of a sudden the words just popped into your head for you to tell that person about Jesus? That's the Holy Spirit living inside of you prompting you with the right words to say. John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3
• He gives us assurance that we are God’s children. Have you ever felt really loved by God? That’s the Spirit inside of you letting you know for sure that you are God’s child, and He loves you. Romans 8:16

• He makes us want to do what pleases God. Do you have a desire to please God with your life? That’s the Holy Spirit inside of you giving you that desire. Romans 12:11; Jer. 33:31,33

• He helps us to feel joy as we serve Jesus and when we do the right things. Have you ever felt really good when you chose to do the right thing or chose to be helpful? That’s the Holy Spirit inside of you letting you feel God’s pleasure. Romans 14:17-18

• He helps us to feel joy as we serve Jesus and when we do the right things. Have you ever felt really good when you chose to do the right thing or chose to be helpful? That’s the Holy Spirit inside of you letting you feel God’s pleasure. Romans 14:17-18

• He makes us not want to do what doesn’t please God. Have you ever felt something tugging at you inside when you were tempted to do something wrong? That’s the Holy Spirit living inside of you nudging you, reminding you what doesn’t please God so you can choose not to do that. We can ask him to let us know in our thinking or feelings when we are tempted to do something bad. He promises to do that. Galatians 5:16

• He makes us to become more like Jesus, especially in loving other people. Have you ever started loving someone even more after you started praying for him/her? That’s the Holy Spirit living inside of you doing that. Galatians 5:22-23

• He makes us want to sing praises to God, in our hearts and out loud, and be thankful for God’s goodness. Do you like to sing praises to God? Do you feel thankful to God for his goodness to you? That’s the Spirit living inside of you filling your heart with praise and thanksgiving to God. Ephesians 5:18-20

• He prays for us when we need help or don’t know how to pray. Have you ever had a huge problem and didn’t know what to ask God to do about it, but God took care of the problem anyway? That’s the Holy Spirit living inside of you working to take care of your need before you even ask. Romans 8:26-27

12. Graceful Living: Which of the evidences you just read have you recognized in your life? Thank God for specific ways and times his Spirit has worked in your life.

Walking by the Spirit

The New Testament encourages believers to “live by the Spirit” (Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:16, 25) and be “led by the Spirit” (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18). The Greek word Paul used here in Galatians 5:16 means to literally “walk”—a common idiom for how one conducts one’s life or how one behaves, in this case one’s faith walk. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit?
Walking by the Spirit means walking in submission to and dependence on the Spirit. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:17, “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’” We exercise faith in Jesus Christ for our salvation. We exercise faith for our daily living out the life of Christ within us. This daily faith walk by the Spirit involves every area of life.

At the beginning of this lesson, we stated that you can recognize if you are living by law or living by the Spirit based on two areas:

1) The issue of motivation: Why you do what you do. Under law, a person works in order to earn the acceptance of God. Under grace, a person trusts in Jesus Christ as his acceptance, and works from love and gratitude. **You know you are living by the Spirit when your response to God is to serve him out of your love for him and gratitude for what he has done for you.**

2) The issue of power: How you do what you do. Under law, a person lives from his own power and resources. Under grace, a person lives by Christ's life and power imparted by the Holy Spirit. **You know you are living by the Spirit when you are stepping out in obedience to God's Word, depending on God for the ability and power to do what he asks you to do, and trusting God with the results.**

**Think About It:** The normal goal of human childrearing is to raise our children to become more independent of us over time. God's goal is to raise his children to become more dependent on him over time.

17. **Graceful Living:** Think about different areas of your life—relationships, health, school, work, emotions, health, parenting, finances, other.

- In which ones do you feel you are relying on your own power rather than the Spirit's power?

- Consider giving over those areas to your God where you are trusting in your own power and begin trusting in the Spirit’s power. Choose to live according to the Spirit and be led by the Spirit in those areas. Trust your God with the results and watch what happens!
Day Four Study

The filling of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit connects us with Christ so that he is with us and in us forever—God’s presence. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live the kind of life our God asks us to live—God’s power. He is God’s empowering presence. We are called to live by the Spirit, that is, to walk in submission to and dependence on the Spirit—by faith—daily.

18. Read Ephesians 5:18. What further instruction does Paul give? Why would the comparison to drunkenness be a good one?

What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)? The contrast between being filled with wine and filled with the Spirit is obvious. Both forces are internal. “Be filled”/“Be being kept filled by the Spirit” amounts to letting the Holy Spirit who indwells us control us completely. We do this by trusting and obeying him as his Word directs. The wine that fills a person controls every area of her life as long as that person consumes it. Drunkenness results in ungodly behavior. Likewise the believer who allows the Spirit to influence and direct his thinking and behavior will experience his control as long as she yield’s her will to the Spirit. This is our ongoing responsibility (present tense), and it is expected of every Christian, not optional.

Filling of the Spirit involves our yielding to God as God and yielding to his purposes and his truth. God fills what you open. Author Warren Wiersbe says this, “The baptism of the Spirit means that I belong to Christ’s body. The filling of the Spirit means that my body belongs to Christ.” (Adapted from Dr. Constable’s Notes on Ephesians, page 61)

All that you learned in the Day Three Study regarding evidence of living by the Spirit would apply to evidence of being filled by the Spirit. Both result from yielding to and depending upon the Spirit’s empowering presence in your life, choosing God’s purposes and truth for your life. Both produce the characteristics of God’s life in yours.

19. In Ephesians 5:19-21, Paul referred to four of the many results of the Spirit’s filling. What are they?

20. A parallel passage describing the same evidence of the Spirit’s filling is found in Colossians. Read Colossians 3:12-17. What are the evidences of being filled with the Spirit/living by the Spirit in each of the following verses?

- Verse 12—
- Verse 13—
• Verse 14—

• Verse 15—

• Verse 16—

• Verse 17—

**Scriptural Insight:** When he [Paul] speaks here [in Ephesians 5:18] of being with the Spirit and when he speaks in Colossians of being under the rule of the peace of Christ and indwelt by the "word of Christ," he means to be under God's control. The effect of this control is essentially the same in both passages: a happy, mutual encouragement to praise God and a healthy, mutual relationship with people." *(NIV Study Bible, note on Ephesians 5:18, page 1798)*

21. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul describes similar evidences of living by the Spirit/being filled by the Spirit which he calls "fruit of the Spirit."

• What are they?

• What similarities in this list do you see with what you discovered in Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:12-17?

**Think About It:** "We aren't able to produce the Christian life—only Christ can produce it. We are to maintain a dependent, receiving attitude—the same attitude of availability that Jesus presented to his Father for 33 years. And Christ will produce the fruit of his life in us. Our response should be, 'Lord, I can't, but you can.'" *(Bob George, *Classic Christianity*, page 177)*

22. **Graceful Living:** "The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:17). Living by faith is acting according to the Word of God, depending on Jesus Christ for the power, and trusting him with the results. From the evidences of living by the Spirit you discovered in the verses above, choose a few that you desire in your life. Now, ask Jesus Christ to produce these in you by saying for each one, "Lord Jesus, I can't, but you can. I want you to do this in my life. I trust you to do this in my life." Watch what he does!
Lesson 9: Grace-Motivated Obedience

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It [grace] teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:11-14)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Life in the Until Time

Any attempt to present a realistic and biblical view of Christian living must take into account where we fit in God’s plan of history. We live in an overlapping age—possessing the life of the new creation to come through the Holy Spirit, while still living in bodies of the old, fallen creation in a fallen, evil world. That puts us in an already but not yet tension. We are already justified in God’s eyes, but we are not yet made sinless because we still commit sins. We are citizens of the kingdom, but the kingdom has not yet come to earth. Therefore, we need to understand Christian living in a way that neither underestimates nor overestimates the quality of life available to us in Jesus Christ.

- Those who underestimate the quality of life and power available to us through Jesus Christ and the giving of the Spirit will tend to approach Christian living legalistically with self-confidence. They believe they can accumulate Christian character through self-disciplined obedience (living by law). In other words, these believers revert to law in an attempt to perfect themselves.

- Those who overestimate the quality of life and power available through the Holy Spirit will tend to approach Christian living mystically (rather than rationally) with self-confidence. They believe that their possession of the “fullness of the Spirit” has lifted them beyond the power of sin in the flesh and beyond the power of evil present in the world. These believe that success, prosperity and health belong to people of faith. Suffering, failure, and illness result from a lack of faith.

Both lead to what is called a “triumphalist” approach to spiritual growth, characterized by confidence in self and a dangerously low level of respect for one’s sinful potential. Triumphalism is revealed by:

1) A low-level of perceived need for Christ. His words, "apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5), have little meaning.

2) The common response to our own failures or to the failures of other believers, "I can't believe l/he/she did that!" Shock that we still sin.

Added to the above wrong assumptions about the Christian life is the belief that the flesh improves and becomes “godly” over time, becoming less temptable in the process and becoming less dependent on Christ. Christians who believe this are prime targets for failure, because they tend to play with fire and let down their guard against temptation.

This is the truth: We never outgrow our need to depend 100% upon Jesus Christ. Spiritual maturity is not reached by needing less of Jesus but by depending more on his truth and his power to live a life that brings glory to God and pleases him.
Day One Study

*The conflict between the Spirit and the flesh*

While we as redeemed and justified believers have new life in Christ, we retain our old bodies in which sin dwells (the flesh or sinful nature).

What is the flesh? The term "flesh" (NIV: "sinful nature") refers to the unredeemed portion of our humanity—our bodies and souls through which indwelling sin assaults us. We don’t know what it is, but we know how it works—sending messages to the mind that are in conflict with the Spirit. The flesh does not improve or change its nature over time, as long as we are in our bodies! At the moment of salvation, we are born again of the Spirit. Our bodies are not born again, and our souls (mind, emotions, and will) are not instantly transformed. While the flesh doesn’t improve, our choices can change over time as we learn to live by the Spirit (what you learned in the last lesson).

1. The universal experience of people who are trying to be good (on their own) yet are hampered by the flesh is described in Romans 7:14-24. The context is applicable to believers and unbelievers alike. Describe the experience. [Note: those who refuse to see this as applicable to the believer are likely living in triumphalism.]

2. What do James 4:1 and 1 Peter 2:11 add to our understanding of this struggle with the flesh?

3. Read Galatians 5:16-18. How does Paul describe this continual conflict?

*Scriptural Insight:* “To live ‘according to the flesh’ is to live in keeping with the values and desires of life in the present age that stand in absolute contradiction to God and his ways...Paul is first thinking not about the several ‘works’ of the flesh he will soon describe, but, as he will go on to explain in v. 17, about the basic perspective of life in the flesh. Such a perspective...radically opposes God and his ways, here designated as opposition to [living by] the Spirit.” (Gordon D. Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*)

| Living by the flesh | Living by the Spirit |

5. Read Ephesians 4:25-5:4 (also 5:8-10). Contrast the evidence of living by the flesh and living by the Spirit.

| Living by the flesh | Living by the Spirit |

6. Read Colossians 3:5-14. Contrast the evidence of living by the flesh and living by the Spirit.

| Living by the flesh | Living by the Spirit |

**Think About It:** Often, we blame people or circumstances for our anger. People and circumstances do not cause our anger, impatience, bitterness, etc.; our reactions to people and circumstances reveal where we are living—by the Spirit or by the flesh.
Although we no longer measure our way of living by the Law of Moses (including the Ten Commandments) which was given to Israel, the New Testament writers certainly gave us plenty of description of what sin looks like in a Christian’s life! Living by the flesh is pretty ugly, isn’t it? Would you say there is a stark contrast between the two lifestyles? The Christian life is not hard; it is impossible apart from Christ himself.

7. **Graceful Living:** We all have areas of our own lives in which we are still living in the flesh. So, don’t feel alone. Which ones jumped out at you when you listed them? Jesus wants you to trust him to live by the Spirit in those areas.

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**Day Two Study**

**Set free from the power of the old slave master sin**

Sin is ugly. Very ugly! As shown in the previous day’s study, we are a new creation in Christ, yet we retain our old bodies in which sin dwells (the flesh or sinful nature). We are encouraged to live by the Spirit, yet we are warned that we can choose to live by the flesh which is at war within us, at war against the Spirit. Are we left helpless like a pawn in the midst of the conflict? No, we have God’s empowering presence in us; he is able to help us win the battle over sin. But, we have a responsibility as well. Let’s explore our responsibility.

8. Read Galatians 5:16 and Romans 13:14. In order to live by the Spirit and not by the flesh, what is our responsibility?

*Think About It:* Paul writes in Galatians 5:16, "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desire of the sinful nature." Notice what this verse does not say. It does not say, "If you clean up the flesh, you will become spiritual" (the logic of legalism). It does not say, "The desires of the flesh will go away" (the logic of triumphalism). As long as we live in these unredeemed bodies, sin remains a source of temptation in us.

In Romans 6, Paul personifies sin as a slave master—a power that enslaves us. Roman Christians understood this concept well as 1 out of every 2 people in the Roman Empire was a literal slave. We may not have a slave society any longer. But what we may not realize is that every human being has a master and is a servant to something—either God and his righteousness or sin and its wickedness—no neutral ground. You might think you are your own master, but you’re not. Self is really following the voice of master sin within.

All of our lives before Christ, the old slave master sin called the shots. When we believe in Jesus, a **greater power moves in**—the Holy Spirit. He **sets us free from the power** of that old slave master to become what God intended us to be. But, we are not set free to be our own masters. That’s not
what it means to be set free. Our options are still: 1) sin or 2) God. We have a new master, the one who set us free—Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our master, but the old slave master still calls my name and calls your name. That old slave master yells pretty loudly sometimes. And, we listen! Yet, we don't have to listen or carry out its orders. We are freed from sin's power over us because a greater power has moved in—God’s Spirit—one who woos us to do right. How we yield to God’s Spirit working in our lives is our choice.

9. Romans 6 is a discussion of life choices to serve God or to serve sin and the consequences of doing either. Let’s see what advice God has for us through Paul. Read Romans 6:11-23.

- According to verse 11, how are we to think of ourselves?

- What choices are identified in verses 12-14?

- What choices are identified in verses 19-23?

10. In Romans 6:14, Paul tells believers we are no longer under law (which only shows us what we do wrong), but we are now under grace, which enables us to do what is right. Read Titus 2:11-14. What does grace do for us?

Whether or not we are presently tempted in a given area, we are capable of committing any sin mentioned in the Bible, given the right set of circumstances, time and temptation. The progression is:

- A received thought produces familiarity.
- Continued pondering produces a loss of repugnance and, eventually, curiosity.
- Desires, sometimes a total surprise, are generated to experiment. The most damaging or dangerous are the ones that blindside you with a desire you didn't even know you were capable of! So, protect yourself at all times through prayer, “Lord, protect me from myself!”
- Having tried the activity, the flesh (like a goat) can learn to like, and even grow dependent, on any sensual stimulus.

Conclusion: We never outgrow our need to depend 100% upon Jesus Christ. Recognizing this should lead us to 1) have compassion on one another (Galatians 6:1) and to 2) not take risks with sinful behavior!
Think About It: "When God wants to show you what human nature is like apart from himself, he has to show it to you in yourself. If the Spirit of God has given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and he only does it when His Spirit is at work), you know there is no criminal who is half so bad in actuality as you know yourself to be in possibility." (Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, "The Staggering Question")

11. What does God promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13 regarding temptation? Through whom does he give us the way of escape—through ourselves or through the Spirit’s empowering presence within us?

Think About It: “Every believer has a choice. If something is causing you to stumble in your following of Jesus, you have the freedom to choose not to continue interacting with that thing. If it’s political arguments, you can choose to stop engaging in political conversations. If it’s pornography, you can turn off your computer. If it’s money woes, you can choose the security of faith over the security of coin. The bottom line is, we have the power to remove obstacles and run a smooth race (Hebrews 12:1). I know several believers who feel ‘trapped’ in their sins and temptations. But God will always provide grace for sin and choice for temptation. There is always a way out of temptation (see 1 Corinthians 10:13). You just have to choose it. If you want to be mentally and emotionally free, that is.” (John Newton, Growing Young blog, "Lessons Learned")

A habit is easier to maintain than it is to start. Faith can be a habit—a good habit. Make wise decisions to protect yourself:

1. **Protect your mind.** Desires of the flesh do not go away. They are, however, like a fire: they can burn hot or burn down, depending on whether you are feeding them.

2. **Don’t play with fire.** Make policy decisions to keep your distance from what tempts you.

12. **Graceful Living:** Martin Luther, the priest who initiated the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, described it this way, “I cannot keep the birds from flying around my head; but by the grace of God I can keep them from building nests in my hair.” What decisions are you making or should you make to protect yourself from what tempts you?
Day Three Study

Dealing with failure: "What should I do when I sin?"

How long do you think you can go without sinning, without doing something that is a work of the flesh? Six days? Six hours? Can most of us go 6 minutes without having impure thoughts or selfish behavior—unintentional and unrecognized? God understands this about us. Because we still retain our old bodies in which sin dwells, we will sin—unintentionally as well as deliberately. All sin is disobeying God, whether unintentional or deliberate. All sin is covered by Christ’s work on the cross—whether unintentional or deliberate. All sin is forgiven before it is ever committed (you have forgiveness)—whether unintentional or deliberate.

13. Review what is promised in these verses:
   • Romans 8:1—
   • 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21—
   • Ephesians 1:7—
   • Colossians 2:13-14—

Remembering who you are in Christ can help you recognize and avoid two errors in thinking regarding your sin that stem from the logic of legalism: 1) when you sin, God cuts off fellowship from you until you repent, and 2) a believer’s sins build up until she confesses them and asks for forgiveness.

The first error in thinking ignores the fact that Christ is both in us and considers us in him. Nothing in our radical identity even opens the possibility of being alienated from God! If you are deliberately living by the flesh rather than by the Spirit in your life, you may choose to cut yourself off from praying to your God, reading the Bible, and community with other Christians. But, that is not God cutting himself off from you.

14. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and Romans 8:26. What in these verses gives you assurance that God does not cut himself off from you when you are weak?

God’s throne is open to every believer for grace and help in our time of need, which certainly includes while we are weak from sin’s influence. The Holy Spirit is interceding for us in our weakness, which includes sin. The Spirit does not stop speaking to us or working on us just because we do not want to listen. The fruit of thinking that every time you sin you have broken your fellowship with God is
tremendous guilt and insecurity. This is living by law rather than by grace. Because of what Christ did on the cross, we are set free from fear of God because of sin, can bask in His amazing love, and gratefully serve him.

The second error in thinking also is evidence of living by law. What is the fruit of teaching that our sins build up until we confess them to receive forgiveness? It is guilt, worry, and time spent trying to stay “confessed up.” We envision God erasing the “not guilty” verdict on us and considering us “guilty” until we confess and are declared not guilty again. What’s the difference between that and the Old Testament system of sacrifices where sins would build up between trips to the altar? Nothing!

Realistically, we can’t even confess a quarter of our sins in a lifetime of being a believer. It’s not biblical to think that we can do so, and teach that we have to do so, in order to maintain forgiveness or fellowship with God. By the way, just saying to God every day, “I confess all the sins I’ve done lately” is not what He’s after. He’s after a transformed life. That’s why he went through all this trouble to give us a new identity. Knowing you already have forgiveness leads to confidence, peace, joy and freedom. Remember and rest in your acceptance in Christ because of his finished work on the cross.

**Think About It:** When we received the great exchange, we received Jesus’ righteousness. Jesus received our sin. God decided this was how it would be 2,000 years ago. Sin doesn’t mix with righteousness, does it? God doesn’t erase Christ’s righteousness from our account so he can add sin to it, does He? No! He gave us Jesus’ righteousness permanently. That means there’s only one place for our sin to go. As soon as we sin, God removes it and puts it on Christ’s account. That’s what Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 5. It is confirmed in 1 John 1:7 where John says believers are continually purified from sin.

God wanted to remove the sin barrier between him and us permanently. He’s interested in us spending our time and effort producing fruit for him to reflect his glory as he designed the human race to do. The righteous live by faith—in a God—whose grace defies man’s attempt—to still "measure up" (live by law) in some way. We should be thanking him daily for his forgiveness and his love and acceptance of us in Christ and the opportunity we have to live a radically different kind of life. What an outstanding privilege this new identity is!

Sin can no longer enslave us unwillingly because there’s a competing and greater power—God himself—in us. Transforming power in our hearts has set us free to produce his fruit. Living by the Spirit reveals to us through the Word and through prayer what is sin in our lives and helps our repentant hearts follow through with our desire for change.

15. Read Psalm 139:23-24. What should be our heart attitude toward God regarding sin in our lives?
The biblical way for dealing with recognized sin in our lives

Step One: View yourself rightly.
Your identity is not “______” (coveter, greedy, gossiper, whatever it is). You are in Christ, a child of God, who sometimes “_____” (covets, is greedy, gossips).

Step Two: Recognize (confess) the truth regarding your sin.
To confess biblically means to agree with God about what you and he both know to be true. Confession is not a formula, a process, or dependent on a mediator. Regarding sin in my life, it is not saying, “I’m sorry.” It is saying, “I agree with you, God. I blew it!” See your sin as awful!

Using coveting for example: while reading Philippians 4:12, the Spirit convicts you that you have been coveting rather than being content. You agree with God that your coveting is actually not being content with his provision. Coveting doesn’t fit someone who knows God. That is confession.

Step Three: Confession is incomplete without repentance.
Repentance means to change your mind about that sin, to mourn its ugliness, resulting in changing your actions. Paul calls that godly sorrow in 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, and he says godly sorrow brings repentance. It’s saying, “I recognize what I am doing is wrong. This fills me with sorrow because it displeases You, God. Please help me to live differently.” He will certainly do that! That’s how our lives get transformed.

Using coveting for example: You want to not covet any longer, and you want to be content and grateful for what God has already provided. So, you pray, “Lord Jesus, please have your Spirit nudge me when I want to covet. Replace my coveting with contentment and gratitude. By faith, Lord, I want you to do that in my life.” That is repentance.

Think About It: Repentance isn’t repentance until you change something. You can confess “until the cows come home” (daily, habitually) and never change anything. Jesus called for people to “repent” not “confess.”

15. Paul describes repentance well in Ephesians 4:25-32. (See also 5:4.) What changes in both mind and action can be made to overcome the sinful behaviors listed in this section?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sinful Behavior</th>
<th>Change of mind/action</th>
</tr>
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Step Four: Repentance leads to dependence.

Depend on the living Christ inside you for that change to take place. Our Lord Jesus Christ is not interested in our compliance (outward conformity) as much as he desires our obedience from the heart.

*Using coveting for example: Memorize Philippians 4:12-13 and any other scriptures that deal with being thankful for God's provision. Be sensitive to the Spirit's nudging when you are tempted to covet. Choose to be thankful instead.*

16. **Graceful Living:** Is there any ugliness in your life that you mourn? Follow the steps above to live in freedom from that ugliness. What will you trust the living Christ inside you to do for you in that area?

**Day Four Study**

*A realistic view of spiritual growth.*

The Lord Jesus said he came to give us abundant life (John 10:10), and the whole New Testament speaks in lavish terms about the quality of life God wants his children to experience. We are exhorted to press on to maturity in Christ. But, how is spiritual growth recognized?

*Focus on the Meaning:* “Spiritual growth is not growing ‘more and more of me’ so I need ‘less and less of Christ.’ It is growing in knowledge and experience as we walk with him, discovering more and more our need to depend totally on him.

Growth is gradual. There is a common misconception that one’s life is either 100% “carnal” (living by the flesh) or 100% “spiritual” (living by the Spirit) at any given time. In fact, probably every believer is trusting Christ with some aspects of his life at the same time and right alongside other areas of his life where he is living in self-sufficiency. Growth, therefore, involves Christ progressively teaching us to trust him in new unexplored areas of our lives, and deepening our sense of dependency in areas where we have previously grown a little.

You don’t become more aware of your own "holiness" as you grow. On the contrary, the voices of the saints through history consistently agree that as you grow you become more aware of how far short you fall from true holiness. You become more aware of your sinfulness as you grow, not less. Understanding these things underscores our need to understand the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and our identity in him. Only because of the Lord’s grace can we grow in self-knowledge and handle the ongoing struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. We would sooner or later throw in the towel without our assurance of his continued acceptance, teaching, and kindness. (Tim Stevenson, *T.E.A.M. Training*, Session 17)
17. **Graceful Living**: Looking at your life, reflect on your growth over time.

- In what areas have you learned to trust Christ more?

- In what areas have you recently become more aware of your sinfulness?

- Spiritual growth involves God growing us, stretching us, and reconstructing us because he loves us and lives in us and desires that we be transformed into the likeness of his Son. It's for our good and his glory! Praise Jesus for working out your salvation in such a personal way. Feel free to use any creative way to reflect on your spiritual growth.
Lesson 10: Grace Calls for You to Follow

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” (JOHN 12:26)

What Is a Disciple?

Those who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (“believers”) are called to become “disciples.” A disciple is an active follower or learner. A disciple studies the teachings of another person whom they respect and applies those teachings to her life. For example, the movie *Julie & Julia* portrays the young woman Julie Powell becoming a disciple of master chef Julia Child through Julia’s cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Julie studies the recipes and follows the procedures. As a result, she experiences the joy of cooking and eating delicious food as Julia has taught her through a book. Towards the end, one realizes that Julie got to know Julia Child “personally” though they never met.

Jesus Christ calls you to **intentionally** follow him as his disciple. This means committing to learning from him and becoming like him as you obediently apply what he teaches you through his book, the Bible, and what he allows into your life.

Day One Study

*Getting to know Jesus through his “book”*

1. Read Mark 5:18 and 10:52. What do those who have been healed want to do? Is this a typical response for those who have been healed of their sin and given new life today? Why or why not? Should it be?

2. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What does Jesus promise to those who follow him as his disciple?

**Historical Insight:** “Yoke” refers to the harness that connected a pair of animals, usually oxen, to a plow. The yoke linked them together so they could work efficiently. Often a young animal was paired with an older one, allowing the younger one to learn “on the job” from the experienced animal. In New Testament times, the phrase “take the yoke of” was used by the Jewish rabbis to mean, “become the pupil of a certain teacher;” in this case the disciple of Jesus. (*Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible*, page 1066)
As we have seen so far in this study, the rest Jesus offers is from the work of the Law (plus all the additional burdens Israel’s spiritual leaders had loaded onto the people) in order to maintain a right standing with God. This invitation recalls Jeremiah 31:25 where Yahweh offered his people rest in the New Covenant (“I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint”). Jesus, the revealer of God, invites those who long to know God and be refreshed in life to come to him. Jesus’ burden is light compared to the loads Israel’s religious leaders imposed on their disciples.

3. Learning from Jesus involves being a student of his Word (our Bible) and choosing to put God’s truth into practice as a lifestyle. What do the following say are the benefits of doing so?

- Matthew 7:24-27—
- John 8:31-32—
- Ephesians 4:11-14—

4. Jesus knew the Old Testament Scriptures (the revealed Word of God) well and used them in his life and ministry. [Note: the New Testament was not yet written.] Read the following verses. How did Jesus use the Old Testament?

- Matthew 4:1-11—

5. Read the following verses. What else is revealed about the Word of God?

- Joshua 23:14—
- Proverbs 30:5-6—
- 1 Peter 1:23-25—

**Historical Insight:** The Bible is an amazing book. It was written over a 1,500-year period by about 40 different authors living in several different countries. It was written in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Yet the Bible is consistent in its central theme and key figure—it focuses upon Jesus Christ. Such a feat would be impossible without one supreme Author—the Holy Spirit of God.
6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. What did Paul and Peter both conclude about the scriptures? Why is this important?

**Focus on the Meaning:** *Inspired* means literally "God-breathed" in the Greek. "The meaning, then, is not that God breathed into the writers, nor that he somehow breathed into the writings to give them their special character, but that what was written by men was breathed out by God. He spoke though them. They were His spokesmen." (John R. W. Stott, *Understanding the Bible*)

"God-breathed doesn’t mean that the writers of the Scriptures were sleep-walking. What it means is that God used their personalities, their abilities, their understanding, their talents and the real-life situations they were in to bring forth the Scripture that he wanted. Most of the New Testament letters were written to deal with circumstances. God is perfectly able to work through real-life circumstances in a real-life person like Paul, for example, to bring about the end result that he intends to use for the next however many centuries for us." (Tim Stevenson, *TEAM Training*, Session 3)

7. **Graceful Living:** In 1 Peter 2:2, we are encouraged to "long for the pure milk of the Word." Is this how you view the Scriptures—as essential food for growth as a baby must have milk to grow and develop properly? Do you long for the Word every day? Ask God to give you an insatiable longing for his Word and to draw you to himself through reading it.

**Day Two Study**

**The reliability of God’s Word to form our convictions**

God and the devil agree on one thing: Both want to capture your mind, because whoever captures your mind will direct the course of your life. Everyone maintains a number of premises for living, both consciously and unconsciously. Premises are assumptions that form the foundation and shape of your thinking. They are important because of a universal law of logic and behavior: "If your premise is off, your findings will be off." The actions you take will not likely succeed.

God wants your values, beliefs, and convictions to be formed by his Word. Biblical convictions can be compared to the policies of an organization. Like policies:

- Convictions provide a measure of protection against danger by establishing safe boundaries.
- Convictions eliminate needless decision-making by settling many issues in advance, thereby enabling greater consistency, efficiency, and productivity.

Because biblical convictions are based on an objective standard of truth (the Word of God), they provide an objective standard for daily decision-making, as opposed to living by fickle emotions.
8. Read Colossians 2:8.
   - According to Paul, what seeks to take you captive apart from Christ?

   - What do you think Paul means? Give modern examples of hollow and deceptive philosophies that set up against the knowledge of God.

9. Do you want to be taken captive by such things? Of course not! So, what do you do?
   - What does Paul teach us to do to combat such thoughts in Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 10:5?


Biblical convictions are based upon what God has revealed about himself. From our study so far, we know that the Bible asserts that man can truly know God and know truth about him. However, because man is finite, his knowledge of God can never be comprehensive. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” We can know what has been revealed.

10. According to John 14:26 and John 16:12-15, what was the Holy Spirit’s role in supervising the apostles’ teaching and writing so that we may have confidence in the reliability of the New Testament?
**Historical Insight:** "There are 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. If we were to compare the number of New Testament manuscripts to other ancient writings, we find that...there are thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing. The internal consistency of the New Testament documents is about 99.5% textually pure. That is an amazing accuracy. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000...The Christian has substantially superior criteria for affirming the New Testament documents than he does for any other ancient writing. It is good evidence on which to base the trust in the reliability of the New Testament." (Matt Slick, "Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability," [http://carm.org/manuscript-evidence](http://carm.org/manuscript-evidence))

The historical reliability of the Scriptures is an important issue, and they (the Scriptures) can be investigated to show that the biblical records are trustworthy. But ultimately, the truth of the Bible as the Word of God is inseparable from the issue of Jesus Christ. Remember that Christianity is Christ!

11. **Graceful Living:** We live in a world of controversy and diverse worldviews. Having an objective standard of truth can be both a shield and a weapon (Proverbs 30:5, 2 Corinthians 10:5). Do you have confidence in the reliability of the Scriptures? Have you come across certain parts of scripture in which you question its reliability? Why?

**Deeper Discoveries (optional):** For more information on the reliability of the Scriptures as we have them in our Bibles, visit [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org) and [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). Search “reliability of the Bible.”

**Day Three Study**

**Walking it out in the issues of daily life**

Living in intentional cooperation with the Spirit as he transforms us into the image of Christ involves the practice of “taking every thought captive” to Christ as exhorted by Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:5:

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

When we begin to understand this verse we discover a few things.

First, we need to pass everything that we believe, or that we think we should believe, through the grid of God’s Word. Does it line up with the truth found in Scripture? God will help us recognize error in thinking.
Second, we do not have to entertain every thought that runs through our head on a daily basis. Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have the ability to discern God-pleasing thoughts from thoughts that grieve his heart. We can take those thoughts captive and replace them with truth from his Word.

Third, we do not have to be enslaved to emotions that are influenced by lies. The more we practice taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ the freer we will be from the tyranny of our emotions. Our emotions will then be based on truth and will be beneficial to us.

Fourth, error in thinking will seriously affect our behavior and our relationships. The more we practice taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ, the more we will be transformed by the Spirit into godly women whose lives are filled with love, joy, peace and the rest of the fruit God wants to produce in our lives.

The following are examples of questions commonly asked by people about different issues based on values, beliefs, and convictions. We are exhorted in 1 Peter 3:15 to always be ready to give answers to the hope that is within us, the truths we have learned that produce joy in our lives and more disciples for Jesus as we loyally follow him and tell others about him. Read the question and the common error in thinking. Comment on the effects of that thinking on someone’s life. Look up the verses and determine what the truth is about that issue. Feel free to add other verses to derive your answer. Ask Jesus to help you understand the truth so you can be set free from error and provide answers to each particular question when asked by someone else.

12. Issue #1: Where can I find meaning & purpose in life?

   Error in thinking: Find it through people, places and things.

   Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

   Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; Matthew 4:4; and John 17:3. Where can you find meaning and purpose in life?

   Think About It: “...you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is unquiet until it rests in you.” (Augustine of Hippo, The Confessions)

13. Issue #2: Are there objective standards of right and wrong?

   Error in thinking: Right and wrong are relative; there are no absolutes.

   Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

   Read Galatians 5:16-23. Are there objective standards of right and wrong?
14. Issue #3: What is the source of human evil?

*Error in thinking:* It is the fault of others, or of circumstances.

Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

Read Mark 7:17-23 and Jeremiah 17:9. What is the source of human evil?

15. Issue #4: What if I choose to do wrong anyway?

*Error in thinking:* I can do what I want without consequences.

Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

Read Galatians 6:7-8. What if you choose to do wrong anyway?

16. Issue #5: Where can I find success and security?

*Error in thinking:* Find security in money and position. Seek success at any price.

Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

Read Matthew 6:31-33 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Where can you find success and security?

17. Issue #6: How can I become a person of influence?

*Error in thinking:* Climb the ladder upward over people and circumstances.

Effects of that thinking on a person’s life:

Read Matthew 20:25-28 and Acts 20:32-35. How can you become a person of influence and power?
18. **Graceful Living:**

- Challenge yourself to put 2 Corinthians 10:5 into practice this next week. Start each day by meditating on this verse. Then, ask God to reveal to you areas of your thought life that need to be “taken captive” and held up to the truth of the Word of Christ. Record what you discover.

- **Optional:** You can probably think of many other issues affecting you and other women. Write them down and find verses to support the truth. Prepare an answer for each one of them.

**Day Four Study**

**Surrender is a process—seek him, sit with him, surrender to him**

In our society, we have so many options to obtain “knowledge” about how to live life—the education system, internet, television, movies, and books galore. Add to that whatever goes “viral”! Facebook posts, Pinterest boards, and other social media outlets grab our attention. Everyone expresses her own opinion about the latest issue of life, and society says all opinions are equally valuable. From the last section, you realized that thinking not based on scriptural truth can lead to some disastrous results.

**Think About It:** "Jesus asked the rich young ruler to surrender his fortune in order to know true riches. He asked the young boy to surrender his meager lunch so that thousands could feast. He asked the disciples to surrender their plans, their dreams, their very lives, to follow him. And He asks us to surrender our rights, our reputation, our possessions, and our security. He wants our dreams and desires, our losses and our loves. Why? Because He knows that what He offers is better by far than anything we are holding onto. He knows that surrendering everything we have and everything we are to him yields joy, purpose and peace that we cannot possess any other way. He knows that when we put our pain, loss and regret into his loving hands we will finally begin to experience the healing and the hope we long for." (Woven, *The Truth about Redemption Next Step,* "Redeeming Hope: Your journey Toward Surrender")

To grow spiritually, you must pursue your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Remember, **Christianity is Christ!** You make the decision to not only be a believer but also Jesus’ disciple—someone who follows him, learns from him, and leads others to do the same. Choosing to become Jesus’ disciple means you choose to:

- Listen to his speaking voice through the Word. *Hebrews 4:12*
- Speak back to him from the heart in prayer. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*
- Maximize input of God’s Word into your mind. *2 Timothy 3:14-17*
- Put truth into practice through obedience by faith. *James 1:22-25*
- Pursue relationships with other believers and disciples in the body of Christ. *Acts 2:42-47*
- Exercise your faith through serving others in Christ's name. *Philippians 2*
- Share your faith with nonbelievers and be willing to disciple new believers. *2 Timothy 2:2*
19. **Graceful Living**: Are you willing to respond to the call of God’s grace in your life to be more than just a believer but to become a true disciple of Jesus, learning from him and preparing yourself to lead others as well? Looking at the list above, what can you choose to do this week to become more of Jesus’ disciple?

*Think About It:* Purposely creating the time and space in our lives to sit with God allows him to nurture who we are, not necessarily instruct us in what to do.
Lesson 11: Become a Grace-Giver

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (ROMANS 15:13)

Jesus Christ gave his life for you by grace, so he could give his life to you by grace, so he could live his life through you by grace. Knowing Christ’s love for you and the presence of his life in you should motivate you to “live for him” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 2:20) and to serve him through serving others (John 13:1-15; Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:1-4). Both are responses to God’s grace in your life. So is letting his life in you overflow to others around you, particularly those who need to know Christ.

Think About It: “Often we embrace grace, and then live according to works. If we choose to celebrate His grace and ALL of its implications as part of our daily worship, we become people who experience incredible joy and freedom that we LONG to give away!” (Judy Brower, The Disciplemaking Ministry Guide for Women in Leadership, “Navigate the Disciplemaking Pathway: Establish,” page 30)

Day One Study

Jesus Christ Calls Believers to Join in His Work.

1. Read Matthew 9:36-38. How does Jesus feel about the crowds? What does he declare to his disciples?

The evidences of human distress are everywhere around us. Women are in bondage to guilt, fear, destructive behavior, and fatigue due to the burden of responsibilities. Add to that erroneous views of God that leave them feeling empty, confused, and without meaning and purpose. Failure in relationships leaves women with a sense of rejection, worthlessness and extreme loneliness. Jesus Christ’s plan to meet that need for every woman is…himself. And, he communicated this plan to his disciples in “the Great Commission.”

2. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Discuss what Jesus is actually commissioning his followers to do.

The Great Commission has one single focus: “Make disciples.” Jesus Christ chooses to accomplish the Great Commission through people—ordinary men and women like you and I as we are “going” about life sharing Christ by word and action to those around us, baptizing new believers as a symbolic proclamation of their new life inside, and teaching them who Christ is, what he accomplished on the cross for them, and how they can live out their new identity in him.
Historical Insight: "MEN WERE HIS METHOD.... It all started with Jesus calling a few men to follow him. This revealed the direction his evangelistic strategy would take. His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow...what is more revealing about these men is that at first they do not impress us as being key men...Yet Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership in the Kingdom. They were indeed 'unlearned and ignorant' according to the world’s standard, but they were teachable...What is perhaps most significant about them was their sincere yearning for God and the realities of his life...Such men, pliable in the hands of the Master, could be molded into a new image—Jesus can use anyone who wants to be used." (Robert E. Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism)

Jesus chooses to have his followers tell his story—what he did for them and through them. You have a story to share. Through sharing your story, you become a grace-giver to those who listen.

Writing Your Faith Story

Focus on the Meaning: "People love to hear stories. This is evidenced by all the money that is spent watching movies, attending the theatre, buying books and by all the time that is spent watching the television. Telling your faith story is just that: your personal story about your faith. It’s an unobtrusive way to speak about the love of God in your life and the love he has for all people...Your life and story is the best tract to be written!" (The Disciplemaking Ministry Guide for Women in Leadership, "How to Share Your Faith," page 21)

You are a "living letter of Christ" (2 Corinthians 3:1-3). Your story illustrates the power of Christ in your life. Your story allows you to become a grace-giver as our Lord extended his grace to you.

There are two ways to look at writing your faith story. Some may recall a dramatic event or specific point in time when they began a personal relationship with Jesus. Others may have grown up in the church and always knew who God was and their need for Jesus in their life as Savior. Yet, even they must make the decision to be Jesus’ disciple at some point in their teen years or adult life—a childlike faith that becomes an adult faith. Depending on how your story begins, choose one of these two ways to write your story.

4. Graceful Living: Begin working on your faith story using one of the two options given on the following “My Faith Story Worksheet.” Use the prompts to get you started. Just start writing. After you have collected information for your story, choose the highlights to make a “Five-Minute Faith Story” that you can easily share at a moment’s notice when Jesus gives you opportunity. The goal is to briefly share one “slice of life” you can use to give evidence of the working of Christ in your life.

As you tell your story, look for the one big idea you want everyone to walk away remembering. This is your main idea—kind of like a theme. “Jesus satisfied my loneliness” or “To live is knowing Christ in my life.”
“My Faith Story” Worksheet: Option 1

Two options are given for writing your story. If you became a Christian as a teen or adult so that you remember what life was like before knowing Him, use Option 1. If you became a Christian as a child and stayed faithful to Him through the years, choosing to become His disciple as a teen or adult, use Option 2. If you trusted Christ as a child, then drifted far away only to come back later in life, use Option 1 focusing on what caused you to come back to Him and choose to be His disciple now.

GRACE-GIVING OPTION 1: SPECIFIC TURNING POINT LEADING TO SALVATION

Before I trusted in Christ

Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your “before Christ” experience, only give enough information so the women know why you needed Christ in your life. Tell them what you needed so that some may identify with you.

1. Identify what your life was like. What were your attitudes, needs, and/or problems? From what did you get your security or happiness? How did those areas begin to disappoint you? To what source did you look for security, peace of mind, or happiness? In what ways were your activities unsatisfying?

2. Find 2-3 words to describe what only Christ could fill or do in your life (e.g. loneliness, feelings of insignificance, anger, rejection).

3. Briefly share a personal example that captures the needs and attitudes from this time of your life as identified above.
**How you came to know Christ (point of salvation)**

Share when and how you first heard the gospel and/or were exposed to Christianity. What brought you to the place of being willing to listen? Who influenced you? How and when did you decide to follow Jesus? Describe how you felt, what truths you heard, what you thought about them, how you felt after you made the decision. Give the gospel in this section. Use 1 or 2 relevant scripture verses.

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**My life after knowing Jesus**

1. Spend the most time on this. What conditions before Christ has been satisfied by a relationship with him? What does it look like in your life to have a relationship with Christ? How long did it take before you noticed changes? What are your blessings? Where do you struggle? How do you depend on him through those struggles? What difference does having him in your life make during those times? Emphasize what you have learned about God’s grace to you.

2. Briefly share a personal illustration that shows the wonderful difference that Christ has made in your life.

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Wrap up by inviting them to trust in Christ as you did!
“My Faith Story” Worksheet  Option 1

GRACE-GIVING OPTION 2: BELIEVER TO CHRIST-FOLLOWER (DISCIPLE)

Those who trusted Christ as children often feel they "have nothing to tell" because they don’t have a dramatic story. Yet, in the case of childhood believers, there occurs a later, mature decision to follow Christ as his disciple where more obvious life changes occurred. If you are in this category, therefore, focus on that later turning point in telling your story. Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your “before” experience, only give enough information so the women know why you needed Christ in your life. You want them to be able to identify with you.

Before I became Jesus’ disciple

1. Identify what your life was like as a young Christian or living as just a believer not a disciple. Share when and how you first heard the gospel and/or were exposed to Christianity. What were your attitudes, needs, and/or problems? From what did you get your security or happiness?

2. Briefly share a personal example that captures the needs and attitudes from this time of your life as identified above.

3. Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your “before” experience, only give enough information so the women know why you needed to trust Christ more with your life.
What brought you to decide to become Jesus’ disciple
What brought you to the place of being willing to listen or of wanting to be more than just a believer? Who influenced you? How and when did you decide to be Jesus’ disciple? Describe how you felt, what truths you heard, what you thought about them, how you felt after you made the decision. Give the gospel in this section if you haven’t already done so in the previous section. Use 1 or 2 relevant scripture verses that God used to draw you to himself. Emphasize what you have learned about God’s grace to you.

My life after becoming Jesus’ disciple
1. Spend the most time on this. What conditions before this time has been satisfied by a deeper relationship with him? How long did it take before you noticed changes? What does it look like in your life to have this closer relationship with Christ? What are your blessings? Where do you struggle? How do you depend on him through those struggles? What difference does having him in your life make during those times? What remarkable thing has Jesus done in your life (or in the last three years)?

2. Briefly share a personal illustration that shows the wonderful difference that following Christ has made in your life.

Wrap up by inviting them to trust in Christ as you did!
5. **Graceful Living**: Write your five-minute faith story.

As you tell your story, what is the one big idea you want everyone to walk away remembering? This is your main idea—kind of like a theme. “Jesus satisfied my loneliness” or “To live is knowing Christ in my life.”

Whether you like to be spontaneous or need everything written down, it helps to script what you will say. It forces you to think through what you will say to maintain your main idea. It helps you to manage your allowed time.

Write it as you would speak it—shorter sentences, peppy words that are clear and simple. Use everyday terminology. For example, instead of saying “my testimony,” say “the story of my life.” Include specific illustrations that give them snapshots of your life, not only general descriptions of your life events. Practice saying your story several times. May eye contact with the listener to draw her into your story.

Write out your five-minute faith story in the space below. Remember only spend 30% of the time on your “before,” just enough to have them identify with your need at that time. Spend another 30% on the decision time, and spend the rest of the time on what knowing Christ has done for you. Always end inviting them to join your adventure.
6. **Graceful Living**: Share your story often. After you have worked on it and are satisfied with it, write a condensed version (~365 words) to create your own "My Faith Story Tract" that you can carry with you. Print it out on one page and include your contact information on the bottom. Pray and watch for God to give you opportunity to share it. Courage and ability come as a result of the grace God gives through Christ. Jesus not only prayed for his disciples, he prayed for the disciples of his disciples (John 17:20). Live intentionally as a GRACE-GIVER to those whom God places in your path.
The Person of Jesus Christ

A. The Claims of Christ About himself
   I am the bread of life  John 6:35
   I am the light of the world  John 8:12
   I am the door  John 10:9
   I am the good shepherd  John 10:11, 27-29
   I am the way, the truth, the life  John 14:6
   I am the vine  John 15:5
   I am the resurrection and the life  John 11:25-26
   I and the Father are One  John 10:30
   If you have seen Me you have seen the Father  John 14:9

   There are three options: he is either a liar, a lunatic or the Lord God become flesh.

B. The Claims of Others About Christ
   The apostle John  John 1:1-3, 14
   The apostle Peter  2 Peter 1:1, 16-18
   The apostle Paul  Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-18; 2:9

C. Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecy About Christ
   His birth  Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Mat. 1:18-25
   His ministry  Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:17-21
   His miracles  Isaiah 35:5-6; Luke 7:18-22
   His betrayal  Ps. 41:9; Zech. 11:12; Mat. 26:14-25
   His death  Ps. 22; Isaiah 53; Mat. 27:27-50
   His burial  Isaiah 53:9; John 19:38-42
   His resurrection  Ps. 16:8-11; Is. 53:10, 12; Acts 2:22-32
   His ascension  Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:33-36

D. The Resurrection
   Predicted by Christ  Mat. 16:21; Luke 18:31-33
   Preparation of the body  John 19:38-40
   Preparation of the tomb  Mat. 27:59-66
   Appearances of the risen Christ  1 Cor. 15:1-8
   Results of the resurrection  1 Cor. 15:12-28; Eph. 2:1-7

Conclusion: God became a man in the Person of Jesus Christ
The Truth and Authority of the Bible

A. The Chief Aim of the Scriptures
   Man's need exposed  Rom. 3:11-20; Gal. 3:24
   God's provision proclaimed  Rom. 3:21-26
   God's provision enjoyed  Rom. 6:23; John 20:31
   Prerequisite for understanding  1 Cor. 2:6-16

B. Christ's Testimony Concerning the Word of God
   To Satan  Mat. 4:1-11
   To the masses  Mat. 5:17-18
   To the religious leaders  John 5:39-47; Mark 12:18-27
   To the disciples  Mat. 24:35; John 12:49

C. The Old Testament Verified
   Christ on creation  Mat. 19:4-9; Gen. 2:20-25
   Christ on Noah  Mat. 24:37-39
   Christ on Abraham  John 8:56-58
   Christ on Sodom and Gomorrah  Luke 17:28-29
   Christ on Moses  John 6:30-35; 1 Cor. 10:1-4
   Christ on David  Mat. 22:41-45
   Christ on Jonah  Luke 11:29-32
   The Hall of Faith  Hebrews 11:1-12:2

D. The New Testament Verified
   Its foundation  John 16:13-15
   The message of Peter  2 Peter 1:16-20
   The message of John  1 John 1:1-4
   The message of Paul  Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Thes. 2:13
   Paul confirmed by Peter  2 Pet. 3:15-16
   The message of Hebrews  Heb. 1:1-3; 2:1-4

E. The Uniqueness of the Bible
   Its names  Ps. 119; Heb. 4:12
   Its preparation  2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:10-12
   Its preservation  1 Pet. 1:18-25
   Its effect  Isaiah 55:8-11; James 1:18-25; 2 Pet. 1:4
   Its sufficiency  John 8:31-32; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3

Conclusion: Since Jesus Christ is God, His testimony concerning the Bible is authoritative. The Bible is therefore completely reliable and totally trustworthy to lead us to the knowledge of God, salvation, and life.
God's Work of Reconciliation

A. God Provided Reconciliation for All Men
   God's purpose 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Col. 1:19-22
   God’s motivation John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-11
   The cause of alienation Isaiah 59:1-2
   God’s way to remove the barrier Phil. 2:5-8

B. Why Do Men Need to be Reconciled to God?
   Two types of men 1 Cor. 2:14-16
   Natural man is spiritually dead Eph. 2:1-3
   Natural man is condemned John 3:17-18, 36
   Natural man is alienated from God Col. 1:21

C. Reconciliation Makes Total Forgiveness Possible
   Christ bore our sins Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Pet. 2:24
   Christ died in our place 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18
   Christ endured God’s wrath for us 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10

D. God Offers the Gift of Salvation
   Eternal life Isaiah 55:1, 6-7; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9
   Forgiveness of sins Ephesians 1:7
   The gift of righteousness Rom. 5:17; 2 Cor. 5:21
   A new birth John 3:1-16; 1 Peter 1:23
   A new creation 2 Corinthians 5:17
   A spiritual resurrection Ephesians 2:4-7
   Children of God John 1:12; Rom. 8:15-17; 1 John 3:1-2
   Indwelt by the Holy Spirit Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

E. Salvation Is by Faith in Jesus Christ Alone
   Convinced of our need Rom. 3:19-20
   Apart from works Titus 3:4-7
   By faith alone Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9
   In Christ alone John 14:6; Acts 4:12
   Excludes boasting Rom. 3:27; 4:1-7
   Gives assurance 1 John 5:11-13

Conclusion: Motivated by His love and mercy toward us, God took the initiative to provide a total salvation for man through His Son Jesus Christ, which is offered to man as a free gift to be accepted through faith.
## Christ’s Finished Work On the Cross

### A. Foreshadowed in the Old Testament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At the Passover</td>
<td>Exodus 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the Day of Atonement</td>
<td>Leviticus 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the tabernacle</td>
<td>Heb. 8:1-6; 9:1-5</td>
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<td>In the priesthood</td>
<td>Heb. 5:1-10</td>
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<td>In the sacrifices</td>
<td>Heb. 9:6-14</td>
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### B. Anticipated in the Old Testament

<table>
<thead>
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<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Adam and Eve</td>
<td>Gen. 3:15, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Noah</td>
<td>I Pet. 3:18-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Abraham</td>
<td>Heb. 11:17-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Moses</td>
<td>Gal. 3:10-14; Rom. 10:5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By David</td>
<td>Ps. 103:10-12; Rom. 4:6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Isaiah</td>
<td>Isaiah 1:18; 38:17; 53:4-6, 10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Jeremiah</td>
<td>Jeremiah 31:31-34</td>
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<td>By Ezekiel</td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:14, 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Daniel</td>
<td>Daniel 9:25-26</td>
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### C. Fulfilled in the New Testament

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>According to John</td>
<td>John 1:29, 36; Rev. 1:5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>According to Peter</td>
<td>Acts 2:14-36; 10:43</td>
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<tr>
<td>According to Paul</td>
<td>Acts 26:4-23; Col. 2:13-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>According to Hebrews</td>
<td>Hebrews 10:1-18</td>
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### D. Christ Died Once for All

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<tr>
<th>Died</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Hebrews 9:23-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>For all men</td>
<td>2 Cor. 5:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:3-6; 1 John 2:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completely</td>
<td>Heb. 10:10-14; 1 Pet. 3:18</td>
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### E. Results In Access to God

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
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<tr>
<td>For all believers</td>
<td>Eph. 3:12; Heb. 4:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In any place</td>
<td>John 4:21-24; Phil 3:3</td>
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<tr>
<td>With full confidence</td>
<td>Hebrews 10:19-23</td>
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*Conclusion:* When Jesus Christ died on the cross, he accomplished what the blood of bulls and goats could never do. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)
Christ Gives His Life To You

A. Who is the Holy Spirit?
   God
   The Third Person of the Trinity
   Possessing personality
   Acts 5:1-4
   Mat. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 13:14
   1 Cor. 2:11; 12:11; Eph. 4:30

B. The Coming of the Holy Spirit
   Predicted by the prophets
   Announced by John the Baptist
   Prepared by Christ
   Fulfilled on Pentecost
   Ezek. 36:24-27
   Mat. 3:11
   John 14:16-17
   Acts 2:1-21

C. Why Did the Holy Spirit Come?
   To point people to Christ
   To give life
   To baptize the believer into Christ
   To seal the believer in Christ
   To lead the believer into truth
   To empower spiritual understanding
   John 16:7-11
   Rom. 8:6-11
   1 Cor. 12:12-13
   2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:3, 14
   John 16:13-14
   1 Cor. 2:9-16

D. What Does It Mean to Be "Filled With the Spirit"?
   Filled with the knowledge of Christ's love
   Controlled by Christ's love
   Convinced of the love of God
   To bear the fruit of the Spirit
   Eph. 3:14-21
   2 Cor. 5:14-15
   Rom. 8:31-39
   Gal. 5:22-23

E. How Can One Continually Walk in the Spirit?
   Present yourself to God
   Present your mind to His Word
   Walk dependently
   Walk by faith
   Walk responsively
   Walk in obedience
   Rom. 6:11-13; 12:1
   John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:2
   John 15:5; Gal. 5:16
   Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:6-7
   Titus 2:11-14
   Phil. 2:1-8; Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:14-16

Conclusion: There is a clearly discernable order in the New Testament for how God intended man to live Christian life:
1. God's love for us. (1 John 4:9-10) Receiving God's love for us causes...
2. Our love for God. (1 John 4:19) which leads to...
3. Our dependency upon God. (John 15:5) resulting in…
4. Our obedience to God. (Rom. 12:1-2)
Christ Lives His Life Through You

A. The Believer's Union With the Vine

| The vine          | John 15:1                     |
| The branch        | John 15:4-5                  |
| The fruit         | Gal. 5:22-23                |
| The secret        | Gal. 2:20; Phil 2:13         |

B. The Believer's Position in the Vine

| Freed from condemnation | John 3:17-18; Rom. 8:1       |
| Made perfect forever   | Heb. 10:14                  |
| Made holy and blameless | Col. 1:21-22                |
| Freed from the law     | Rom. 6:14; 7:4-6            |
| Washed                 | 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5       |
| Clothed with Christ    | Gal. 3:27                   |
| Safe from the wrath of God | Rom. 5:9; 1 Thes. 5:9      |
| Seated with Christ     | Eph. 2:5-6                  |
| Accepted in Christ     | Rom. 15:7                   |
| Called into fellowship | 1 Cor. 1:9                  |
| Made complete          | Col. 2:10                   |
| Never forsaken         | Heb. 13:5-6                 |

C. The Evidence of Abiding in the Vine

| Mind                 | Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1-4, 16-17; Phil. 4:8 |
| Heart                | Acts 2:42, 46-47; 1 Tim. 1:5          |
| Spirit               | Eph. 5:18-21; 2 Tim. 1:7             |

D. The Means of Abiding in the Vine

| Focusing on Christ   | Phil. 3:7-14; Heb. 12:1-2           |
| Living by faith      | Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:6-7; Heb. 11:6    |

E. The Attitudes of Faith

| Leaves cares to God  | 1 Peter 5:6-7                      |
| Rejoices always      | 1 Thes. 5:16                       |
| Prays without ceasing | 1 Thes. 5:17                      |
| Gives thanks in all circumstances | 1 Thes. 5:18       |
| Trusts God to work all things together for good | Rom. 8:28       |
| Responds in surrender | Rom. 12:1-2                       |

Conclusion: It has been said: What I give, God takes. What God takes, he cleanses. What God cleanses, he fills. What God fills, he uses.
**Truth That Will Set You Free**

**A. The Source of Sin**  
- The nature of the flesh: Jer. 17:9; Is. 53:6; Rom. 7:14, 18  
- Sin observed: Gal. 5:19-21  
- Sin defined: John 16:9; Rom. 14:23; 1 John 3:4  
- Purpose of the law: Rom. 3:19-20; Gal. 3:21-26

**B. New Life in Christ**  
- A new nature: Heb. 8:10; 2 Peter 1:4  
- A new identity: 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 5:8  
- A new motivation: John 13:34-35; 2 Cor. 5:14-15  
- A new life: Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-4

**C. Conflict Between the Spirit and the Flesh**  
- Described: Gal. 5:17; Rom. 8:5-6  
- Experienced: Rom. 7:14-24; James 1:13-18  
- Solved: Gal. 5:16

**D. Freedom in Christ**  
- From the power of Satan: Col. 1:13  
- From death: 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 2:25  
- From the fear of death: Heb. 2:14-3:1  
- From the law: Rom. 7:1-6; 8:1-4; 10:4; Gal. 2:19  
- From sin: Rom. 6:3-14

**E. Experiencing Freedom in Christ**  
- Rest in His sufficiency: Col. 2:9-13  
- Identify with Christ: Col. 3:1-4  
- Present yourself for obedience: Rom. 6:11-13; 12:1  
- Renew the mind: John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:2  
- Walk in love: Eph. 5:1-2  
- Adopt the attitude of a servant: Mat. 20:28; Phil. 2:1-8  
- Serve one another in love: Gal. 5:13-14

**Conclusion:** The Christian life is not difficult to live; it is impossible to live! Only Christ can live it. He lives it through us as we learn to live by faith in the One who loved us and gave himself for us (Gal. 2:20).
The More Excellent Things

A. Faith
   Is a choice  James 1:2-8; Phil. 2:12-13
   Is not an emotion  Hebrews 11
   Must have an object  Heb. 12:1-3; Rom. 10:17

B. Hope
   In Christ's return  Titus 2:11-14
   In His promise  1 John 3:1-3
   In His faithfulness  1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Thes. 5:23-24

C. Love
   Defined by God  1 Cor. 13:4-8
   Demonstrated by God  Rom. 5:6-10
   Its supremacy  John 15:9-13
   Its impact  John 13:34-35; 1 Cor.13:13
   Its counterfeits  1 Cor.13:1-3
   Its source  1 John 4:7-21
   Its attitudes  Col. 3:12-14
   Its actions  Rom. 12:9-21

D. Working All Together
   In the body of Christ  1 Thes. 1:4-10
   In the source of unity  Eph. 4:1-13
   In motivation for growth  Eph. 4:14-16

Conclusion: "Oh, the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God...For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!" (Rom.11:33a, 36).
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