

Holy Bible Fundamentals



Welcome to lesson one of our series designed to help you study the Bible and to have life and have it more abundantly as it says in John 10:10. We encourage you to look up all the scripture references that are given, since God's word only is truth as it says in John 17:17 and 2 Timothy 3:16, so we can discern between truth and error.

GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION

Dear friend, God wants to have a personal relationship with each of us. If you died today, do you know for sure you would go to heaven? The Bible clearly tells us we will either go to heaven or hell when we die. Hell, created for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), is mentioned many places in the Bible, some of those passages are Luke 16:20-31, Revelation 20:14, 15, Revelation 21:8, Matthew 18:8, Revelation 14:11, Matthew 13:42. It is described as a place of eternal, unimaginable torments such as not a drop of water for eternity, while burning in everlasting flames.

The good thing is that God does not want us to go there, the Bible says that he is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). In fact God is preparing a perfect home for us where all tears will be wiped away and all things will be made new (John 14:2, Revelation 21:4, 2 Peter 3:13).

We Can Know Our Eternal Home is Heaven

The Bible says God is love (1 John 4:16), and he has given us the Bible to tell us how we can know that when we die we will be with him in heaven. It says in 1 John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." So we can know. "These things have I written" of course are referring to verses in the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God", every word is inspired by God or God breathed and is truth. Matthew 4:4 says man shall live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

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What Does it Mean to be Born Again?

When Jesus was talking to the religious teacher Nicodemus, in John 3, he told him that except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus didn't understand and asked him if he must be born again into his mother's womb, Jesus then explained that he was talking about a spiritual birth. In John 3:16 he told Nicodemus "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Everlasting life is perfection in heaven. It says the devil believes, but we know he will be cast into the lake of fire, so what does it mean to believe in Jesus?

We Must Realize We are a Sinner

The Bible tells us first we must realize we are a sinner, Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We must realize there are no exceptions, Romans 5:12 says "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." We were born through Adam and Eve who fell and we don't teach a child to lie or steal, we have to teach them not to. We are born sinners. James 2:10 says "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all". This means if we live a good life, do good works, and we tell a little white lie we are a transgressor and are guilty of breaking all the commandments. One sin makes us a sinner. Adam and Eve had never sinned, and God told them that they may eat of every tree except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in the day they ate thereof they would surely die (Genesis 2:17). That was just one sin.



The Wages of Sin is Death

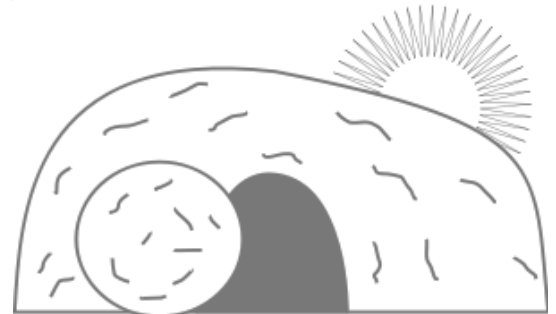
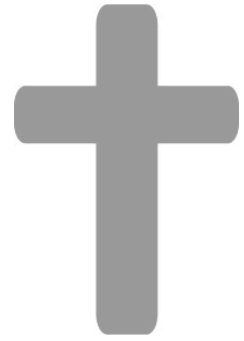
Second, Romans 6:23a says "For the wages of sin is death". This is what God told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and he is just, he cannot change his mind. The same penalty is for us today. The Bible speaks of two deaths, we know that our bodies will grow old and die, this is a physical death. In Revelation 20:14 we are told of the second death. It says "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death". This is saying that the payment for our sins includes separation from God in hell. If we think about it, we know if sin entered heaven it wouldn't be any better than here. The reason we see and hear awful things in the world today is because of sin. Before Adam and Eve sinned it was perfect. God cannot look upon sin, and sin leads to death.

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Salvation is a Free Gift

Third, Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." This is saying that God wants to give us righteousness, eternal life and heaven as a gift. The question is, how can God give us eternal life if he cannot bend the rules, he is perfect and has already said that the payment for our sins is death? That is a good question isn't it? The answer is in this verse. It says the gift of God is eternal life **through** Jesus Christ our Lord, that is the key, it is through Jesus Christ. In 1 John 2:2 it says "And he is the propitiation (payment) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." We are part of the whole world even though we were born some 2000 years later. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Jesus, is the Son of God, he is the 2nd person of the Godhead or Trinity. The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God and three persons. Jesus was made sin for us, he took our place, our hell for us. The Bible says he cried out "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15:34). God the Father couldn't look upon our sins that God the Son took upon himself.

Hebrews 9:22 says, "without shedding of blood is no remission." In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices were offered to make atonement (or covering) for sins, but they were a picture looking forward to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. When John the Baptist introduced Jesus, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus shed his blood to atone for our sins, and said "It is finished" (John 19:30). What did that mean? He would not have to go back to the cross some time later and pay for more sins. The sins of the whole world were paid for past, present and future. He died once and for all (Hebrews 10:10). We know that he died, was buried and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3,4). He went back to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He couldn't have gone back to heaven if our sins were still on him, but they were gone, completely paid for. This is why salvation is a free gift. In Romans 3:26 it says that God is just and the justifier of him who believes on Jesus. God justifies us as though we had never sinned, and we have peace with God (Romans 5:1). God is still just, he doesn't bend the rules, when he gives us righteousness, because our sins are paid for. Also see Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:5.



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We Choose to Receive This Gift

Fourth, in Romans 10:9-13, we see that God doesn't force us to receive his gift of salvation, we must want it from our heart. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession in made unto salvation." "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The Bible promises for those who are born again, in 1 John 3:2 that when we see Jesus we will be like him for we will see him as he is. When we die and receive our incorruptible body it will be perfect, like Jesus, in our perfect home. We can't want to be any better than perfect and that is God's promise for us. The sad thing is that most people would rather have what Satan wants for them. If Satan had told Eve the truth he would have told her if she took of the fruit she would have sorrow, tears, suffering, sickness, pain in childbirth, be forced out of the garden of Eden, and would die. He didn't tell her any of that, but he is a liar, a thief and a murderer (John 8:44). When we read the Bible, it is simple to see that we don't want to believe or follow Satan, he is headed for hell. We want to believe God and receive what he wants for us. Jesus is the good shepherd, he died for us because of love, he can't lie and has a perfect plan for us. We realize sin is the reason for the awful things we hear about today and is what put Jesus on the cross. We need to hate sin and want righteousness and realize that God knows much more than we do and trust him as Lord for his perfect plan for us. When we want this from our heart, he said "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

The Bible says, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15). A child just believes what someone tells them, they don't know enough not to, also it must be simple. God's plan is simple (2 Corinthians 11:3), we must simply believe what God says. We know everyone in the world has sinned, but Romans 10:13 says "whosoever", that means you, I, we are all part of the whole world that he paid the sins for. This is a promise made by Jesus, who cannot lie, who was willing to experience the awful suffering of Calvary because he wants us to be saved, and we can trust in Him. If you want this gift of eternal life, you can pray a childlike prayer similar to this: Lord, I know I am a sinner, and that the payment for my sins is eternity in hell. I believe that Jesus shed his blood and died on the cross to pay for my sin. Please forgive me of all my sins and save me. Make me to be the person you want me to be and to be like Christ. Help me to learn the Bible and live for you. Thank you for dying for me and for the free gift of eternal life. In Jesus name, Amen.

If you asked Jesus to save you from your heart, you can now trust his promise that he has given you eternal life in Romans 10:13, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". This is God's promise who cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and whosoever includes you, we are all part of the whole world that he paid the sins for. In John 3:16 it says "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". Everlasting life never ends and begins the moment that you trusted in Jesus for your salvation. You are then born again, see John 5:24.



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The Bible says in Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” This is saying the moment you placed your trust in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit is given to you to dwell in your body as a temple. The Holy Spirit is the earnest, or the first part, of our inheritance in Jesus, and he seals us or keeps us until we die and we receive our incorruptible body like Jesus. In other words we can't lose our salvation, it is eternal. Jesus doesn't have to go back to the cross and pay for more sins in the future, they were completely paid for at the cross, the gift of salvation is everlasting. He guides us into all truth, he teaches us even the deep things of God because it is a relationship of love (1 Corinthians 2:10). God is love, and his first commandment is to love him with our all (Mark 12:30). The Holy Spirit also quickens us or strengthens us to become like Christ (John 6:63, Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 3:18). Our assurance of salvation comes from trusting in God's promises, the witness of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of our lives (1 Peter 1:23, 1 John 2:3, 1 John 3:23, 24).

After We are Saved

After we are saved, and we are made a new creature according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, we know that we still have our body of flesh which will die, and Satan and the world to tempt us, but God has given us all we need in Christ (2 Peter 1:3). 1 Corinthians 3:11-18, speaking of after we are born again into God's family says, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ,” and on this foundation we can build gold, silver, precious stones and receive a reward one day, or we can build wood, hay, stubble and suffer loss, but still be saved but so as by fire. We can experience true joy, peace not as the world gives it (John 15:11, John 14:27), and victory in this life and receive a reward one day, or we can listen to Satan, get off track, lose fellowship, not have joy or peace, be chastened of the Lord, suffer loss, but still be saved yet so as by fire. Of course we know that God wants us to have a win-win situation where we are blessed in this life and will be rewarded in the life to come. This is a relationship and when someone loves someone else



they desire our time and no one loves us more than God does. In Psalms 1:3 it says we are to meditate on the Bible day and night then we will be strong in the Lord as a tree. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says “pray without ceasing”. Hebrews 10:25 says we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. As a baby needs a family so we need others in a Bible believing local church. God tells us in his word we are to be baptized in deep water immediately after believing, as a witness that we are identified with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:36-38). We will not be perfect until we receive our new body in heaven, but we are to confess our sins to God every day and he is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse

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us from all unrighteousness, and we are restored to fellowship with God (1 John 1:9). We can't lose our salvation, but as a disobedient child doesn't get new parents, but is spanked, so we are chastened of the Lord, to bring us back (Hebrews 12).

This life is a time of preparation for living in eternity, our faith will be tested and tried (James 1:2-12, 1 Peter 1:7), and as it says they that live godly will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). There are afflictions in this life which draw us closer to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 4:7 says "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." We are to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1). As it says in Romans 8:28 "All things work together for good to them that love God and are the called according to his purpose."



God has good purposes to leave us here for a short time after we are born again, even though we could praise him better in heaven with a perfect body seeing him face to face. The Bible says he is longsuffering not willing that any should perish, he is putting up with the awful results of sin we see around us a little longer, not forcing people to be saved, but giving them more opportunity before it is too late. His purpose for us in Matthew 5:16, is to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." When others see the good works in us, joy, peace and victory, they see something in our life they want and know it is real. There are many voices and lies in the world, but people can know when something is real. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and he uses us as we let him be Lord of our life to fulfill and prove his good, perfect and acceptable will for us, and to be a testimony to others of their need for him (John 16:8, Romans 12:2).



The last words Jesus said before he went back to heaven were the Great Commission given in Mark 15:16 "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature", also "Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). This is like someone on their deathbed with family around them saying what is important to them. Everyone is listening fully. Why was the gospel important to Jesus? The gospel is defined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, that Jesus died, was buried and rose again so that we could be saved. He had paid an awful price for it, because of his love for us, and it is the only way we can be saved (John 14:6, Acts 4:12). Jesus went back to heaven and gave this job to us, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, so we can be used to win others to him, and experience part of the blessing. Can you imagine the gratefulness of someone in heaven who was won to Jesus because you let your light shine? Matthew 6:20 says we are to lay up treasures in heaven, souls are eternal and worth more than the whole world (Mark 8:36). So God has good purposes for us down here before we go to our perfect home.

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BIBLE QUIZ

Your Name _____ Date _____

Please circle the T for true or F for false for the following statements. Remember some of these statements are false, and are not to be believed, and are lies of Satan, but the hint Bible verse tells the truth.

T or F 1. If we try hard enough to be good, God will let us enter into heaven. (Hint: Ephesians 2:8,9, Matthew 7:22)

T or F 2. Jesus only paid for the sins of part of the world, there were some sins of the world he didn't pay for. (Hint: 1 John 2:2)

T or F 3. Our salvation is a free gift that is not based on our works, but we will be rewarded for the works we do after we are saved. (Hint: Ephesians 2:8,9, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

T or F 4. If we live a good life and only commit one little white lie, we have broken God's law and are guilty before God. (Hint: James 2:10)

T or F 5. The payment for our sins is death which includes eternal torment in hell, created for the devil and his angels. (Hint: Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14,15, Matthew 25:41)

T or F 6. The 2nd death described in the Bible is being cast into hell or the lake of fire. (Hint: Revelation 20:14,15, Revelation 21:8)

T or F 7. Jesus took our place on the cross, and bore our sins for us, and shed his blood as an atonement for our sins to completely pay for the free gift of salvation. (Hint: 2 Corinthians 5:21)

T or F 8. We are born sinners in Satan's family with a sinful nature. (Hint: Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23)

T or F 9. We are born again into God's family, when we believe in Jesus and are given everlasting life. (Hint: John 3:16, John 5:24)

T or F 10. We cannot know until after we die whether we will make it to heaven. (Hint: 1 John 5:13, John 10:28, 29, John 5:24, John 3:16, Romans 8:16, Romans 10:9-13, 1 John 2:3, 1 John 3:14)

T or F 11. There are many ways to heaven. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Matthew 7:14)

T or F 12. The plan of salvation is simple in the Bible, and must be received as a little child, but the devil will try to confuse us with lies. (Hint: Luke 18:17, 2 Corinthians 11:3).

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You may have placed your trust in Christ as your personal savior, if so please let us know so we can rejoice with you. You may have further questions on this lesson or would like to share specific prayer burdens for us to pray with you about, or maybe a testimony that God has given you. If so please write on the space below, and on an additional sheet if necessary. Also if you would like this course sent to someone else please leave their name and address.

Optional but Recommended Activity:

Memorize these verses sometimes called the Romans road to salvation, which can be used to lead others to Christ- Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Roman 5:8 and Romans 10:13 (we believe the King James version is the preserved word of God in the English language, see Psalms 12:6).

How to Receive Your Grade and Next Lesson

1. Please make sure your return address is on the return envelope and a stamp. Put your completed quizzes and notes only (don't send the lesson) in our pre-addressed envelope. Mail it to: Fellowship Bible Church-302 Rhoda St.-Hurricane, WV 25526. The lessons are free because we want to make them readily available to all, however we are freewill offering supported and donations are appreciated and tax deductible if you would like to help support the ministry.
2. Wait for your grades and next lessons to be sent. If you do not hear from us within 4 to 8 weeks, contact us and let us know. When you have completed all the lessons in a course you will receive a certificate.
3. While you are waiting for your grade and next lesson, we want to encourage you to continue to pray and praise God, read your Bible, witness to others, and attend a Bible believing church.

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