

Basic Bible Lessons

The white horse and Him who sat on it... goes forth conquering
and to conquer.



Our Faith

Jesus Christ: God's Son, Our Savior

"The Word was with God, and the Word was God"

John 1:1

"The Lord gave the Word, Great was the company of those that published it!" Psa. 68:11

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Bible verses were quoted from the King James Bible (kjb) unless otherwise indicated. Also used are the American Standard Version (asv), and the Darby Translation (dby). Verses paraphrased are indicated by (para). "gk" indicates the meaning of the word in Greek. In some places common English words like "has, was, you" are inserted instead of the old kjv words like "hast, wast, ye" etc.

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Lesson 1 Being a Believer and Growing

To come to Jesus Christ is to become a believer in God and all that He has done for us. It is also to believe into Jesus, to trust in Him, to have faith in Him, and to follow Him.

When we believe in Him a number of wonderful, unseen things happen:

- Our sins are forgiven by God: John 1:9
- We pass out of death into Life: John 5:24
- We are saved from God's condemnation: Rom. 8:1
- We become born anew, born again: 1 Peter 1:3
- We receive the Holy Spirit: John 20:22
- We get grafted into Christ: Rom. 11:24 and we are indwelt by Christ: Gal. 2:20

The witness of John the Baptist:

John said regarding Jesus: Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world ... I saw and bear record that this is the Son of God. John 1:29, 34

Jesus is Calling:

Jesus said: Follow me... John 1:43. Come and follow me... Matthew 19:21. ...follow me and I will make you fishers of men Matthew 4:19.

Jesus said: Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: ... If any man thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, within him shall flow rivers of living water... but this He spoke of the Spirit... John 7:37-39(asv)

Jesus said: For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world ... I am the bread of life, he

that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:33, 34

Jesus said: I am the light of the world, he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

As human beings, we need to follow Jesus and believe in Him.

Jesus gives us peace in our souls, His Spirit satisfies our thirst, He as our food fills our hunger, and Jesus is the light of life in our life. He is all of these things to those who follow Him.

Having Eternal Life

Jesus said:

- Verily, verily, I say to you, he that believeth hath eternal life John 6:47 (asv)
- Verily, Verily, I say to you, that he who hears my word, and believeth Him that sent me, has eternal life, and shall not come into judgement, but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24 (asv)
- And this is the will of him that sent me that everyone which sees the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:40
- He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life, but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36 (asv)
- Verily, Verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. John 8:51
- ... I lay down my life for the sheep ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand ... no one is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my father are one. John 10:15, 27-30
- As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth

in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14-15

In saying this, Jesus was referring to Numbers 21:4-9 when God told Moses to put a brass serpent on a wooden pole and all who gazed at it would be healed from the bite of the deadly serpents that were among the people. Jesus points out, that He would be that “brass serpent” on the cross that all who “look will live”.

- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16 (asv)
- For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:17-18
- I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25

Our passing out of death into life has been made possible by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Receiving eternal life happens by belief in the Lord Jesus. Eternal life, is much more than living for eternity. Eternal life is God begetting His life in us. This life is divine and it conveys His nature to us. Thus, receiving eternal life results in a new birth, and this makes us sons of God in reality. See Recovery Version John 16:8 footnote 2. (Get a free copy at www.BiblesForAmerica.org)

In summary:

“Whosoever drinks of the water that I will shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up into eternal life” John 4:14 (asv)

Later, we will see how belief is followed by baptism. Baptism is a critical step for a new believer. If you have recently believed into Jesus, please have your Christian friends baptize you.

It is also a good time for you to tell other people of your new-found faith and how you have been brought from darkness to light (Acts 26:18).

Growing

The Christian Life is primarily a life of growing. The Lord planted us as his crop in Matthew 13:3 with full expectation that we grow. 1 Peter 3:18 says to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”

One of the most important items in our Christian life is to grow (Eph. 4:15, Col 2:19, I Cor. 3:6-7, Mat 13:23).

Every morning we should rise a little earlier so that we may spend time in the word of God and in fellowship with Him. Early rising to fellowship with God is a characteristic of his people (Psa. 63:1, 108:2-3, Mark 1:36). The main purpose of this time is not the study. It is to be nourished with the word. For example in the morning you do not study the dietary benefits of your breakfast. Rather you eat it to enjoy it, that you might be nourished and strengthened for the day, 1 Timothy 4:6.

Many New Testament experiences are portrayed in types and figures in the Old Testament. This experience of spiritual feeding is portrayed in Exodus 16:4-31 with the bread from heaven, manna. God's people were wandering in the wilderness and manna came down from heaven every night as a supply from God for His people. They would have to rise early in the morning to collect it. If they waited too long, it would melt away and be lost. Likewise there is a heavenly supply from God for which we need to rise early, collect, and eat every day. This is a crucial practice that each believer in Jesus Christ must do that they may grow unto maturity.

Lesson 6 The Savior

He is the Savior. Jesus is our savior. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Luke 2:11(asv.) and the angel said unto them I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a savior who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

John 4:42 The Samaritans said: This one is truly the savior of the world.

He is my savior, He is your savior. What has He saved us from?

He has saved us from God's condemnation of the world. He has saved us from having the same fate as the world, which is eternal judgement, the lake of fire. John 1:29 Jesus died for the sins of the world.

The unique sin is not believing in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is for this sin that the world is condemned by God and sent to eternal judgement (Rev. 20:15, Jn. 16:11). Christ is our Savior. His sacrifice on the cross has fully satisfied God and saved us from eternal judgement.

What did Jesus save you from? One common experience of salvation is to feel a big load lifted off your shoulders. This load was the burden of sin, and the relief shows that Christ has saved you from it.

Romans 10:13 (asv) Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. The following are examples of people being saved whom we know personally.

A woman who lived in Los Angeles was in an earthquake. She called out to the Lord to save her and He did. Jesus came into her.

A woman in New Jersey was listening to preaching in a church and the Lord spoke to her in her heart "I am your Lifeguard" For

some reason this had great significance to her and she believed from that time forward.

A young girl in Indiana was told she could have Jesus. She said "Who me? I can?" The answer was yes. She prayed a prayer that asked the Lord to come into her and be hers. She was saved and very happy.

A child heard people praying. She began to call on the name of the Lord and she was saved. She became very excited and ran around.

A believer was in another country hiking and saw a very sad woman. She could not speak the language, so simply told her that Jesus loved her. This simple sentence led to the woman's salvation. She revealed that she was thinking about suicide, but finding out about Jesus saved her from that.

This One is truly savior of the world. 1 John 4:14 and we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1 Tim 4:10 For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God who is the savior of all men, especially of those that believe. Jesus is our savior. He is the savior of the world. He has saved us from sin, sins, God's judgement, condemnation, and being lost forever into His salvation and a glorious future. How we love our savior and we want others to know Him also.

Lesson 8 Christ's work on the Cross

The most important event in the universe was Christ going to the cross to accomplish redemption for all mankind. He paid the price. He died for us.

Isaiah 53 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastening of our peace was upon Him, by His stripes we are healed. The Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of

us all. He makes Himself an offering for sin, He shall bear their iniquities. He poured out His life unto death, He bore the sins of many.

2 Cor. 5:19 God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

Hebrews 9:12, 14 By His own blood, He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained an eternal redemption. Vs 14 much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Heb. 9:26 but now once, at the completion of the ages, He has been manifested for the annulment of sin through the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 9:28 Christ was offered to bear the sins of many; will appear, to those that look for Him, a second time without sin...

10:10 We have been sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

10: 12 This man, having offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

10:17 He says "Their sins and their iniquities I will by no means remember any more"

Isaiah 1:18 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool (dby).

Psalms 103: 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us (dby).

Christ's offering on the cross was once for all. It is done. When He comes again, Heb. 9:28 says He will appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

As human beings we all have inherited sin from Adam. This is sometimes called original sin. As we live, what we are results in sins. So, all of us actually have both sin and sins. However, both

our sin and sins are fully taken care of by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God will not remember their sins anymore (Heb. 10:17). This is the truth as revealed in the bible and we receive it from Him. Thus we are eternally saved, justified and reconciled to Him.

Eph. 1:7 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Col. 1:20 and having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things on earth or things in heaven.

Also, according to John 16:11 the ruler of this world has been judged. Satan was judged on the cross. Heb. 2:14 that through death He might annul him that had the might of death, that is, the devil.

Rom. 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. We were baptized into His death, so we might walk in newness of life.

Christ's work on the cross is eternally efficacious, eternally effective. We are eternally grateful to Him for what He did. Wow, what a salvation we have received!

Some errors to avoid:

The Bible says a lot of things, so it is easy for misunderstandings to arise. There are two sections in Hebrews that are commonly misunderstood. We need to understand that the writer was exhorting the Jewish Christians of the first century to be bold to enter the New Testament way (Heb. 10:19, 35) and realize that their old Judaistic way had expired (Heb. 10:18).

First, Hebrews 6: 4-6 says that a person who has been enlightened, yet has fallen away, cannot renew themselves again to repentance. The concept is simple, the Jewish believer has fallen away from the New Testament way. Such a person does not need to "repent

and believe in Jesus” again. They are already the good earth (vs 7). Any person who has turned away from God can at any moment repent and turn their heart back to God. 2 Cor. 3:15 says But when it (*the heart*) shall turn to the Lord the veil shall be taken away”. When the heart turns, the veil is taken away! Then we behold and reflect the glory of the Lord (vs 18). No problem!

The other one is found in Heb 10:19-26, please read it.

According to the context, what is it to “sin willfully” here? The “sin” is to forsake the assembling of the New Testament Jewish believers and to forsake the New Testament way. Then Hebrews says, there no long remains a “sacrifice for sins”. What does this mean? It means that in God’s plan, all Jewish Old Testament sacrifices have been ended! Jesus Christ replaced all these with His sacrifice.

So, this section does not mean that if we do a sin willfully that we cannot be forgiven. That is an incorrect interpretation of this verse. I John 1:9 categorically states, If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The purpose of Hebrews was to encourage the readers to be brought on to maturity (Heb. 6:1), to be bold to enter the New Testament way (Heb. 10:19, 35) and realize that their old Judaistic way had expired (Heb. 10:18).

Lesson 16 The Way

John 15 shows us God’s Way. This way is to “Abide in Me and I in you”. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abide in the vine so neither can you unless you abide in Me. Apart from Me you can do nothing. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes it that it may bear more fruit. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit. In this is My Father glorified that you bear much fruit. This is God’s purpose that He would be glorified, which is for Him to be expressed in glory. The full development of this Jesus

and us vine is in Rev 21:9-11 and it is the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.



Living in the Vine

At this point in the gospel of John, the Lord was about to leave the disciples. He said He was going to the Father. He knew He was about to die and right after He spoke John 15 he was arrested. It was at this juncture that He spoke John 15. He said: I am the vine and you are the branches. Abide in Me and I in you. How will you live after I am gone physically? Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you lest you abide in Me. This is the way He told us to live. This is faith. This relationship, this joining of the vine and the branches, this is faith. The just shall live by faith. We live by living in Christ and He in us. This is how we walk. We walk in Him and He in us. This joining issues in John 17:21. That they may be one even as You Father are in Me and I in You that they in us may be one, that the world may believe that You have sent Me. This oneness of all believers, where is it? Obviously by these verses we can see the Lord desires this. But unfortunately many of His believers are divided. This verse tells us how to be one. I in them and You in Me that they may be perfected into one that the world may know You have sent Me.

John 15 is the way. Abide in Me and I in you. Live by abiding in the vine. Abide in Him. God put us into Him. Now we need to abide, stay, remain, and dwell in Him. Abide in Him. The Christian life is the simplest life, "walk by this rule" Gal. 6:16, to

abide in Him. When we abide in Him, all that He is, is ours. That is all we need. There is no need to search for another way. This is the way. Abide in Him. All we need is in Him. All we desire is in Him. The goal of God's plan is in Him. He is all we need. Abide in Him.

Lesson 17 Life and Peace

This is the principle way to live the Christian life.

Romans 8:6 The mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Zech. 12:1 Jehovah stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him (dby).

The Lord formed a spirit in man. This is our deepest part. We also have a mind and emotion and will, which make up our soul*.

Deeper than this is our human spirit. It is here we can contact God and fellowship with Him. It is here He communes with us. He put His Spirit into our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17).

(* "soul" in Greek is *psuche*, it is the word for psychology. Our soul is our mind, emotion and will.)

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus. Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which also you were called.

As believers and by our joining to God, we know and live by the way of peace. 1 Cor. 7:15 God has called us in peace. Lk 8:48 Your faith has healed you, go in peace. 1 Cor. 16:11 Send him forward in peace. 1 Cor. 14:33 God is not a God of confusion, but of peace. Eph. 4:3 be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace. 2 Pet. 3:14 Be diligent to be found of Him in peace without spot and without blemish.

The Christian life is a living by life and peace in your spirit. In the court of God's law, Christ's redemption has answered all of God's demands and is the basis for our peace with God. We humans are very complicated beings. God's plan is not just to save us, but to conform us to the image of Christ. For this He has installed the Holy Spirit into us. Not only does this Spirit conform us, but it is also God's way to lead and guide us in God's will to help us in our daily life (Jn 14:26).

By what means does God use to lead us? Does he do miracles to open doors for us? If you risk your life to preach the gospel you will see many miracles, but in your normal daily life as a normal person, the main way God leads you in His will is by the inward sense of life and peace.

This is a sense that is in your deepest part, your human spirit, where God's Spirit dwells. From here a sense of peace spreads into your heart and to your mind, it is a sense of "life giving". Our sins, shortcomings, and failures hinder this life, but this life needs a free channel to flow to us, so we need to confess to the Lord the things on our conscience: sins, failures, and offenses, etc.

Confessing like this opens the curtains of our heart so His life can shine in us and transform us into the image of His son (1 Cor. 3:16-18).

The first step of knowing life and peace is to confess our sins to God. 1 John says "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This confessing is not for our initial salvation, it is for our daily walk, it cleanses our conscience to remove the dirt of sin and offenses from our heart that we may receive His light into us. With our heart renewed and cleansed we come to Him in His word and prayer to receive nourishment and life from Him and His word. You will notice that this lifts you up. Your attitude is improved and things look better. You might feel rejuvenated to complete a task. This is life. Something of God, His life, has been transmitted into you. 2 Peter 1:4 says we are partakers of the divine nature, you have partaken of the divine nature.

By noticing this change within your heart after spending time with the Lord, you can identify this experience of life. In John 15, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Life from the vine flows into the branches supporting the branches, giving life to the branches and eventually issuing in the producing of fruit. This is life. Read Recovery Version Acts 11:18 note 1.

Peace is easier to understand. Peace is peace in our heart. Our situation may be troubling yet we still have peace in our heart. This peace is God's leading, even His speaking. Sometimes peace is the absence of bothering or uneasiness. If there is the absence of bothering, that may be considered peace. But surely when there is bothering there is no peace. To know life and peace we need to discern the separation of soul and spirit. Heb. 4:12 talks about the division of soul and spirit. It is possible for your outward situation to be very bothering in your mind, such as losing your job, yet in your spirit you have peace.

If so, trust in the peace because that is God's leading. Conversely, something very positive may have occurred outwardly, but inwardly there is no peace in your spirit. This is also God's leading. As we are human beings, we are complicated. Either the thoughts in our mind or the feelings of our emotions are strong and make it hard to discern how God feels in our spirit.

Sometimes we need to calm our mind and emotions and seek the Lord to know Him. If time allows, it is good to wait and see how life and peace are leading you. Seeking counsel from others is not a substitute for seeking the Lord. As they talk to you or you consider what they have to say, hopefully there is a witness in your spirit as shown in Romans 9:1 either confirming what they said or not confirming it. As you consider this with your sober, God given mind, you will see the way, but still God's leading by His Spirit in your spirit through the means of life and peace in essential.

Lesson 19 The Common Faith

Among Christians, there is something called the common faith:
Titus 1:4 To Titus, genuine child, according to the common faith.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith.

This common faith brings us into a common salvation:

Jude 3 Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

There is one Lord and one Faith:

Eph. 4: 4-5 One Body, and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism...

The common faith is made up of two things: the **person** of the Lord Jesus and His redemptive **work** on the cross.

Paul sums up the **work** of the Lord Jesus in:

1 Cor. 15: 2-4 I announced to you as the gospel, for I delivered to you first of all, that which also I received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that He was buried and that He has been raised on the third day according to the scriptures. The redemptive work that Jesus did is the foundation of the faith that all Christians believe.

Rom. 10:9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes into Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life.

In addition to the **Work** that Jesus Christ did in dying for us, the second half of the common faith is the person of the Lord Jesus. Who is He in his **Person**?

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin to be a true human child, conceived of the Holy Spirit (Mat 1:20). If he had a human father, then he would have inherited Adam's sin (Rom 5:12-21). As a sinless man, he is the perfect person to take our sins and die on our behalf. This birth affords him the title, "the son of man" (Lk 19:10), a title he would defend and not relinquish (Lk 4:3-4). II Cor. 5:21 For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Like the brass serpent in John 3:14, Jesus had only the form of a serpent, he did not have the life, nature, or poison of a serpent. And as Rom 8:3 says, "...God sent his son, in the likeness of the flesh of sin..." not in actual flesh of sin. If Jesus had sin, then he would have had no ground to take our sins on him. There would have been no way that he could have paid the debt of sin for all of us.

In addition to the son of man, he is the son of God, the only begotten son of God (Jn. 3:16).

But the mystery of his person continues. The disciples lived with him for over three years. Like all faithful Jews, they were awaiting and expecting the Jewish Messiah, the Christ. At one point Simon Peter finally realized that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God (Matt 16:16)! And not only that, but by the end of the gospels, they realized that Jesus was the very God Himself, as shown in John 20:28 "Thomas answered and said unto him (Jesus), My Lord and my God!".

John 1:1 In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

It is a mystery that the very God would put on humanity, but that is His plan. He is a sinless man, and our very God (I Tim 1:17).

The common faith are the things we believe in that bring us into the common salvation. In His person He is the sinless One who was made sin to die on our behalf. In His person, He is a true man and He is God. In His work, He accomplished an eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12). He is the unique sacrifice for sin. By His sacrifice all sins are forgiven and atoned for, and by this sacrifice we are reconciled to God and justified before Him. He is the sinless Lamb of God who died, was buried and resurrected bodily from the grave, and ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). This is the common faith.

All other things in the bible are not the common faith. We should only contend for the common faith. In all other things we should be tolerant and exercise brotherly love. We want to be one with one another in the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace, that the world may believe (Jn 17:21). Beloved, let us love one another.

The Moravian brethren in the 16th and 17th centuries practiced the saying: "In essential things: unity. In nonessential things: liberty. In all things: love."

The essential things are the beliefs we need to receive Christ's redemption. Christ was God come in the flesh as a man to die for us so we could be forgiven, cleansed of our sins, reconciled to God and indwelt by His Spirit. Christ's person and work are the essential things, everything else is nonessential and differences should be tolerated in love. In matters such as the method of baptism or the Lord's table, or Pentecostal blessings or head covering or the rapture or the Lord's second coming we must give our brothers and sisters liberty and love them in brotherly love. The oneness of the believers is more important than how we practice baptism or whether we are raptured before or after the tribulation. Keep the common faith and practice brotherly love.

Our common faith has two basic factors that we believe in regarding Jesus Christ. The first is His person. Who is He in His person? He is God and He is the sinless, genuine man. The second is His work. We believe in His redemption, His sacrificial and

redemptive work, satisfying God's righteousness. This is the common faith that we all hold to.

See Recovery Version John 1:14 note 2 and Romans 4:25 note 1

Lesson 27 Christ lives in me

Christ is not far away from us. He actually lives in us!

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I that live but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 Cor. 6:19 do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, whom you have from God and you are not your own?

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.

The preceding verses show that the Son, the Spirit and the Father all indwell us. This indwelling is not three gods, but one God, who is triune.

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith, prove your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you...?

John 17:26 that the love with which you have loved Me may be in them and I in them.

1 John 2:27 the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you and you need not that anyone teach you but the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

John 15:4 tells us: Abide, stay, remain in Me and I in you.

Christ is in us and we are in Him. All we need do now is abide, stay, remain, dwell, live in Him.

Lesson 41 Christ's Second Coming

Jesus Christ came the first time through his incarnation. When he ascended to the heavens the disciples were told that he would come again Acts 1:11. He comes to receive us to himself, to deal with his enemies (Lk 19:27), and to set up his kingdom on earth.

The Lord's second coming proceeds from the throne to the earth in stages. He descends from heaven to the air, where we meet him in the clouds.

1 Thess. 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself with an assembly shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God shall descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and thus we will always be together with the Lord. See Rev 14:14-16.

Then the Lord proceeds from the clouds to his open appearing to all the earth, until his feet touch the Mount of Olives, after which he treads the wine press of the Wrath of God:

Rev. 1:7 Every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him: and all the kindred's of the earth shall wail because of Him.

Zech. 14:4 And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem toward the east and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south. And you shall flee by the valley of My mountains...

Matt. 24:27-30 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man

in heaven: and then shall all the (Jewish) tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Rev. 19:15-16, 19-20 ...He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords... and I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse. The beast was taken and the false prophet... They were cast alive into the Lake of Fire. (See also Rev 14:17-20)

So, His coming proceeds from the throne of God, to the air, to the clouds, and finally to the earth.

At the end of this age is a final seven year period, called the tribulation. The last 3 ½ years is called the great tribulation. At the beginning of the last 3 ½ years the Lord will come as a thief to secretly 'steal' the part of His people who are watching and praying for His return. The rest of the believers will be raptured at the end of the great tribulation when Christ comes openly on a cloud. If you are a watching and praying believer (Lk. 21: 28-30) or one in a congregation like that in Philadelphia in Rev. 3:12, He will come as a thief in the night and snatch you away prior to the worst part of the great tribulation. This includes the 144,000 Firstfruits, who have been raptured to the throne and who are with the Lamb at the beginning of the great tribulation (Rev 14:1-5).

On the other hand, if you are like some Christians and you are just occupied with living and the anxieties of life, and do not care to "live Christ" in your daily life, then His secret coming will catch you unawares (Lk 21:34) and you will be not be "taken" but left behind. Luke 17:35-36: "One will be taken and the other left". In that case you will be part of the harvest at the end of the tribulation, of those who "remain unto the coming of the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16-17) who will be harvested (Rev. 14:15-16) at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:50-53). Since you were not ready when the Lord came as a thief, you will pass through the great tribulation.

But if, in the tribulation, you get a chance to be faithful through martyrdom, then you will be counted faithful and reign with Christ. Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

It is a matter of ripeness. Rev. 14:15 says “The harvest of the earth is ripe”, so we want to be those who ripen early by pursuing Christ (Ph 3:12), even those who “hasten the day of the God” II Pt 3:12.

Christ’s coming is in many stages until He eventually comes openly to the earth. He will gather His people to Him also in different stages. He gathers His believers and the nation of Israel. He will also judge the nations who rejected Him and His salvation. We are those who love His appearing. We watch for it, and we expect it, and we ask Him to come. Come Lord Jesus!

Lesson 45 The Requirement to be a Faithful Servant

Our Lord has provided us “so great a salvation” (Heb. 2:3). He has taken away our sin (Heb. 9:28), washed us (1 Cor. 6:11), clothed us (Lk. 15:22), infilled us (Jn. 14:17), equipped us (Heb. 13:21), and given us a spiritual fortune (Matt. 25:15), from which He expects a good return (Lk. 19:22-23), (Lk. 20:9-10) both for Himself and for our benefit (Phil. 4:17).

The security of our salvation is founded “on nothing less than Jesus Christ our righteousness” (II Cor. 5:21). Now we have hope “which we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and firm...” (Heb. 6:19). So, our standing before God is secure, even eternally secure (Heb. 9:12, Jn. 10:28). But now, as God’s redeemed, He expects us to bear fruit to God (Rom. 7:4) and we are His servants,

even slaves (Matt. 25:14) and it is required that we be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). In Matthew and Luke (Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27, Luke 17:7-10) the Lord gives us parables which show the riches He has given us and how He expects us to “do business until I come” (Luke 19:13). In these parables the Lord rewards the faithful slaves and chastises the unfaithful and slothful slaves. These are not a parables about whether we are “saved” or not. These are parables to us, His believers and they encourage us and warn us that we need to “do business” with what the Lord has committed to each one of us.

This thought is repeated by Paul in 1 Cor. 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.

The foundation which is laid is that Jesus Christ has taken away our sin and made us right with God (Rom. 5:1). Now we are required to build on this foundation (1 Cor. 3:10), even to the least of us, we are given one talent “according to our ability” (Matt. 25:15). So, there is no excuse. Perhaps if you are crippled, blind, deaf, and dumb, then you could have an excuse. But, if you love the Lord, no matter how much you are handicapped, you still will want to bear fruit to Him (S.S. 8:12-14).

So what the bible clearly states is that we, His believers, must give an account to Him, for either reward or discipline. (We also must pursue the holiness of our holy God, but that is another lesson. Heb 12:14)

2 Cor. 5:10 Paul says: "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he has done, whether it be good or evil."

Paul includes himself and all believers in this verse. Believers will give an account for how they lived their life at the judgement Seat of Christ.

Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

1 Pet 4:17 For it is time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Rom. 14:10, 12 But thou why judge you your brother? For we shall all be placed before the judgement seat of God. So then each of us shall give an account concerning himself to God.

1 Cor. 3:8 He that plants and he that waters are one; and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Paul is talking about how he and Apollos ministered to the church in Corinth, but saying how each one will be rewarded according to their own work.

Matt 25:14-15, 19-21 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his goods, and unto one he have five talents, to another two and to another one; to every man according to his own ability; and straightway took his journey. After a long time the lord of those servants comes, and reckons with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, you delivered unto me five talents; behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things; enter into the joy of your lord.

Matt. 25:24-30 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered; and I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth; lo, there you have what is yours. His lord answered and said to him, you wicked and slothful servant, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I have not scattered: you ought to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with interest. Take therefore the talent from him and give it to him which has ten talents. For every one that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not it shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (para)

(* Talent: a talent is a large unit of measure that was worth about 6,000 denarii. A denarii is a day's pay (Matt 20:2). Thus one talent is worth about one million dollars)

Heb. 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward. Read Recovery Version Heb 10:35 note 1.

Heb. 11:26 Accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward (asv).

Rev 22:12 Behold I come quickly and my reward is with Me to give every man according as his work shall be. This is one of the very last things that Jesus says in the bible, and it is spoken to us.

The punishment or discipline is temporary**, for our benefit (Heb 12:7-11), it is not to perish in the lake of fire for eternity. That is for unbelievers (Rev 20:11-15). If you consider these verses you can see that the reward is to enter into His one thousand year Kingdom on earth and to suffer loss is to go into outer darkness. Outer darkness is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(** the temporary aspect of discipline can be seen in Matt 5:25-26 and 18:21-35, particularly in 5:26 and 18:34)

God's intent and goal is that all His children be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29), and in the long run He will not accept anything less than that. Those who take the cross, deny themselves, live Christ (Phil 1:21) and are conformed to His image are those who have taken the straight gate and walked the narrow way that leads to life. These people will surely be rewarded and enter into His kingdom.

As we grow in this life, and Christ grows in us as life (Jn 12:24), we become perfected in Christ, which is manifested as love. Eventually, there is no fear in love, as we mature in Him.

1 John 4:16-18 And we have known and have believed the love which God has to us. God is love, and he that abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Herein has love been perfected with us that we may have boldness in the day of judgement, that even as He is, we also are in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has torment, and he that fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us (dby).

1 John 3:18-19 Children, let us not love with word, nor with tongue, but in deed and in truth. And hereby we shall know that we are of the truth, and shall persuade our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

Read Recovery Version, Hebrews 12:28 note 1 and Romans 14:10 note 1.

So, there will be reward and loss for believers depending on what they do in their body. But, this will only be temporary. I Thes 5:9 says: "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." Eventually, all believers will be in the New Jerusalem on the new earth, it will be filled with God and the expression of God. The entire New Jerusalem will be the Holy of Holies, the divine nature will be there as the golden street and in the middle of the street is the river of water of

life with the tree of life growing in it. This will be our eternal future and is our hope today.

As this is an unfamiliar topic, we spent a lot of time on it. The Bible also presents another aspect of being prepared, read Matt 25:1-13. This parable shows us that we can be prepared by “gaining the oil”. We gain the oil within through the transformation of the Holy Spirit. Any outward activity of a faithful servant must be the issue of a life in union with Christ, for as Jesus said “apart from me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). Read Recovery Version Matt 25:9 note 3.

Vocabulary: Overcomer

One who “gains the oil” would be an overcomer, see Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26 Rev 3:5, 12, 21 Rev 12:11 Aspire to overcome!

Reread Lesson 16 The Way, and “Growing” in Lesson 1.

Lesson 47 The New Jerusalem

Rev. 1:1 says “the revelation is made known by signs”. For example, when Jesus said He was the “bread of life” in John 6:35, that was a sign, a symbol. Likewise, so many things in revelation are signs, something that represents a spiritual reality. So, regarding the New Jerusalem, do not try to make the spiritual reality merely a physical thing.

Rev 21:10-23, Rev 22:1-2 And He carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: on the east three gates, and on the north three gates; and on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the

twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lies foursquare and the length is as large as the breadth: And He measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and breadth and the height of it are equal. And He measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty four cubits, according to the measure of a man that is of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.... And the street of the city was pure gold as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city has no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof... And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bear twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no more night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever.

This is the end of the bible. This is the last thing in the bible. This is God's final goal. The New Jerusalem. Here are the points.

1. It is us, the Bride of Christ,
2. It is made of precious, transformed stones 2 Cor. 3:18
3. It shines with the Glory of God.
4. It is the mutual dwelling place of the Triune God and redeemed and transformed mankind.
5. It comes down out of heaven from God.
6. The length, width, and height are equal. It is a cube.

7. Having twelve gates.
8. Having one street.
9. Having one river in the middle of its street.
10. The tree of life is on both sides of the river.
11. It contains the throne of God and of the Lamb.
12. The Lamb is the lamp of the city.

First of all, notice, the city comes down, out of heaven, from God. This is the word of God. God's final place for His people comes down out of heaven from God.

The length, width and height are equal. These are the dimensions of the Holy of Holies, meaning that the New Jerusalem is now the Holy of Holies where God dwells. The city has 12 gates, 3 on each side, meaning the city is easily accessible to all on earth through the salvation of the Triune God.

The tree of life is growing on both sides of the street and produces fruit each month. The leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations who are outside the gates of the city.

This is God's purpose. To have a building of all His believers that expresses Him in all His glory. The city has the glory of God. The river of water of life flows to the whole city to be our refreshment and supply with Christ as the water of life. Christ, as the tree of life continually produces fresh fruit to sustain us. This is our future. It is glorious and wonderful. We will dwell with God in Christ forever and ever. Thank the Lord for our glorious future in the New Jerusalem.



We recommend:
Get a Free New Testament Study Bible
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We look for His Coming

When Jesus came the first time, He dealt with sin and defeated satan. He brought the old Adam into the grave that we might be raised to walk in newness of life. We are now those who are born from above to be conformed to the image of Christ.

During these two thousand years since He returned to heaven, it has given time for lots of people to repent and believe into Him and become members of Christ and to grow in Him – to produce the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ.

Soon He will return again. First He will deal with antichrist, then He takes His bride to himself and enters into the wedding feast of His one thousand year kingdom.

Following this there will be the new heavens and new earth, with the New Jerusalem for all eternity.

We love Him, we love those born of Him, and we also love those whom He died to redeem: the lost, that they may be found.

Lk 15:11-32

The Spirit and the Bride say, Come!

Rev 22:17

To get all the lessons, go to

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