

THEOLOGY FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS
AND THOSE WHO MIGHT BE PERSUADED

By

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And Those Who Might Be Persuaded

Foreword

I realize that I am running a risk in writing about Theology. My degree is Doctor of Jurisprudence. This is a far cry from Doctor of Divinity or Theology. Theologians, who have spent years in perfecting their discipline, might very well resent a lay person such as me using the term. I recall some years ago when those who had Engineering degrees protested the use of the word Engineer in occupations such as Building Engineer. The latter term is used to identify a janitor, or at least a janitor who has such additional skills as to take care of the problems which might arise in the building where he is the custodian.

Even so, I have read the Bible from cover to cover twenty-five times and was well on the road to the twenty-sixth time when my eyesight failed me. The Bible is a well traveled road for me and I have a very clear overview of its content. Additionally, I taught Bible classes for more than forty years.

It is my goal to present herein God's plan for "whosoever will" accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. I want to make this presentation in such simple and clear words that anyone who can read will understand and have a clear opportunity to accept Jesus and thus be saved.

God's Generous Offer

We realize that some of the things that will be said in this part of the article will be repeated in great detail later on in the article. However, we want you to be certain that you understand what God's plan for the salvation of mankind is.

1. You must repent. This means that you must not only be sorry for your sins, but you must be willing to turn from them. The Bible makes it clear that all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God. You are not an exception. The Bible also says that the wages of sin is death.
2. God has made a final offer to all of mankind.
 - a. If you believe in your heart (the very depth of your soul) that God raised Jesus from the dead;
 - b. You accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord;
 - c. You are willing to make a statement before others that you have made these decisions;
3. Having done this, the Bible makes it clear that you are saved for all eternity. Your place in Heaven has been reserved.
4. There are those in the world who will refuse to believe this. They believe that you must do something to win a place in Heaven. This is not true. God is willing to take you just as you are and, if you accept His generous offer, He will clean you up.
5. Now, continue to read this booklet all the way to the end for reinforcement of everything that has been said above.

THE BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

The Bible *is* Theology. The Bible states that all scripture is God-breathed. We believe that the Bible is God's word for all humanity. We believe that God by His Holy Spirit has protected the content of the Bible from the very days when He walked with Adam in the Garden in the cool of the day. We believe that in those walks He told Adam all about creation and thus began with Adam the oral history which prevailed all the way through to Noah and beyond, until educated men created the first written scripture. In reading the Bible through on twenty-five occasions, we have used different translations and have found that they all present the same message. We believe God, by His supernatural power, has been the final editor of the Bible and has kept it as His word revealed to mankind. We do not believe that God has made any mistakes in doing so.

The bottom line is that what God has prepared for us in His word, the Bible, is entirely reliable.

CREATION AND SCIENCE

Many scientists claim that their findings can disprove the Bible. We disagree. We believe that the Bible is true in every detail. By this, we point to the fact that the dinosaurs are not mentioned in the Bible, and when Noah built the ark according to God's specifications and took his small family and all the animals needed to repopulate the earth, he did not include huge reptilian creatures.

They simply missed the boat.

We believe the Bible, which states that God created everything that was created. God has always existed; there has been no beginning for Him or no end. We believe that the earth and every other heavenly body are positioned precisely where God wants them.

God, the sun test.

The sun is hotter than anything we can imagine. It has been burning for centuries upon centuries, but it has not burned up. Let science explain why anything so hot has not been completely consumed.

GOD'S PRIOR EFFORTS WITH HUMANITY

We plan to paint this picture with bold and broad strokes, because we are eager to get into a discussion of God's present plan for all of us.

After creating the earth, God planted a beautiful garden, a place called Eden. He therefore created a man called Adam and appointed him as the gardener. All Adam had to do was take

care of all the beautiful vegetation and fruit trees. He brought all the animals before Adam and Adam was able to name each one. He then put Adam to sleep and did surgery on him, removing a rib from which he made Eve. God instructed them that they could eat of any of the trees in the garden except one tree called the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. That tree was off limits. Now, here they were, man and wife who had been given the job of taking care of the garden and also having children and populating the earth.

However, there was someone else in the garden. Satan was there in the form of a serpent. Now Satan essentially convinced Eve that God had lied to them and that they should feel free to eat of the forbidden tree. They did. As a result of this, they lost their job and their home and were banished from the Garden. God told them if they had eaten from the forbidden tree they would surely die. They did not die immediately. In fact, Adam lived an additional 600+ years. During this time, they populated the earth. However, because of Adam's original sin, all humanity was born with the sin imprint, and they sinned horribly and disgustingly. That is why God brought about the Great Flood, killing all but Noah and his small family and the animals that he had packed into the ark. Noah was a new beginning, but his sons and their wives had children and grandchildren and so on, until the earth became repopulated. Eventually, through Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, God selected a people for His own. The Israelites were His chosen people. However, they were also born with the sin imprint and they failed and God, eventually, allowed their kingdom to be destroyed. At that point, to anyone reading the Bible, it looked pretty dismal for the human race. Everyone who ever lived had sinned and thus had condemned themselves to be shut off from the presence of God forever.

God

The Bible studies said our God is in Heaven and does what pleases Him. If we would understand this, then we would realize that it is best for us to try to please Him too. The Bible also tells us that God is three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Without any one of those personalities, God would not be God. God is all powerful, all wise, all knowing and all good. Because God is a spirit, He can be in all places at all times. At the time He created the world, He could look down through history and see you as you read this material and He sees you doing whatever it is you're doing at the time you read this. He loves you and wants to claim you as one of His children.

He has made it possible for this to happen.

Humans

Humans are born as two persons: the body and the soul. Because of disbelief and disobedience to God, many souls will go to a place called hell or, more appropriately, defined as the Lake of Fire. Only those souls that have accepted Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Savior and Lord, will go to be with God forever in a place we call Heaven. Those who go to the Lake of Fire will have no excuse.

It is clear that those people who died in the Great Flood, and those people who die without accepting God's generous offer, will have no excuse.

GOD'S FINAL OFFER

The children of Israel, God's chosen people, sought forgiveness of their sins by offering animal sacrifices. Their priests offered these animal sacrifices because they believed that there could be no remission of sins without the shedding of blood.

God's final plan involves the sacrifice of His only begotten son as the blood sacrifice so that all the sins of those who accepted Jesus as the Lord Savior would be forgiven.

The animals sacrificed by the Children of Israel had to be without spot or blemish. They had to be perfect. God's offer of His own son goes much further than that. He offers His Son as one who lived the human life and never once sinned.

One more thing about God the Son: He went willingly as the sacrificial lamb to His death, knowing that God the Father would raise Him from the dead and lift Him up for anyone who would accept Him as Lord and Savior to be saved.

JESUS AS BOTH GOD AND MAN

Gabriel, an angel from God, appeared to a young virgin named Mary in Israel and told her she was pregnant and would give birth to the Messiah. Mary was apparently stunned, because she had had no such relations with a man. She was engaged to a man named Joseph, but that marriage had never been consummated. The angel told her that this was God's will for her life. She accepted this. When Joseph realized that Mary was pregnant, he thought about divorcing her, but the angel convinced him that this was God's will. Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph had to take Mary there to register in his own home town. The angels announced the birth of this child to certain shepherds in the field and a few royal persons. However, Jesus grew up as any other young boy would.

It is important to realize that Jesus was both God and man. However, He willingly accepted all the limitations of a human being as he was growing up. He was subject to discipline from his parents and He learned the trade of carpentry from Joseph, his legal father. Joseph was the legal father because the child was born in his household.

When Jesus reached manhood, He began to preach and teach. He also performed miracles. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed many other miracles. His fame spread and many people flocked to him for healing. One time, He and his disciples ministered to 5,000 people and, when they were in need of food, performed a miracle by taking a few fish and changing them into enough to feed the 5,000 people. He did the same thing again with

4,000 people on another occasion. At a wedding feast in Cana, He changed the water into wine for the festival services.

The rulers of the region both feared and hated Him, and they wanted to do away with Him.

The Disciples of Jesus

Jesus selected ordinary men to be His disciples. He picked twelve men. Some of them were fishermen along the Sea of Galilee, one was a tax collector, and one was a thief, Judas Iscariot. They followed Him everywhere He went and, at His bidding, they were also able to heal the sick and perform other miracles.

The Betrayal, Trial and Death of Jesus

The Jewish leadership decided that Jesus needed to be eliminated and put to death. Jesus did not deny that He was the Deity, so in a secret trial at night they found Him guilty. It was actually an illegal trial. Because Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire, they were not allowed to put anyone to death. The leaders then went to the Roman official and asked that Jesus be put to death. The official denied this, but eventually caved in under political pressure and ordered Jesus to be turned over to the soldiers for crucifixion.

The Death of Jesus

Remember that Jesus is being offered as a sacrificial lamb. God knew what was going to happen long before the Children of Israel or the Roman Empire existed. God the Son, in the form of Jesus, the man, knew what was coming and willingly accepted this death.

The Roman soldiers scourged Jesus with whips that had metal and bone fragments embedded in the ends so that His skin was ripped and torn. He was then crucified on a wooden cross. They drove metal spikes through His hands and His feet and dropped the cross into a hole.

What happened then was not visible to those who were watching the crucifixion. The Bible states that one who is hanged from a tree is accursed. The sins of everyone who would accept Jesus as Savior were piled onto Jesus on the cross. This piling on of all those sins was only visible to God the Father. At one time, He actually turned His eyes away from His precious son. Jesus cried out “My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?” God simply could not look upon all that sin.

Shortly thereafter Jesus died.

The Burial

A man who worshiped Jesus had a burial place which he had prepared for himself that was carved out of stone. He claimed the body of Jesus and wrapped it in cloth by using wrappings around and round the body. He then placed it in his tomb and rolled a stone over the entrance. Thus, the final sacrifice had been made.

The Resurrection

Within three days, just as God had predicted, Jesus rose from the dead. God, the Father, raised God, the Son, from the dead. In doing so, His human body was translated into His glorified body. His glorified body appeared in human form and was a body that could enter a room without opening the door. It was a body that could join his disciples on the Sea of Galilee and eat broiled fish. He was seen by many people over a period of many days and He preached and talked to them so that they would understand what had happened. He had been the final offering for the remission of sin. That any person who accepted him as Savior and Lord, who would find that their sins would never be recognized by God, that they would spend eternity with God when their human bodies died.

Praise God!

This story is a beautiful one when you consider it in its entirety. Jesus paid the price for your sins and our sins there on that cross. No more blood will ever have to be shed for the remission of sins. Jesus paid the whole price.

The most beautiful part of the story is that Jesus was brought to life by God the Father and ministered to the people for a period of days, and then the people watched Him as He rose and entered the clouds to join His father in heaven. Jesus now sits on the right hand of the father as He did from eternity. However, He is not alone. In addition to the angels, He has with Him everyone who accepted Him as Lord and Savior before they died. We have the same hope that these people had.

GOD'S INVITATION

The Simplicity of Being Saved

Some people find it difficult to believe that being saved from the Lake of Fire and being ushered into heaven as children adopted into God's own family, cannot be a simple thing.

They feel that getting into heaven requires them to do some things and a lot of things in order to make themselves worthy. The Bible says that it is not by works but by faith that we come to God. Our good works, piled upon good works, will not get us saved.

Conversely, some people feel that their lives are so evil that God would never accept them, and they feel that they would need more time to clean their lives up before they accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. This is not true. God's invitation is a come-as-you-are call. Do what God tells you to do and He will clean you up and take care of all the details. This is simply another miracle that can be accomplished by God in an instant. He wants you just as you are. He wants you now.

What Are We Saved From?

We will be saved from the presence and influence of Satan who is responsible for all the evil in the world. More importantly, we will be saved from the Wrath of God at which time God will throw Satan and his angels and all those who reject Jesus, or refuse to call Him Savior and Lord, into the Lake of Fire.

God's Plea

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that He stands at the door and knocks, and if anyone will open the door He will come in. In other words, Jesus doesn't just come crashing into your home and tries to save you. You have to open that door. Where is that door? The door is in your heart. Where is your heart? Your heart is in the very depth of your soul. So Jesus is knocking at the door of your soul asking to come in.

What do you do?

You are a sinful person, just as we are. Without Jesus, there is no hope for us to ever become the children of God. We deserve this and, without Jesus, we would be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Therefore, we must be very sorry for our sins. We must also believe in our heart (the depth of our soul) that God raised Jesus from the dead. This means that we believe with all our heart that Jesus is alive and is with the Father and is able to save us. We then must accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Now, if He is your Lord, then you are His servant. A servant's main desire is to please his lord. This means putting the Lord Jesus first in your life, first ahead of anyone else you can think of.

Having done this, you are saved.

Let us recapitulate. In order to be saved you must be genuinely sorry for your sins, you must believe in the very depth of your soul that God raised Jesus from the dead and you must accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

The Bible states clearly that, if you have done that, then you are saved for all eternity. God will miraculously change you. You may not look any different than you did, but you will be different. God will look at you as one of His children and not as an unsaved sinner. At the moment you are saved, God will place His Holy Spirit in your soul. You are no longer two people (body and soul) but three: body, spirit, and soul. You now belong to God forever. It will now be important for you to tell others what has happened to you. Jesus said "If you confess me before others, I will confess you before my Father in heaven. But, if you do not confess me before others, I will not confess you before my Father in heaven."

CONGRATULATIONS!

If you have now accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you can rely upon His promises that you will spend eternity with God in heaven. You will also be with all the other Christians who have gone before you. There will be great rejoicing in heaven and eternity is a longer time than we can even imagine. There will be no clocks in heaven; there will be much joy in heaven, and, in heaven, it will be impossible to be unhappy. We may still have to bear problems here in our earthly existence. We may still be sinners. However, we will never more enjoy sin as we once did and, most importantly, our sins will not keep us from going to heaven. Once we have made this commitment to God, He no longer sees us as sinners. He sees us as His children and He loves us and nurtures us. And the Spirit of God is always within us and will be forever more.

JOINING OTHER CHRISTIANS

If you are already attending a church, may God bless your relationship with the people in that church. As a young Christian, you need to be with other Christians who are enthusiastically involved in the study of the Bible and in the outreach for people who are lost. Jesus has commissioned all Christians to go wherever in the world it is necessary and win others to Christ and teach them the Christian way.

However, if you are not attending such a church, then you should look for one that believes the Bible and believes that Jesus saves and that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Some churches do not believe these things or at least they do not practice them. You are really looking for a church that has an active group in your own age who meets regularly in Sunday School or in other small groups to study the Bible and discuss ways to become better Christians. There is much to be learned and much to do.

If you are handicapped and cannot attend church, you need to search for a church that regularly ministers to people like you and makes it possible for you to minister to others.

It is very important that you plunge yourself into fellowship with other Christians as soon as possible.

Baptism

After Jesus began his public ministry as an adult, he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. He was baptized by being plunged under the water and raised again. Baptism shows a picture of Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection.

Author's Personal Testimony

Most Christians believe that we are to follow Jesus in baptism. When my wife and I accepted Jesus in 1952, we went before the entire First Baptist Church, of Houston, Texas, and acknowledged that we had received Christ as our personal Savior and Lord. A week later, we were baptized together in the Baptistery as the Congregation watched. I was

plunged under the water first by the Pastor and then my wife followed. It is important that the church you become associated with believes in water baptism.

Bible Study

If you do not already have a Bible, it will be necessary for you to get one. There are several translations of the Bible. As a young Christian, a translation which uses modern language would probably be best for you. Bibles come in all price ranges and are available in most book stores. You may also go to your Pastor and ask for help in securing a Bible. Once you have a Bible, it becomes very important for you to begin regularly reading and studying it. This is why it is important to join a Sunday School class or another small group where the Bible is regularly taught. Meanwhile, get a copy of Open Windows or another such booklet which recommends one or more Scriptures to be read every day. It would also be a good idea for you to read the Book of John several times. This book explains how much God loves sinners. He does not love the sin, but He wants to save the sinners, and, once saved, He gives them His Holy Spirit and forgives their sins.

EQUIPPING YOURSELF FOR SERVICE

Remember, you are now a servant of your Lord. You need to find a way to serve Him. Usually, in nearly every church, there are places of responsibility to be filled. We would suggest that you not bite off more than you can chew. If you have a singing voice, join the choir. The nurseries of most churches are filled with babies to be tended during the church services. If you love little children, then this might be a place for you to offer your Christian services. God supplies each human being with a spiritual gift and at least one talent that they can use in honoring Him. What is your talent? Can you think of a way that your talent can be offered in your church as a way to serve God? One of the most important things that any Christian can do for God and for his church is to pray. We will cover more on this in the next section.

Praying

It is vital for all Christians to learn to pray. Since your soul is already connected with the Holy Spirit, you are not far from God in the spiritual sense. We learned a long time ago to pray to God as if we are talking to our earthly father. After all, He has adopted you into His family as one of His children. The Bible says that you are a joint-heir with Jesus Himself. Pour your heart out to God. He wants to know everything that is on your heart.

Part of your ministry as a new Christian is to pray for others. All around you, you have already found people with various kinds of trouble. It is easy to find someone to pray for every day. Certainly, you are to pray for yourself as you start this walk that will never end. You should pray for your family, your acquaintances, friends, and other church members. By all means, pray for lost people. Pray for your political leaders. Pray for even those for whom you would never vote. Your prayer ministry is very important to God.

The Ministry of Giving

The standard of giving in most churches is the tithe, one tenth of your gross earnings. Perhaps, the first mention of tithing came in the Old Testament when Abraham and his men had just returned from defeating the people who had plundered his village. He not only gained back the things they had taken from him, but he plundered them. He was met by a rather strange personality, a man who called himself the King of Salem. However, the Bible infers that this man had no beginning or end. We believe that he was a type of Christ who confronted Abraham and demanded a tithe of all the loot that Abraham and his men had collected from those whom he had defeated. Abraham gave it.

The Author speaks again

Tithing was a problem for my wife and me. When we became Christians at the First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, in 1952, we learned about tithing. We always had been on a budget and we began to pour over the figures to see how we could come up with one tenth of my monthly gross earnings. It was extremely difficult. Time after time we did the numbers and came up \$28 a month short. One day in repeating this seemingly futile effort, we discovered a \$28 item on our budget. It was for cigarettes. We were determined to tithe, and God helped us with this. He supernaturally removed our desire for the tobacco. We quit cold turkey without any withdrawal problems. Thus, we started tithing. If you do not believe that you can tithe immediately, then give as much as you can and work your way toward tithing sometime in the future. God promises that 90% of your gross earnings that you retain will be more than sufficient. Years ago, we heard of a man who started tithing and was so blessed by God that he continued to increase his giving until he was giving 90% of his gross earnings and was still a wealthy man.

THE ANGELS

God created the angels in heaven to minister to Him and also to have fellowship with Him. He created them with a free will. They could disobey Him or they could obey Him. Disobedience, however, had terrible consequences. He did not want angels to be robots.

Using his free will, one of the most powerful of the angels in heaven, tried to organize a rebellion against God and usurp God's authority. As a consequence, this angel was banished from heaven and his power was limited to the earth.

As we've already stated, Satan was there in the Garden of Eden when he convinced Eve that God was lying about eating of the fruit from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan was responsible for the sin of Eve and Adam, but they knew what God had told them to do and disobeyed Him and they therefore had no excuse.

SATAN'S AUTHORITY

God allows Satan to test us. Please don't try to understand why God did this. We will be tested as Christians as long as we live.

There is spiritual warfare between God's angels and the Holy Spirit and, on the other side, Satan and his demons. Satan is doing his best to lead us into sin. The Holy Spirit, which is in us, defends us, even though we sin, and keeps us safe. The Holy Spirit which is in us is more powerful than Satan. Satan can make us miserable, but he cannot claim us because God has already saved us and we are secure.

Our bodies continue to sin, but we have access to God and can get forgiveness for our sins. Once we have been saved, just as you are, you can never be lost again. Just remember that the Bible makes it clear that God wins the final battle and that Satan and all those who have failed to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, will go to the Lake of Fire. Those of us, who have accepted Jesus, will go to the heavenly realm and be with God and all other Christians forever.

Believe the Bible.

Resist Satan at all times. Remember that angels are all around you. Pray to God for help when Satan attacks. If the spiritual blinders could be removed from our eyes, we would see the spiritual realm around us. The Spirit of God is in you and will never leave you, and this gives you access instantly, in your prayers, to God.

Go forward with confidence. May God bless you now and for ever.

FEEDBACK

If you so desire, you may let us know what has happened to you in accepting Christ. We will be happy to hear from you.

You may write us at Happy Man Ministries, PO Box 1158, Easton, PA 18044

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture presented here are from The Amplified Bible

Page 1, The Bible: 2 Timothy 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action)

Page 1-2, The Creation: Genesis 2:8-10; 15-25 8And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden [delight]; and there He put the man whom He had formed (framed, constituted). 9And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired--good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life also in the center of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of [the difference between] good and evil and blessing..... 15And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. 18Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him. 19And out of the ground the Lord God formed every [wild] beast and living creature of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name. 20And Adam gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the air and to every [wild] beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him. 21And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the [place with] flesh. 22And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23Then Adam said, This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of a man. 24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25And the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other's presence.

Page 2, Original Sin: Genesis 3 1NOW THE serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden? 2And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden, 3Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. 4But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die, 5For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity. 6And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles. 8And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? 10He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? 12And the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me--she gave me [fruit] from the tree, and I ate. 13And the Lord God said to the woman, What is this you have done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled (cheated, outwitted, and deceived) me, and I ate. 14And the Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed above all [domestic] animals and above every [wild] living thing of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust [and what it contains] all the days of your life. 15And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel. 16To the woman He said, I will greatly

multiply your grief and your suffering in pregnancy and the pangs of childbearing; with spasms of distress you will bring forth children. Yet your desire and craving will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. 17And to Adam He said, Because you have listened and given heed to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life. 18Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return. 20The man called his wife's name Eve [life spring], because she was the mother of all the living. 21For Adam also and for his wife the Lord God made long coats (tunics) of skins and clothed them. 22And the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us [the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit], to know [how to distinguish between] good and evil and blessing and calamity; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever-- 23Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24So [God] drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep and guard the way to the tree of life.

Page 2, The Flood: Genesis 7:1-23 1AND THE Lord said to Noah, Come with all your household into the ark, for I have seen you to be righteous (upright and in right standing) before Me in this generation 2Of every clean beast you shall receive and take with you seven pairs, the male and his mate, and of beasts that are not clean a pair of each kind, the male and his mate, 3Also of the birds of the air seven pairs, the male and the female, to keep seed [their kind] alive over all the earth or land. 4For in seven days I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living substance and thing that I have made I will destroy, blot out, and wipe away from the face of the earth. 5And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. 6Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth or land. 7And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8Of clean animals and of animals that are not clean, and of birds and fowls, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9There went in two and two with Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. 10And after the seven days the floodwaters came upon the earth or land. 11In the year 600 of Noah's life, in the seventeenth day of the second month, that same day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and burst forth, and the windows and floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12And it rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13On the very same day Noah and Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark, 14They and every [wild] beast according to its kind, all the livestock according to their kinds, every moving thing that creeps on the land according to its kind, and every fowl according to its kind, every winged thing of every sort. 15And they went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there were the breath and spirit of life. 16And they that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded [Noah]; and the Lord shut him in and closed [the door] round about him. 17The flood [that is, the downpour of rain] was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased and bore up the ark, and it was lifted [high] above the land. 18And the waters became mighty and increased greatly upon the land, and the ark went [gently floating] upon the surface of the waters. 19And the waters prevailed so exceedingly and were so mighty upon the earth that all the high hills under the whole sky were covered. 20[In fact] the waters became fifteen cubits higher, as the high hills were covered. 21And all flesh ceased to breathe that moved upon the earth--fowls and birds, [tame] animals, [wild] beasts, all swarming and creeping things that swarm and creep upon the land, and all mankind. 22Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils were the breath and spirit of life died. 23God destroyed (blotted out) every living thing that was upon the face of the earth; man and animals and the creeping things and the birds of the heavens were destroyed (blotted out) from the land. Only Noah remained alive, and those who were with him in the ark

Page 2, The chosen People: Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a holy and set-apart people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people to Himself out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Page 2, All sinned: Romans 3:23 Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives.

Page 2, God is three persons: Luke 1:35 35Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless)

Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God. **John 10:30** 30 I and the Father are One.

Page 2, His love for us: John 3:16 For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

Page 2-3, Consequence of unbeliever: John 15:22 (NIV) If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin [would be blameless]; but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Page 3, God's final offer: 1 Peter 1:18-20 18You must know (recognize) that you were redeemed (ransomed) from the useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from [your] forefathers, not with corruptible things [such as] silver and gold, 19But [you were purchased] with the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot. 20It is true that He was chosen and foreordained (destined and foreknown for it) before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view (made manifest) in these last days (at the end of the times) for the sake of you.

Page 3, Birth of the Son: Matthew 1:18-24 (NAS) 18Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place under these circumstances: When His mother Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be pregnant [through the power] of the Holy Spirit. 19And her [promised] husband Joseph, being a just and upright man and not willing to expose her publicly and to shame and disgrace her, decided to repudiate and dismiss (divorce) her quietly and secretly. 20But as he was thinking this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary [as] your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of (from, out of) the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]. 22All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet, 23Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel--which, when translated, means, God with us. 24Then Joseph, being aroused from his sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him: he took [her to his side as] his wife.

Page 3-4, Jesus' ministry: Matthew 14:13-21(NIV) 13When Jesus heard it, He withdrew from there privately in a boat to a solitary place. But when the crowds heard of it, they followed Him [by land] on foot from the towns. 14When He went ashore and saw a great throng of people, He had compassion (pity and deep sympathy) for them and cured their sick. 15When evening came, the disciples came to Him and said, This is a remote and barren place, and the day is now over; send the throngs away into the villages to buy food for themselves. 16Jesus said, They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat. 17They said to Him, We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish. 18He said, Bring them here to Me. 19Then He ordered the crowds to recline on the grass; and He took the five loaves and the two fish, and, looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and blessed and broke the loaves and handed the pieces to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20And they all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up twelve [small hand] baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21And those who ate were about 5,000 men, not including women and children. **13. John 2:1-11(AMP)** 1ON THE third day there was a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus also was invited with His disciples to the wedding. 3And when the wine was all gone, the mother of Jesus said to Him, They have no more wine! 4Jesus said to her, [Dear] woman, what is that to you and to Me? [What do we have in common? Leave it to Me.] My time (hour to act) has not yet come¹ 5His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do it. 6Now there were six waterpots of stone standing there, as the Jewish custom of purification (ceremonial washing) demanded, holding twenty to thirty gallons apiece. 7Jesus said to them, Fill the waterpots with water. So they filled them up to the brim. 8Then He said to them, Draw some out now and take it to the manager of the feast [to the one presiding, the superintendent of the banquet]. So they took him some. 9And when the manager tasted the water just now turned into wine, not knowing where it came from--though the servants who had drawn the water knew--he called the bridegroom 10And said to him, Everyone else serves his best wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then he serves that which is not so good; but you have kept back the good wine until now! 11This, the first of His signs (miracles,

wonderworks), Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory [by it He displayed His greatness and His power openly], and His disciples believed in Him [adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Him]

Page 4, The Disciples : Matthew 4:18-22 18As He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He noticed two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, throwing a dragnet into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19And He said to them, Come after Me [as disciples--letting Me be your Guide], follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men! 20At once they left their nets and became His disciples [sided with His party and followed Him]. 21And going on further from there He noticed two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets and putting them right; and He called them. 22At once they left the boat and their father and joined Jesus as disciples [sided with His party and followed Him]. **Matthew 10:2-4** 2Now these are the names of the twelve apostles (special messengers): first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3Philip and Bartholomew [Nathaniel]; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus [Judas, not Iscariot]; 4Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. **Matthew 10:1** AND JESUS summoned to Him His twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of weakness and infirmity.

Page 4, The betrayal Matthew 26:57-68 57But those who had seized Jesus took Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had assembled. 58But Peter followed Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest's home; he even went inside and sat with the guards to see the end. 59Now the chief priests and the whole council (the Sanhedrin) sought to get false witnesses to testify against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death; 60But they found none, though many witnesses came forward [to testify]. At last two men came forward 61And testified, This fellow said, I am able to tear down the sanctuary of the temple of God and to build it up again in three days. 62And the high priest stood up and said, Have You no answer to make? What about this that these men testify against You? 63But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, I call upon you to swear by the living God, and tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God. 64Jesus said to him, You have stated [the fact]. More than that, I tell you: You will in the future see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of the sky. 65Then the high priest tore his clothes and exclaimed, He has uttered blasphemy! What need have we of further evidence? You have now heard His blasphemy. 66What do you think now? They answered, He deserves to be put to death. 67Then they spat in His face and struck Him with their fists; and some slapped Him in the face, 68Saying, Prophecy to us, You Christ (the Messiah)! Who was it that struck You?

Page 4, The crucifixion: Matthew 27:27-50 27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the palace, and they gathered the whole battalion about Him. 28And they stripped off His clothes and put a scarlet robe (garment of dignity and office worn by Roman officers of rank) upon Him, 29And, weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed (staff) in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they made sport of Him, saying, Hail (greetings, good health to You, long life to You), King of the Jews! 30And they spat on Him, and took the reed (staff) and struck Him on the head. 31And when they finished making sport of Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own garments on Him and led Him away to be crucified. 32As they were marching forth, they came upon a man of Cyrene named Simon; this man they forced to carry the cross of Jesus. 33And when they came to a place called Golgotha [Latin: Calvary], which means The Place of a Skull, 34They offered Him wine mingled with gall to drink; but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it. 35And when they had crucified Him, they divided and distributed His garments [among them] by casting lots so that the prophet's saying was fulfilled, They parted My garments among them and over My apparel they cast lots. 36Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him. 37And over His head they put the accusation against Him (the cause of His death), which read, This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. 38At the same time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right hand and one on the left. 39And those who passed by spoke reproachfully and abusively and jeered at Him, wagging their heads, 40And they said, You Who would tear down the sanctuary of the temple and rebuild it in three days, rescue Yourself from death. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, made sport of Him, saying, 42He rescued others from death; Himself He cannot rescue from death. He is the King of Israel? Let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in and acknowledge and cleave to Him. 43He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now if He cares for Him and will have Him, for He said, I am the Son of God. 44And the robbers who were crucified with Him also abused and reproached and made sport of Him in the same way. 45Now from the

sixth hour (noon) there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (three o'clock). 46And about the ninth hour (three o'clock) Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?--that is, My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me [leaving Me helpless, forsaking and failing Me in My need]? 47And some of the bystanders, when they heard it, said, This Man is calling for Elijah! 48And one of them immediately ran and took a sponge, soaked it with vinegar (a sour wine), and put it on a reed (staff), and was about to give it to Him to drink. 49But the others said, Wait! Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him from death. 50And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit.

Page 4, The Burial: Matthew 27:57-66 57When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59And Joseph took the body and rolled it up in a clean linen cloth used for swathing dead bodies 60And laid it in his own fresh (undefiled) tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a big boulder over the door of the tomb and went away. 61And Mary of Magdala and the other Mary kept sitting there opposite the tomb. 62The next day, that is, the day after the day of Preparation [for the Sabbath], the chief priests and the Pharisees assembled before Pilate 63And said, Sir, we have just remembered how that vagabond Imposter said while He was still alive, After three days I will rise again. 64Therefore give an order to have the tomb made secure and safeguarded until the third day, for fear that His disciples will come and steal Him away and tell the people that He has risen from the dead, and the last deception and fraud will be worse than the first. 65Pilate said to them, You have a guard [of soldiers; take them and] go, make it as secure as you can. 66So they went off and made the tomb secure by sealing the boulder, a guard of soldiers being with them and remaining to watch.

Page 5, The Resurrection: Matthew 28:1-15 1NOW AFTER the Sabbath, near dawn of the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to take a look at the tomb. 2And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled the boulder back and sat upon it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his garments as white as snow. 4And those keeping guard were so frightened at the sight of him that they were agitated and they trembled and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, Do not be alarmed and frightened, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. 6He is not here; He has risen, as He said [He would do]. Come, see the place where He lay. 7Then go quickly and tell His disciples, He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you. 8So they left the tomb hastily with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples. 9And as they went, behold, Jesus met them and said, Hail (greetings)! And they went up to Him and clasped His feet and worshiped Him. 10Then Jesus said to them, Do not be alarmed and afraid; go and tell My brethren to go into Galilee, and there they will see Me. 11While they were on their way, behold, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had occurred. 12And when they [the chief priests] had gathered with the elders and had consulted together, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers, 13And said, Tell people, His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we were sleeping. 14And if the governor hears of it, we will appease him and make you safe and free from trouble and care. 15So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this story has been current among the Jews to the present day.

Page 5, Jesus ascends to Heaven: Mark 16:19 (NAS) So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God.

Page 5, God's invitation: Romans 11:5-7 5So too at the present time there is a remnant (a small believing minority), selected (chosen) by grace (by God's unmerited favor and graciousness). 6But if it is by grace (His unmerited favor and graciousness), it is no longer conditioned on works or anything men have done. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace [it would be meaningless]. 7What then [shall we conclude]? Israel failed to obtain what it sought [God's favor by obedience to the Law]. Only the elect (those chosen few) obtained it, while the rest of them became callously indifferent (blinded, hardened, and made insensible to it).

Page 5, God accepts all: John 6:37 All whom My Father gives (entrusts) to Me will come to Me; and the one who comes to Me I will most certainly not cast out [I will never, no never, reject one of them who comes to Me].

Page 6, Saved from Satan: Hebrews 2:14 (NIV) Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

Page 6, Saved from God's wrath: John 3:36 And he who believes in (has faith in, clings to, relies on) the Son has (now possesses) eternal life. But whoever disobeys (is unbelieving toward, refuses to trust in, disregards, is not subject to) the Son will never see (experience) life, but [instead] the wrath of God abides on him. [God's displeasure remains on him; His indignation hangs over him continually.]

Page 6, Saved from Lake of Fire: Revelations 20:15-16 And if anyone's [name] was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire.

Page 6, God's Plea: Revelations 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me.

Page 6, Hope in Christ's resurrection: John 11: 23-25 23 Jesus said to her, Your brother shall rise again. 24 Martha replied, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25 Jesus said to her, I am [Myself] the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on) Me, although he may die, yet he shall live; 26And whoever continues to live and believes in (has faith in, cleaves to, and relies on) Me shall never [actually] die at all. Do you believe this?

Page 6, Accept Jesus: John 1:12-13 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Page 6, Put Jesus First: Matt. 10: 37-39 37He who loves [and takes more pleasure in] father or mother more than [in] Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves [and takes more pleasure in] son or daughter more than [in] Me is not worthy of Me; 38And he who does not take up his cross and follow Me ¹cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also] is not worthy of Me. 39Whoever finds his [lower] life will lose it [the higher life], and whoever loses his [lower] life on My account will find it [the higher life].

Page 7, Children of God: Romans 8:15-17 15For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! 16The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. 17And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.

Page 7, The Great Commission: March 16:15 (NIV) 15He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Page 7, Baptism: Matthew 3:12-16 13Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him. 14But John protested strenuously, having in mind to prevent Him, saying, It is I who have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? 15But Jesus replied to him, Permit it just now; for this is the fitting way for [both of] us to fulfill all righteousness [that is, to perform completely whatever is right]. Then he permitted Him. 16And when Jesus was baptized, He went up at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.

Page 8, Serve the Lord: Romans 12:11 (NIV) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Page 8, Spiritual Gifts: Romans 12:6-8 (NIV) 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching,

let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Page 8, Adopted and Heirs: Galatians 4:4-5- 4But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law, 5To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons]. **Romans 9:16-18** 16The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. 17And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. 18[But what of that?] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time (this present life) are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us!

Page 8, Pray for others: 1Timothy 2:1 FIRST OF all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men

Page 9, Tithing: 1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first [day] of each week, let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given], so that no collections will need to be taken after I come.

NIV = New International Version

NAS = New American Standard