

CONTENTS

Welcome.....	5
What the Bible says about...	
The Bible.....	7
God.....	14
Humanity.....	20
Jesus Christ	26
Life After Death.....	34
Final Thoughts	40

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WELCOME

Thank you for taking time to learn more about the Bible. The booklet you have in your hand is designed to introduce you to basic but important information about the Bible. Through a question-and-answer format you will be directed to portions of the Bible that provide answers to some of the foundational and more commonly asked questions.

Each of the five lessons in this booklet should take no more than thirty minutes to complete. Here are a few simple suggestions that may be helpful in using this booklet.

First, if you have a Bible, read the passages from the Bible. You may have to use the table of contents to locate each book, but this will re-enforce the information as well as help you become familiar with how the Bible is organized. Second, write down thoughts or questions you might have as you read the verses. Finally, share these thoughts and questions with someone who may already be familiar with the Bible.

Again, thank you for taking the time to learn what the Bible says. Your time spent studying the Bible is time well spent. God uses the Bible to reach lives and change hearts. The Bible tells us,

“So will My word be which goes forth from My
mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what pleases Me,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent
it.”
Isaiah 55:11

What the Bible says about...

The BIBLE

There are many opinions about the Bible.

- ❑ The Bible is a collection of stories, legends, and ancient traditions.
- ❑ The Bible is an old manmade book written with many mistakes and incorrect, unscientific worldviews.
- ❑ The Bible is a book from God.

By answering a few questions, let's find out what the Bible says.

QUESTION NO.1: Where did the Bible come from?

2 Peter 1:21

“For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

- ❑ While men spoke God's words, the Bible (**prophecy**) did not originate with man.

- ❑ The Bible came into existence as God (**the Holy Spirit**) **moved** ('carried along') human beings to speak God's mind/thoughts. In other words, God 'supervised/ superintended' human authors to produce the words of the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16

"All Scripture is God-breathed . . ."

- ❑ The word "**Scripture**" refers to that which was written down. Scripture refers to the written Bible.
- ❑ While many versions use the word "inspired" in this passage, this word literally means "**God-breathed.**" It is as though God's own breath/Spirit produced the biblical text.
- ❑ The words of the Bible, though written by humans, were breathed by God. The Bible is the product of God through human beings.

Answer to question one: God, by the Holy Spirit, supervised human authors, producing a text, the Bible, which has the quality of being the very Words of God (His breath).

QUESTION NO. 2: How reliable is the Bible?

Titus 1:2

“in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.”

- ❑ As we have already discovered, the Bible is a cooperative project. So, while humans can make mistakes, when partnering with God, who **cannot lie**, Titus 1:2, the result is a message (the Bible) that is entirely true and reliable.

Other thoughts to consider:

- The historical settings behind every account in the Bible existed. Archeologists have verified that the Egyptian, Canaanite, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman civilizations as depicted in the Bible were real.
- The possibility of hundreds of predictions occurring in the Bible without one failure is mathematically impossible without divine origin.
- Jesus living and dying on a cross is a historical fact attested to by other historians who were alive at that time. An example would be in the writings of Josephus, *Antiquities*, 18.63-64.

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth.”

- Jesus verifies the reliability of the Bible when He says God’s Word is **truth**.

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

- Furthermore, the Bible, as God-breathed, 2 Timothy 3:16, has the quality of dynamic life, that is, God’s Words are **living and active**.

1 Peter 1:23

“For you have been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

- Finally, since the Bible is truth, alive, and active through God’s very presence, God is able to impart new life (“**born again**”) to the reader. The “**seed**” mentioned in this verse is the “**living and enduring word of God**.”

Answer to question two: The character of God ensures the quality of the Bible as being free from human error (Jesus Himself testifying that the Bible was trustworthy). Additionally, the impact that the Bible has had on human beings throughout history, namely, producing spiritual life, substantiates the reliability of the Bible.

QUESTION NO. 3: What should my response be to the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...”

- ❑ The Bible is God’s source to learn what is right. The phrase **“for teaching”** indicates that the Bible is good for personal instruction.
- ❑ The Bible is God’s source to learn what is wrong. The phrase **“for reproof”** means ‘conviction.’ The Bible is God’s source to experience ‘conviction’ about wrong and harmful words, thoughts, and deeds.
- ❑ The Bible is God’s source to learn “how to get it right.” The phrase **“for correction”** has the idea “for improvement.”

- The Bible is God's source to learn "how to keep it right." The phrase "**training in righteousness**" indicates being schooled in right living. The Bible is God's schoolbook for learning and maintaining the Good Life.

James 1:21-22,25

"Therefore...receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does."

- We should **receive** (accept/believe as true) the message of the Bible (as one would receive a gift). Receiving the message of the Bible means accepting its content by faith.
- James directs us to "become doers of the word." Thus, receiving the Bible also means doing what it says.
- We should read God's Word with the attitude that we will do what the Bible says to do.

Answer to question three: Since the Bible is God's source for learning right from wrong and being trained to maintain the right lifestyle, each of us should read the Bible regularly with the attitude that we will believe what the Bible says and do what the Bible leads us to do.

SUMMARY:

The Bible tells us that the Bible comes from God. God chose to give us the Bible through human beings. To avoid the errors we are prone to make, God supervised the writing in such a way that the Bible's words and message are entirely reliable, worthy of our allegiance, and beneficial when lived out by faith.

NOTES

What the Bible says about...
GOD

There are many different ideas about God.

- ❑ There is no need for a god.
- ❑ God is whatever we make Him to be (the invention of our imagination) to explain what we can't understand.
- ❑ God is an impersonal 'force.'
- ❑ There is one god, worshipped by many different names.
- ❑ There is one, true, living God who can be known personally.

By asking a few questions, let's find out what the Bible says.

QUESTION NO. 1: How Can We Know if God even Exists?

Romans 1:20

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

- God has revealed His existence **“through what has been made”** (Creation).
- God’s self-disclosure has **“been clearly seen”** and **“understood.”** This understanding is embedded in **“what has been made”** and includes **“His eternal power and divine nature.”**

Hebrews 1:1-2

“God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days spoke to us in His Son...”

- God not only speaks through creation, God also has spoken to us about Himself in Scripture (**“in the prophets”**).
- In fact, God now speaks to us **“in His Son,”** Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ has informed us about God.

Acts 1:8

“...and you shall be My witnesses...even to the ends of the earth.”

- Finally, God’s people are **“witnesses”** about God’s existence, deeds, and character. This witness/ testimony about God comes through both words and deeds.

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

- ❑ Though heaven, earth, Christ, God's people and the Bible tell us about God's existence, God requires a response of faith to know Him.
- ❑ We must believe **"that He is..."**

Answer to question one: God has revealed Himself to us in many ways. None of these methods, however, ultimately prove God exists. We must respond to God's self-revelation in faith. God requires our faith/trust to know He exists.

QUESTION NO. 2: What is God like?

John 4:24

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- ❑ God revealed in the Bible is a non-corporeal, invisible **"spirit"** in His essential makeup.

John 17:3

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

- ❑ Further, the Bible tells us that God is personal (He possesses personhood) and may be known person-to-person (**"that they may know You"**). The Bible also tells us that God's personhood is understood through the many Bible passages describing God as having intellect, Isaiah 55:8, emotions, Hosea 11:1, and purpose/will, Ephesians 1:11.

Psalm 145:3

“Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.”

- God is described as having characteristics of infinite, **“unsearchable,”** greatness. The Bible describes God as self-existent, Exodus 3:14; eternal (timeless), Psalm 90:1; unchangeable, Malachi 3:6; being everywhere, Psalm 139:7-10; knowing everything, Psalm 139:1-4; being all-powerful, Matthew 19:26; infinite, Psalm 147:5; and incomprehensible, Psalm 145:3.

Psalm 100:5

“For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness endures forever and His faithfulness, generation unto generation.”

- God is also revealed as having characteristics of goodness. Some of these characteristics (though revealed in other passages of the Bible) are: holy, Leviticus 11:45; true, John 3:33; love, 1 John 4:8; righteous, Psalm 11:7; faithful, Psalm 100:5; merciful, Psalm 103:8; and gracious, 1 Peter 5:10.

Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- The Bible reveals God as existing equally and eternally as three distinct Persons: **“The Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”**

Isaiah 44:6

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first, and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.’”

- ❑ While people have imagined and worshiped many different ‘gods,’ the Bible informs us that there **“is no God beside” “the Lord of hosts.”** The LORD is the only true God.

Answer to question two: God is revealed in the Bible as a living being who is spirit and can be known personally. God has revealed Himself as existing in three co-equal, co-eternal persons, each of Whom are described in terms of infinite greatness and infinite goodness.

QUESTION NO. 3: What should the proper response be toward God?

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

- ❑ We should respond to God in faith/ trust.
- ❑ By faith we should acknowledge that God does exist and that He rewards those who seek Him.
- ❑ Faith in God is demonstrated by seeking Him (i.e. obeying His Word, the Bible).

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

- We should respond to God with whole-hearted love.

Answer to question three: Our response to God must be one of ongoing personal trust, believing what He says (in the Bible), and whole-heartedly living our lives in loving appreciation for His lovingkindness (as clearly stated in the Bible).

SUMMARY: The Bible reveals God who not only created and sustains the universe but is a personal being with infinite qualities of greatness and goodness. Our response to God should be one of personal trust/faith and loving devotion.

NOTES

What the Bible says about...

HUMANITY

There are many opinions about human beings.

- ❑ Human beings are another species in the animal kingdom.
- ❑ Human beings are one of many races in the universe.
- ❑ Human beings are uniquely created by God.

So, let's discover what the Bible says about us.

QUESTION NO. 1: What is a human being?

Genesis 1:26-27

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'"

- ❑ Human beings are a direct creation of God.
- ❑ Human beings are unique in God's creation because we are made in God's **"image"** and **"likeness."** God's **"image"** refers to human beings as God's representatives. God's **"likeness"** refers to humans being similar to God,

that is, we have intellect, emotions, and purpose/will like God, and are able to relate to God, person to person.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- ❑ Human beings consist of an immaterial **“spirit.”** This is who we are, and our spirit expresses our personality.
- ❑ Human beings have **“life.”** The idea of **“soul”** refers to the entirety of one’s inner life.
- ❑ Human beings also possess a material **“body.”** This is where our spirit lives and is the vehicle through which we express our lives.

Answer to question one: Humanity is a direct creation of God uniquely made in God’s image (His earthly representative) and likeness (similar to). As such the Bible insists that every human being consists of both a material, a flesh and bones body, and an immaterial, eternal spirit.

QUESTION NO. 2: Why was mankind created?

Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth

and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- ❑ God created humanity to govern the earth as His representatives. This is what is meant by **“they will have dominion.”**

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

- ❑ God created us as His representatives so that we would live our lives in a God-honoring manner. This is what it means to **“do all to the glory of God”** (i.e. manifest God through our lives).

Mark 12:29-31

“Jesus answered, ‘The foremost is ‘Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, ‘Your shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’

- ❑ Jesus was asked to identify the greatest commandment in the Bible.
- ❑ The greatest commandment reveals that the greatest purpose anyone can have is that **we love God** with our entire being.
- ❑ Loving God with our entire being is expressed by loving others (treating others) with the same intent that we love ourselves.

Answer to question two: The ultimate purpose for our existence is to represent God and bring glory (honor, respect, renown) to God by loving God with our entire being through our love, care, and respect of others.

QUESTION NO. 3: Why is the reality of God and His purpose for our lives so difficult to accept and understand?

Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- ❑ Every human being (except Jesus Christ) wants things his/her own way. This self-centered living is called sin. The Bible says that **“all have sinned”** (failed to measure up to God’s created purpose).
- ❑ Being self-surviving (i.e., sinners), we **“fall short of the glory of God,”** namely, His purpose for our lives.

Isaiah 59:1,2

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

- ❑ Our **“sins” (iniquities)** against God’s purpose **“have made a separation”** between us and God.

- ❑ Our sins (our own self-seeking purposes) have kept God **“hidden”** from us.

Romans 3:10-11

“As it is written, ‘There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God...”

- ❑ The outcome of a self-centered (sin) lifestyle is that there **“is none righteous”** (moral correctness), **“none who understands”** (spiritual perception), and there is none, apart from God’s intervention, who desire the God of the Bible (**“none who seeks for God”**).

Answer to question three: The reality of God and His purpose for our lives remain difficult to understand because we fall short of God’s standard and our self-centeredness keeps His identity and purpose hidden from us. Our sins (self-sufficiency) continue to work against God and continue to alienate us from knowing God and His will for our lives.

SUMMARY:

The Bible teaches us that human beings were created by God to be His representatives (image), having some of the same personal qualities as God (likeness). The problem throughout human history has not been God’s revealing Himself to us. Rather, the human-divine disconnect has been the inherent defection of our wills. Everybody wants to do what they want to do; not what God has created us to do.

This self-centeredness the Bible calls sin. Our own self-centeredness alienates us from God.

NOTES

What the Bible says about...

JESUS CHRIST

There are many opinions about Jesus Christ.

- ❑ Jesus Christ was an eccentric who was later made larger than life by His followers.
- ❑ Jesus Christ was a good man and a good teacher who showed us the way by living and dying for that in which He believed.
- ❑ Jesus Christ was the Son of God who died a sinner's death on a cross and was raised from the dead guaranteeing eternal life.

Let's find out what the Bible says.

QUESTION NO. 1: Who is Jesus Christ?

Matthew 1:1

"The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham..."

- ❑ According to Jesus' human genealogical record, He was most certainly a real human being born the son and heir of King David (Israel's greatest Old Testament king), and the son and heir of Abraham (the grandfather of Israel who would be the father of the nation which bears his name).

Titus 2:13

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

- In addition to being a real human being, the Bible repeatedly states that Jesus Christ is **“our great God and Savior.”** There are many other passages indicating Jesus is God. A few examples are, John 1:1 and 14; Romans 9:5; and Hebrews 1:8.

Philippians 2:5-7

“Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.”

- Jesus Christ, before becoming a human being, existed **“in the form of God”** as God the Son.
- To become a human being, God the Son (soon to become the human named Jesus) **“did not regard equality with God”** as more important than God’s plan.
- Subsequently, God the Son divested Himself of His outward glory and was **“made in the likeness of men.”** Thus, God took upon Himself the reality of being human. This person is Jesus.

Answer to question one: The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is God the Son. God the Son became a human being named Jesus, through the human birthing process, in the lineage of King David and the patriarch Abraham.

QUESTION NO. 2: Why did God the Son become a man (that is, become the person named Jesus)?

Philippians 2:8

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

- God became the man named Jesus to be **“obedient”** to God the Father’s will **“to the point of death.”** This obedience and devotion to God was something no one else had ever or could ever achieve.

Galatians 1:3-4

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins...”

- In dying on the cross, the obedient Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life as a substitute for us paying the penalty of our sins.

Galatians 3:13

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us— for it is written, “cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

- ❑ Jesus' death **"redeemed** (purchased) **us from the curse of the Law"** (the penalty of breaking God's Law) **"having become a curse for us."**
- ❑ God's Law (the Old Testament rules and regulations) states that anyone who dies by execution for violating God's Laws is accursed from God, see Deuteronomy 21:22-23.
- ❑ Jesus Christ suffered the sinner's penalty **"for us."**

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."

- ❑ Jesus "suffered for sins once for all." Jesus paid the penalty for everyone's self-centered lifestyle.
- ❑ Jesus, having been born without sin and having obeyed God, was **"righteous."**
- ❑ Jesus' death in our place (the sinner) makes it possible to have a personal relationship with God, that is, **"that He might bring us to God."**

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

- ❑ God made Jesus **"who knew no sin"** to become the embodiment of all sin.

- ❑ The purpose of this transaction was so that sinful human beings might become God's righteousness in Christ.

Answer to question two: God became a man so that He might, as a man, die according to the Law to pay for the sins we have committed. Jesus suffered the penalty of our violations of God's will. This death on the cross removed the obstacle of self-seeking and has made knowing God possible.

QUESTION NO. 3: Where is Jesus Christ now?

Romans 8:34

"Jesus Christ is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God..."

- ❑ Jesus Christ has been **"raised"** from the dead.
- ❑ Jesus Christ is seated in heaven at the position of authority with God, i.e., **"the right hand of God."**

Answer to question three: Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and is seated in heaven with God.

QUESTION NO. 4: Will Jesus return to earth?

John 14:3

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am you may be also."

- ❑ Jesus promised His followers that if He left them, and He did, He would **"come again."**

- ❑ When Jesus returns, He will **“receive”** His followers (those who believe in Him) and then His followers will be always with Him.

Hebrews 9:28

“So, Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.”

- ❑ Jesus’ first appearance was to die for our sins.
- ❑ Jesus’ second coming will be to offer His kingdom (salvation) to those who believe in Him as Savior.

Answer to question four: Jesus promised He would return to receive and reward His followers.

QUESTION NUMBER 5: What should my personal response to Jesus Christ be?

John 5:22-23

“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

- ❑ Everyone is to give the same honor (worship) to Jesus that they would give to God the Father.
- ❑ If we dishonor the Son, we dishonor God the Father.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

- ❑ We should believe that Jesus has come and died for our sins. This means I should entrust myself to God’s message about sin, judgment, and Jesus’ death on the cross.

John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

- ❑ Receiving Christ is believing (accepting as true) the biblical testimony about Jesus.
- ❑ Believing in Christ is the only means of becoming a child of God.

John 10:27-28

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

- ❑ Those who **hear**/respond positively to Jesus’ **voice** (God’s Word) are those who **follow** Him.
- ❑ Jesus gives eternal life as a gift to those who follow Him.
- ❑ Those who have Christ’s gift of eternal life will never perish. They are secure forever.

Answer to question five: The Bible says that everyone should honor Jesus as they honor God the Father. To honor Jesus includes believing in Him as the One who has died for our sins and whom God raised from the dead. As result of believing in Jesus, God makes us His spiritual child and we receive the forever-gift of eternal life.

SUMMARY:

Jesus is the name of the human being who was born into the lineage of Abraham and David. This person is both human and God. God the Son became a human being to remove the penalty God's justice requires for our self-centered lifestyle (our sins). By paying the penalty for our sins, we now can come to God through faith in Christ.

What the Bible says about...

LIFE AFTER DEATH

There are many opinions about life after death.

- ❑ This life is all there is.
- ❑ Whatever a person believes about the afterlife is what happens.
- ❑ Each person comes back into this life as someone or something else.
- ❑ There is life after death.
- ❑ God grants eternal life with His Son in a resurrected body to those who believe in Christ as Savior.

QUESTION NO. 1: Is there life after death?

Mark 12:26,27

“But regarding the fact that the dead are raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

- ❑ God spoke to Moses 400 years after the earthly lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You can read about this encounter in Exodus 3:2-6.
- ❑ Jesus clearly taught that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still living when God spoke to Moses.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

- ❑ Central to the message of the good news about Jesus dying for our sins to restore us to God is the historical fact of Christ’s resurrection from the dead.

Answer to question one: Jesus taught that those who physically die continue to live. Jesus demonstrated life after death by rising from the dead. The Bible clearly affirms life after death.

QUESTION NO. 2: Where do people go (live) after they die?

Hebrews 9:27

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

- ❑ Every human being will “die” physically. Physical death, however, is not the end. Everyone will appear before God.

- Every human being will be judged by God after they die physically.

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, to obtain an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you...”

- Those who have been ‘**born again**’ (that is, those who believe in Jesus as Savior) will obtain an **“inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading” “in heaven.”**
- Because Jesus has risen from the dead, many will live forever with Christ and in the presence of God.

Revelation 20:12,14-15

“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

- Everyone will be judged according to his deeds.

- ❑ Those who are not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire.
- ❑ The lake of fire is the final abode of all who die without their names being written in the book of life.

Answer to question two: Though the Bible uses many terms to describe the eternal dwelling place of those who have died, there are only two final destinies for every human being, a heavenly destiny, that is, eternal life with Christ in God's presence, or, the lake of fire, eternally separated from God.

QUESTION NO. 3: Can I know where I will spend eternity?

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- ❑ Every person has sinned (Romans 3:23) and the "paycheck" (**wages**) for our sin is eternal death.
- ❑ God, however, became a man (Jesus), so that He could die in our place and offer, as "**a gracious gift,**" eternal life (i.e. life for eternity with God).

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 6:47

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

- ❑ God gives eternal life with Christ in God’s presence as a gift to anyone who will believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead.
- ❑ Personal faith in Jesus as our sin-bearer guarantees eternal life. As Jesus said, **“He who believes has eternal life.”**

1 John 5:11-13

“And the witness is this, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

- ❑ A central message in the Bible is that we can **“know”** we have eternal life with Christ in God’s presence.

- ❑ Having eternal life with God depends upon our relationship to the Son of God, Jesus Christ. **“He who has the Son has the life.”**
- ❑ If we believe what the Bible says about our sins, Jesus death on the cross, His resurrection, and the gift of eternal life through faith, then we can **“know”** we have this life.

Answer to question three: God wants us to know where we will spend eternity. God has made eternal life with Christ possible as a gift when we believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. While God requires eternal death (in the lake of fire) from all who reject Jesus as their deliverer, the good news is that eternal life is offered as a gift and we can know where we will spend eternity after we die.

SUMMARY:

The Bible assumes, by the very notion that there is a true and living God, that this life is not all there is. There is life after death. Further, the Bible details this life as either being with God or being eternally separated from God. Finally, we discover that the Bible continually affirms that life with God, after our physical death, cannot be earned, rather, Jesus, through His obedience to God, becomes the means for this eternal life.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I trust you have finished the five lessons introducing you to the message of the Bible. Perhaps, while studying these lessons, you became convinced of your need to know and follow Christ. That's great news and your desire brings great joy in heaven. Well, here's some more good news. Receiving God's gift of eternal life is as simple as A, B, C.

A = Agree... agree with God that you have sinned (lived a self-centered life and done things contrary to God's desire).

B= Believe...believe that Jesus died for your sins and has risen from the dead (just as the Bible tells us).

C= Choose... choose Jesus Christ as the only One who died for YOUR sins and rose from the dead.

If you believe in Christ as your Living Savior, He has already gifted to you eternal life. Jesus said **"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life,"** John 6:47. Because this is true, you may want to express your gratitude for this gift with a simple, heart-felt prayer. Below is an example of what you might say to God.

A Personal Prayer Expressing Faith in God

"Lord God, by reading the Bible I have come to realize that I am a sinner. I believe, as the Bible teaches, that Jesus Christ died for me, paying the penalty I owe for my sins. I also believe that You have raised Jesus from the dead, and through Christ, have given me the gift of eternal life. Thank You for forgiving my sins and for giving me this gift of everlasting life. Amen."

Secondly, if you have placed your faith/trust in Jesus Christ you are now God's child. You can begin to know God as Father, and you can begin to grow in your faith. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:2, **"like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word [the Bible], so that you may grow in respect to salvation."**

Finally, find a Bible-teaching group of believers (a church) and let those relationships encourage you in your faith. Share your thoughts and questions with someone who may already be familiar with the Bible.

Again, from those of us at To Live is Christ Ministries, thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Bible.

