

The Reason Why

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by Robert A. Laidlaw

Lesson 1: Is There A God? The Proper Perspective.

Suppose a young man sends to his girl friend an expensive diamond ring, packaged in a little case (which the jeweler threw in for nothing). How strange it would seem to him if she said when he met her later, "Oh, that was a neat little box you sent. I'll take good care of it. I promise to keep it wrapped up in a safe place so I won't lose it."

Rather ridiculous, isn't it?

Isn't it just as foolish for men and women to spend so much time and thought on their bodies, which are no more than cases for the real self. The Bible tells us, the soul will still exist long after our bodies have crumbled to dust. The soul is of inestimable value. Longfellow expressed it this way:

"Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream,
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul."

In Mark 8:36 our Lord Himself asks, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

In Christ's estimate, man's soul is more valuable than the whole world. It is my desire, to lead you in thinking about matters that relate to your eternal soul. For instance:

Is there a God?
Is there a Creator who has claims to your soul?
Is the Bible true?
Is man accountable?
Does he have a responsibility to himself, to others, to God?
Is there divine forgiveness?
Can anything be done about man's failure to meet his responsibilities?

These are some of the questions that most perplex those who think seriously about their eternal souls. So let's consider question number 1. Is there a God? Or, can I know that there is a God?

No matter how my intellect tried in the past to produce reasons proving that there was no God, that "still, small voice" came to me again and again saying that God exists. I have an innate conviction that He exists. I knew, that at least for me, there was a God. And as I looked at others I realized how many were seeking in "religion" to recognize the same "voice" that spoke to me. They also were looking for God. That same voice has probably come to you, in the quiet of life's more sober moments. **(Such a moment as occurred on September 11, 2001)**

I know there are some men who call themselves atheists, who say they don't believe in God. I am persuaded that their problem of unbelief in God to be greater than the problem of belief. To believe that dead matter unaided produced life, that living matter produced mind, that mind produced

conscience, and that the chaos of chance produced the cosmos of order as we see it in nature, seems to me to call not for faith, but for credulity.

The Evidence Of Statistics

The president of the New York Scientific Society once gave this example as a reason why he believed there is a God.

"Take ten identical coins and mark them one to ten.
Place them in your pocket, and then take one out.
There is one chance in ten that you will get number one.
Now replace it and take another.
The chances that number two will follow number one
are not one in ten, but one in one hundred.
With each new coin taken out the chances that it will follow
in the right order are multiplied by ten,
so that the chance of all ten following in sequence is one chance in ten billion."

George Gallup, the American statistician, says,

"I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone; the chance that all the functions of the individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity."

Surely no thoughtful person would wish to base his eternal future on a "statistical monstrosity." Perhaps that's why the Bible says in Psalm 14:1,

"The fool has said in his heart, there is no god."

Consider the problem from another viewpoint.

Design Demands A Designer

If you and I stand together on the runway of an airport and I say to you,

"A lot of people think that a jet is the result of carefully designed plans, but I know better. There was really no intelligence at work on it at all. The metal, by some mysterious process, gradually came out of the ground and fashioned itself into plates; slowly holes were formed in the edges of these plates, and rivets appeared. They flattened themselves out on either side and after a long time, by this same evolutionary process, the engines were in place, and one day some men found the plane finished and ready for flight."

You would probably consider me a lunatic! We both know that where there is a design there must be a designer, and, having seen countless other products of the human mind just like the aircraft, you know that it was planned by human intelligence and built by human skill.

Yet there are highly educated, professionals who tell us that the entire universe came into being by chance, that there was really no higher intelligence at work on it. They tell us they know no God but nature.

On the other hand there are many thoughtful, just as highly educated persons, who believe that God is and that He reveals Himself in two primary ways. One is in nature itself for its orderly laws and principles are expressions of His power and wisdom. The second is in His written Word, the Bible.

All that atheists can offer us is the riddle of design without a designer, creation without a Creator, and effect without cause. Some might contend that we cannot explain God and therefore cannot believe He exists. But I cannot explain electricity and, probably, the greatest scientists cannot really define it. Still, I have no doubt of the existence of electricity, and I affirm my belief every time I flip a switch,

listen to a stereo, or start my car. And so do you. I may even be badly mistaken in what I believe about electricity. But it still exists. Similarly, I believe that God exists because I see the effects of His existence, His handiwork all about me. And however little I know of Him, however mistaken or confused I may be, I am still forced to a belief in God's existence.

Scientists Speak

Dr. Arthur Compton, a Nobel Prize winner in physics, has said:

"For myself, faith begins with a realization that a supreme intelligence brought the universe into being and created man. It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is intelligence. An orderly, unfolding universe testifies to the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered- 'In the beginning God.'"

Dr. Wernher Von Braun, states;

"It has been frequently said that scientific enlightenment and religious belief are incompatible. I consider it one of the greatest tragedies of our times that this equally stupid and dangerous error is so widely believed."

The late Professor Edwin Conklin, a noted biologist, very aptly said:

"The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the Unabridged Dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop."

The Basic Problem

God exists whether or not men may choose to believe in Him! The reason why many people do not believe in God is not so much because it is intellectually impossible to believe in God but because belief in God forces the thoughtful person to face the fact that he is accountable to such a God. Most of those who take refuge in atheism or agnosticism do so because it is a convenient "escape" from the stern reality that man is personally accountable to his Creator. It is usually not so much a case of "I cannot believe" as it is a case of "I do not want to believe."

Will you honestly face these issues and all that they may mean to you as you study the following lessons?

For those that may be interested in seeing how much they learned from lesson one you can take a quiz on the lesson found at the end of Lesson #7. Also the answers may be found at the end of the last quiz, otherwise you may just read on.

Lesson 2: Can God be Known?

Since it seems evident that there is a God and since I consider myself an intelligent being, I must next ask: Is it possible to know Him? I cannot conceive of an intelligent man making anything without a purpose. If he makes shoes, they are to wear or sell; if he bakes bread, it is for himself or someone else to eat. Behind every action there is a motive. Doesn't it seem quite reasonable that God can be known and that He should have a purpose in view for His creation?

I know of two ways by which one can know God as a person and learn of His purpose for our life. First there is the process of reason. Just as a good detective can tell you many things about my skill, habits and character by examining something I may have made or handled, so, can one learn much about God by a careful examination of the universe, the work of His hands. But the detective who examines only what I make can never say that he knows me. He has learned things about me, but before he can say that he knows me, there must be a process of revelation: I must communicate with him. I must tell him what I think, how I feel and what I want to do. This self-revelation may be in conversation, in writing, or in some other means of communication. Only then does it become

possible for this detective to know me. If God is ever to be known and His thoughts, desires and purposes known, He must take the initiative and make at least a partial revelation of Himself to men. The second way to know God and His purpose for life is through the study of His Word, the Bible.

The Bible claims to be a direct revelation from God, telling us of Himself and His purpose in us. It is a book of such importance that it is surely worthy of thoughtful investigation. So with the advice of Francis Bacon neither to neither accept nor reject, but to weigh and consider, let's approach this book with its unusual claims.

Many attacks have been made on the accuracy of the Bible. In recent years, however, archaeologists and others have rallied to the defense of this ancient book. One of the greatest archaeologists is Dr. William F. Albright, who emphatically states after years of study and research,

"Biblical historical data are accurate to an extent far surpassing the ideas of any modern critical students, who have consistently tended to err on the side of hypercriticism"

Another important voice raised in defense of the accuracy of the Bible is that of the late Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, a qualified scholar who made himself at home in some forty-five languages and dialects so that he could properly investigate the charges made against the Bible. After years of painstaking research, Dr. Wilson had this to say concerning the Old Testament in which he had a particular interest:

"The literary forms are in harmony with what comparative literature would lead us to expect. The civil, criminal and constitutional laws agree with what the civilization of the ancient nations surrounding Palestine would presuppose; while the ceremonial, moral and religious laws are differentiated from those of others by their genesis in a monotheistic belief and a divine revelation. The general correctness of the Hebrew text that has been transmitted to us is established beyond just grounds of controversy. The morphology, syntax, and meaning of the language of the various books conform with what the face of the document demands. The chronological and geographical statements are more accurate and reliable than those afforded by any other ancient documents; and the biographical and other historical narratives harmonize marvelously with the evidence afforded by extra-Biblical documents. We need not and do not fear the truth about the Bible."

Just as a judge must not make his decision when the case is half-heard, neither should we. But, like the judge, we should compare the evidence of the witnesses, and weigh and consider every word. Surely the importance of its claim justifies spending the necessary time on the study of its sixty-six books, written by at least forty different writers. Some writers were well educated, some barely educated, some kings, some peasants writing over a period of 1600 years in places separated as far as Babylon in Asia, and Rome in Europe. With such authorship one would expect to find a heterogeneous collection of contradictory statements. Its unity is therefore especially striking, for each contribution complements the others.

In consideration of these facts, I became certain of the truth of II Peter 1:21. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." There was no other reasonable explanation. My belief was confirmed as I read prophecy after prophecy in the Old Testament that found fulfillment, even to the letter, hundreds of years later. Isaiah 53 foretold the death of Christ with minute accuracy, more than 700 years before His crucifixion. Yes, the difficulties in doubting the Book seemed to me greater than those in believing it. I had to be honest with myself, and admit that the problems were all on the side of unbelief. I even went further, and said,

"I believe the Bible to be the Word of the living God. I can account for it in no other way."

A Serious Difficulty

That admission brought me face to face with a rather serious difficulty. The Bible not only set a standard of righteousness that I had not attained, it pronounced that anything short of this standard was sin.

Remembering that God knows my every thought, and measuring myself by that standard, I found myself wanting.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37,38).

Confronted with such a standard, can you claim to have lived up to it throughout your life. I couldn't. Have you put God first in everything? No man can honestly make that claim. Every honest heart echoes Romans 3:10 and 23:

"There is none righteous, no, not one. . . All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

All have failed to reach God's standard.

The Implications Of A Broken Law

My honest admission that I had fallen short, that I had broken God's law, led me into further difficulties. This path of honesty lead through a dark cloud, a cloud of condemnation, but it proved to be the shortest way to the light on the other side.

The reasoning that lead to the realization of my guilt and condemnation before God is similar to the following example.

The law in England says that all drivers must keep to the left side of the street, while in New York the rule of the road demands that a driver keep to the right side. Now suppose I go driving in London and keep to the right side.

On being brought before the judge, I say,

"This is ridiculous. In the United States we are allowed to drive on the right side."

"You are not being judged by the laws of America," he replied.

"It doesn't matter what the laws of other lands may be, you should have concerned yourself only with the laws which judge you here, where you are."

On my admission of having sinned, and broken God's law came God's condemnation of me in Ezekiel 18:4, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Then, as far as God's standards were concerned, and as God's standard was the only one by which I was to be judged in eternity, I was lost.

I began to see that it did not matter what I thought, or what my friends told me; the judgment would be on what God had said, not on what my friends say. Furthermore, because in God's judgment we had all sinned, there was no use in looking to other men for help. They were under the same condemnation as I.

Have you faced the fact that you have broken the laws by which you are to be judged and that you too are lost? Strange as it may seem this is the first step in the road that leads through the dark cloud of condemnation and its penalty of death to a realization that I can have peace with God.

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 2 if you desire or just read on.

Lesson 3: Who Is Jesus Christ?

Is Christ An Undoubted Historical Figure?

The same Bible, which told me of my sin and faced me with God's broken law, told me also of, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Why Jesus Came

It is the clear teaching of the Bible that this person, Jesus, is God the Son. He saw that men were lost and that they had forfeited their lives to sin. His life was sinless and spotless. He was willing to give his pure life in place of man's sinful life, that we might go free.

Jesus, Himself tells us in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Christ Claimed To Be God

If Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then we can be sure of salvation; but the difficulty faces us: Is Jesus Christ really the Son of God? There are only three possibilities:

He is the Son of God.

He is a deceiver.

He is a lunatic.

In the gospels we find Jesus being confronted by the cleverest men of His day, purposely sent to catch Jesus in His own words. Yet Jesus handled these men so skillfully that they did not dare ask Him any more questions (Matthew 22:46). And when we consider the wisdom of His statements from an intellectual standpoint, we see plainly that He was no lunatic.

Then was His wisdom so great that He used it to deceive the people? Have you ever heard of a young man associating with swindlers and rogues on the street corners and because of that association becoming ennobled, pure, and honest? No! But I know a young man who, by the reception of Christ into his life, was changed from a person who had the basest desires into the noblest of manhood. I simply can't believe that the reception of a deceiver into one's life could account for such a transformation for good.

The other day I heard a man say,

I owe it to Jesus Christ that I can walk down the street with my head held erect and my shoulders squared to the world. I owe it to Him that I can look a pure woman in the face and grip an honest man by the hand.

I call to witness the opinion of the whole civilized world that Jesus Christ was at least a good Man. If so, then an honest Man, and if honest, He must have been what He claimed to be, the Son of God sent to lay down His sinless life in place of your sinful life and mine.

Some Important Testimonies To Christ

Dr. George Earl Davis, a physicist writes:

That atheism exists in scientific circles is undeniable. But the popular belief that atheism is more prevalent among scientists than among the unscientific has never been proved and is, in fact, contrary to the impressions gained at first hand by many of the scientists themselves.

Dr. Paul Clarence Aebersold, a biophysicist, says:

"Francis Bacon, English philosopher and statesman, said more than three centuries ago,

A little philosophy inclines a man to atheism; a depth of philosophy brings him to religion.

Bacon was unquestionably right. Today thousands of scientists, educators and professional men would gladly add their affirmation to the claims of Christ."

Dr. William G. Pollard, Former Executive Director of Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, has written

Physics is just as much based on faith as Christianity. Christianity's factual and intellectual basis is just as broad as modern physics. While both begin in faith, both lead to knowledge for those involved.

Vaughn Shoemaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, has written:

Far more important to me than the appreciated lines in Who's Who - far, far more important - is the sure knowledge of having one's name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The praise of man is much like perfume - pleasant and sweet to the sense of smell, but not to be swallowed. Only as we pour such praise at the feet of Jesus Christ, to whom we owe everything, does it [life] have its rightful place.

Robert E. (Bobbie) Richards, former Olympic track star, said:

My only reason for being in sports is to give my testimony to youth of all the world that Jesus Christ can save us from sin, and that one can be a Christian and still excel in good, creative things. Young people need to realize that God unleashed a tremendous spiritual power when Jesus Christ died on Calvary.

Lt Gen. William K. Harrison (Ret.), former Senior Delegate of the United Nations Command Truce Team in Korea and later Commander-in-Chief of the Caribbean Command, wrote:

It is wonderful to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and I am exceedingly thankful that God has graciously led me to saving faith in Christ. God gives us who believe in Christ, a daily, personal experience which is convincing evidence of the reality of the new life in Christ.

I am convinced that the Scripture is true, that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, and that God so loved me that Jesus was sent to suffer the full penalty of my sins - death, that I might go free. And I understand that Jesus willingly came. In order to retain my self-respect as an intelligent being, I must accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. If I would retain any ideal or love for nobleness in life, I dare not reject a love that led Christ to such a death as He died on Calvary's cross for me. I have no option; My whole being goes out to receive such a Saviour. Does not yours?

Will you honestly face the fact that Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God, the fact that history concedes He lived an unequalled life, and the fact that the Bible teaches Jesus Christ died for your sins on Calvary's cross? In our next two lessons we will consider some of the more common mistakes people make when considering Christ.

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 3 if you desire or just read on.

Lesson 4: Some Common Mistakes

Having considered the fact that there is a God and that the Bible is the Word of God, we are faced with the reality that each one of us has broken the laws of God. Each one of us must now be aware that he has sinned and stands exposed to the judgment of God. We have also examined the unique history of Jesus Christ and the clear meaning of His death on the cross for human sin.

We must now consider some of the more common misconceptions people have regarding these issues. Although it is plausible That the Bible is true, aren't alternative views also plausible?

Is Sincerity Enough?

After explaining my convictions to a friend, he said,

You're right, but so am I, although I don't see things like you do. It seems to me that it doesn't matter so much what a man believes, so long as he is sincere in his belief.

Let's test that statement.

One Sunday morning a neighbor of mine said to his wife and family, "Let's go for a drive." Traveling north, they came to a railroad crossing. Sincerely believing there would be no train on a Sunday morning, he attempted to drive across without looking. He was killed on the spot by an oncoming train while a son received a broken arm and his little daughter was seriously injured and lay in a body cast for months.

Did his sincere belief that all was clear save him? No, it did not.

I know a nurse who, on night duty, sincerely believed she held the right medicine in her hand, but she was wrong, and in twenty minutes her patient was dead in spite of frantic efforts to save him.

The Importance Of Being Right

Of course we need sincerity, but we must sincerely believe truth, not error. In fact having sincere belief in error can be the very means of deceiving us and finally destroying us.

The Bible leaves no room for doubt.

In John 14:6 Christ says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Acts 4:12 says, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

If you can get to heaven in any other way you will be a witness throughout eternity to the fact that Jesus Christ lied when He said He was the only way. But since He gives full evidence of being the Son of God, isn't it folly to attempt coming to God by any other way than Christ Himself?

The real reason we want some other way is because the way of the cross is a humbling way and we are proud at heart. But remember the way of the cross was a humbling way for Christ also, as we read in Philippians 2:5, 8.

Let the spirit of Christ Jesus be yours also. Though the divine nature was his from the beginning, yet he did not look upon equality with God as a above all things to be clung to, but impoverished himself by taking the nature of a servant...and still further humbled himself by submitting even to death-to death on a cross!

Will Reformation Do? (What If I Change?)

Some people have suggested that all a person needs to do is sincerely change, do better in the future, and live down the past. This is supposed to make a person ready for heaven. Will it work?

Assume that the manager of a business goes to his accountant and finds that his company owes \$50,000 to manufacturers and other suppliers. He says, "Write letters to all those people and tell them that we are not going to trouble about the past, that we have turned over new pages in our ledger, but we promise to pay 100 cents on the dollar in all future business, and from now on live up to the highest standard of business integrity." The accountant would think his employer had gone mad, and

would refuse to put such a proposition to the creditors. Yet thousands of otherwise sensible people are trying to get to heaven by just such a proposal, offering to meet their obligations toward God for the future, but refusing to worry about the past at all. In Ecclesiastes 3:15 we read,

God requireth that which is past.

Even if we assume that we can somehow begin to live an absolutely perfect life - which is certainly impossible for us - we are still sinners. God's righteousness demands that no past account is considered settled till it has been paid in full and every claim of justice met. The murderer may cover his sin and live the life of a model citizen for ten years after his crime, but man's law, when he is located, condemns him to death. Though he has murdered no one for ten long years-it still judges him a murderer.

To hide past sin, either thoughts, words, or deeds, by what seems to be an absolutely perfect life, still leaves us sinners. In God's sight the past and future are as open as the present. According to God's standard of holiness, we have all sinned, and we must bring sin out into the open and have it dealt with righteously.

The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is the only One who could pay this penalty. "We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son"(Romans 5:10). Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ gave up His life in place of ours that we might go free. Our past sin is paid for, and God, against whom we have sinned, has given us His receipt, showing His satisfaction with the completed work of Christ on the cross in that He raised Him from the dead. Christ, once crucified, is now our living Saviour. He died to save us from the penalty of sin and now He lives to deliver us from the power of sin.

Jesus Paid It All

But why did Christ need to die? Couldn't He have saved us without that? Man had broken God's law and the penalty was death. How could Christ righteously deliver us without meeting our full penalty? Don't you see, if He paid anything less than the full price, there would still be judgment for us to meet? But because He died, the law we broke can judge us no more.

The Bible says in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

On one occasion an unfinished court case had to be extended another day. So that no outside influence could be brought to bear, the jury was sequestered overnight. When they arrived at court the next morning, the judge said, "Gentlemen, the case is dismissed; the prisoner has been called to a higher court. " The accused had died in his cell during the night and there was no use going on with the case, as the law cannot judge a dead man.

Again, if a man should murder one person, he may receive the death penalty, but if he should murder six people he can still die only once, because this is the utmost penalty of the law, and no matter what a man's sins may be, the law knows no greater penalty than to take his life.

Therefore, it doesn't matter that there are sins in my life that I have long since forgotten; I fear none of them, for I have confidence that the Lord Jesus Christ, my substitute, suffered the utmost penalty of the law on my account, freeing me absolutely from all the claims the law had against me, both great and small.

Salvation Must Be Personally Received

Because of the greatness of Jesus Christ's sacrifice, some have suggested that if Christ died for all, then everyone must be saved. But God does not say that. He says there is salvation for all, but that not all are saved.

Let me illustrate. Picture a bitterly cold winter. Many are in dire straights because of successive unemployment. The city officials provide free meals for any in need. You meet a man on the street

who says he is starving. Naturally, you ask if he doesn't believe the notices posted all over the city, that there is enough food for all provided free? "Yes," he replies, "I believe that's true, in a general sort of way, but I am still hungry." You tell him that he will remain hungry in spite of the provision if he doesn't eat and drink personally of what is provided for all."

Although the death of Christ provides salvation for who ever comes, only those are saved who personally receive Christ and believe that He died in their place. I must take Christ as MY Saviour, or His death will avail me nothing, just as a man could die of thirst beside a spring of water if he refused to drink its life-giving stream for himself.

How Can One Death Atone for All Mankind?

Some may still question: How can the Lord Jesus Christ's one life be considered the substitute for the lives of so many, so that God offers salvation to whosoever repents and believes in Christ? That's a fair question. Christ was God manifest in the flesh - Divinity in humanity - so that the life He gave was an infinite life, able to meet the needs of any number of finite lives. Get a sheet of paper and write down all the big figures you can think of - millions or more - add them up. Now you have a big number; then multiply your sum by 10, a 100, or a million if you like. Use as many sheets of paper as you want. When you're done, you still have a finite number - a number that has bounds set about it - it has a beginning and an end, no matter how large it may be. No, by adding finite things together no man has ever been able to make that which is infinite. The infinite life of Christ given for sinners is more than sufficient to save all who accept Him as the One who died for them.

But how could Christ suffer for our sins when they were not committed till more than 1900 years after He died? At first this seemed a problem. But the more I thought, the more readily I understood. God is omniscient (that is, He knows all things), and God is eternal. In Exodus 3:14 God calls Himself "I AM" (present tense), and Christ says in John 8:58, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (present tense). In other words, to One who knows all things and is eternal, there is, neither past nor future, but one eternal present. Events yet to take place 2000 years ahead must be as clear to Him as events that happened 2000 years ago, and both must, of necessity, be just as clear to God as events happening now.

In this lesson we have tried to face honestly some of the questions people raise when faced with their need of Jesus Christ to be their Saviour and Lord. In our next lesson we are going to look at some more common objections to this truth.

Have you squarely faced your doubts and difficulties?
If not, will you do so now?

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 4 if you desire or just read on.

Lesson 5: More Common Misconceptions

In our last lesson we considered some of the issues men face when they realize the demands of the Gospel of Christ. In this lesson we are to consider some more of these common objections to the Bible message of sin and of salvation through Christ alone.

Could God Not Have Prevented Sin?

Why didn't God make men incapable of disobeying His will and therefore incapable of sinning? That question is like asking why doesn't God draw a crooked straight line or a round square, or make an object pitch black and pure white at the same time. Man is a creature with the power of intelligent choice, so the question really is: Why didn't God make a creature with the power of intelligent choice and yet without the power of intelligent choice? For example, if I put my two little boys into an hypnotic state, thus robbing them of the power of intelligent choice, and then said, "Sit on those chairs till I return," "Get up and eat," "Stop eating," "Kiss me good night," unfeeling arms would go around my neck, and unresponsive lips would be pressed to mine. I would have a prompt and perfect obedience to my every command, but would I find satisfaction in it? No!

I want my boys to have free will, thus being capable of disobeying me, but, who willingly obey because of our mutual love for each other. Hopefully my instructions would always be for their own good and not just mine. I cannot conceive of God being satisfied with anything less.

God does not want Puppets who jump in a given direction according to the wire that is pulled, nor does He want robots in the form of "men" who mechanically and absolutely obey His will as do the planets that whirl through space. God can find satisfaction in nothing less than the spontaneous love of our hearts, decisions to live to please and honor Him. But it is obvious that this same power enables us to defy and dishonor Him if we so choose.

Man And The Universe

What does God care about this little world of ours compared with the vastness of the universe? Think of even our own solar system, with the planet Neptune thirty times as far away from the sun as our earth, so that it takes 164 of our years to make one of Neptune's and beyond this, suns with planets revolving around them as our solar system revolves around the sun! Of what importance can our earth be to God, and of how much less importance can man be?

The vastness of the heavens robbed a young astronomer of faith, for how could God trouble Himself about man, who is less than a grain of sand in comparison? But his thirst for knowledge would not let him rest. The heavens were available for study at night; how should the free hours of the day be spent? Why not a microscope? New worlds were opened at his feet - worlds as wonderful as those above, and slowly his faith came back. Yes, the God who could attend to such minute details as to make a drop of ditch water throb with miniature life was sure to be interested in man, the highest form of His creation - he found balance instead of bias, and balance brought him back to God. John 3:16 were true after all. Are you balanced or biased? Can you see the present in its true relation to the future?

Balance Or Bias?

Benjamin Franklin said we are all biased. When he had an important decision to make, he took a sheet of paper and headed two columns, respectively, "Pro" and "Con", then thought the matter out carefully. When he arrived at a reason "for," he put it under "Pro"; when he discovered one "against," it went under "Con." After his lists were as complete as he could make them, he went through them, saying, "This 'Pro' is as strong as those two 'Cons' and this 'Con' is of as much value as those three 'Pros,'" until he had "balanced" off all that he could' then he gave his decision for, or against, according to the reasons still left. A good pattern? Perhaps!

But are you willing to give the question of your future destiny unbiased consideration?

The Logic Of Faith

Is faith logical? Yes, it is logical. It is a mistake to think that faith is opposed to reason. Faith and reason go hand in hand, but faith goes on when reason can go no farther. Reason, to a great extent, is dependent on faith, for without knowledge it is impossible to reason, and knowledge is largely a matter of faith in human testimony. For instance, I believe that strychnine administered in a large enough dose will poison a human being, but I have never seen the experiment performed. Yet I have such faith in the written testimony of men that I would not take a dose of strychnine for a million dollars.

If you check your facts carefully, you will find that most of what you know is a matter of faith in human testimony, written or spoken, as you have not verified them for yourself. Then, having accepted the testimony of other men so freely on other matters, will you not accept the testimony of thousands of Christians when they affirm that they have verified the things written in God's Word and proven them to be true?

Eternal Punishment For Sin

Why should God judge my sin worthy of death? I cannot answer that, but I would suggest that

because of His infinite holiness no sin could exist in His presence. Our problem is that we don't understand infinite, perfect holiness.

In some primitive cultures a native chief may club his wife to death on slight provocation without committing a crime and without falling in the slightest degree in the estimation of his people. The same act in another land would result in arrest, conviction and punishment for murder. Men, and cultures, are thus able to view the same act quite differently. Man and God obviously views acts on earth quite differently. Think what some sin, which appears to us as nothing, must look like to an infinitely holy God - "For God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5). The contrast is understandable. Think what would it be like for someone, who has not believed God and accepted the only way of salvation, to stand before God. God's absolute holiness would show this persons sin in all its awfulness? It becomes quite easy to understand the penalty of eternal punishment.

In Revelation 6:16, God tells us of the feelings of those who refuse to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and persist in going into eternity in their sins. They call on the mountains and the rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and yet it is the presence of this same Christ that will make heaven so wonderful for those who have accepted Him as Saviour and Lord.

You can also see the absurdity of God taking all to heaven. Heaven is a condition as well as a place. The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ will fill heaven. That same Presence will make a hell of remorse in the hearts of any who, still in their sins, stand in the infinite light of His holiness for judgment. Be quite reasonable - could you really stand in the presence of the One whose love you had rejected, and whose great sacrifice you had not counted worthy of your acceptance?

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 5 if you desire or just read on.

Lesson 6: Salvation By Substitution

In our previous lessons we sought to demonstrate the fact that God does exist and that He has revealed in the Bible His holy claims on men and women. We were shown that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We have been faced with Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came to this earth to die for the sin of man. We have also considered numerous objections raised by people who have other ideas about God's plan of salvation. In this lesson we are going to think through the wisdom and the wonder of God's plan of salvation for sinful people. In a word, it is salvation by substitution.

How It Works

God's love said, "Pardon the sinner" but His righteousness said, "Punish the sinner." How could the two be reconciled? How could God satisfy both His holiness and His love when dealing with the sinner? The solution, of course, was in the death of His Son on the sinner's behalf.

"But," one may object, "doesn't Christianity fail at its very foundation by basing everything on substitution, for substitution will not stand thoughtful investigation. It makes Christ, the Innocent, bear the penalty for the guilty, and thus lets the guilty go free. It is diametrically opposed to our very idea of justice, for we believe that justice should protect the innocent and bring full penalty upon the guilty.

God's perfect justice and perfect mercy are both revealed at the cross. He does not take the innocent and compel him to bear the penalty of the guilty. God acts like the judge in this story. Two young men studied law together, one rose to a seat on the bench, while the other took to drink and wasted his life. On one occasion this poor fellow was brought before his old companion, charged with a crime, and the lawyers present wondered what kind of justice would be administered by the judge. To their surprise, he sentenced his one - time companion to the heaviest penalty the law would allow, and then paid the fine himself and set his old friend free.

God, against whom we have sinned, in justice sat on His judgment throne, and passed the heaviest penalty He could - the sentence of death upon the sinner - then, in mercy, He stepped down from His

throne and took the sinner's place, bearing the full penalty Himself. II Corinthians 5:19 tells us "that God was in Christ," not through Christ but in Christ, 'reconciling the world unto himself."

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one God. The same God against whom we had sinned, passed the judgment, paid the penalty, and now offers full and free pardon, based upon absolute righteousness. That is why the apostle Paul in Romans 1:16, 17 says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed..." I, too, can say I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for no man can honestly find a flaw in the righteous forgiveness offered by God to man.

A Finished Work

Is acceptance of Christ as my Saviour all that is necessary to save me for all eternity? Yes! I admit the very simplicity of it seems to make it hard to grasp. But if I owe \$500 and have nothing with which to pay, and a friend pays the debt for me and gives me the receipt, I don't worry about it any more. I can look my creditor straight in the face, for I hold his signed receipt. As Jesus Christ gave His life in place of mine, He said, "It is finished," meaning that the work of atonement was completed, and God gave me His receipt. The assurance that He was satisfied with Christ's finished work is shown in that He (God) raised Christ from the dead on the third day.

"I just don't see it," said a cabinetmaker, as a friend tried to explain this to him. At last an inspiration came to his friend, who, lifting a plane, made as though he would plane the top of a beautifully polished table that stood near. "Stop!" cried the cabinetmaker. "Don't you see that's finished? You'll ruin it if you use that plane on it."

"Why," replied his friend, "that's just what I have been trying to show you about Christ's work of redemption. It was finished when He gave His life for you, and if you try to add to that finished work, you only spoil it. Just accept it as it stands-His life for yours, and you go free." Like a flash he saw it, and received Jesus Christ into his life as his Saviour.

Moral Life And Spiritual Life

There is one more difficulty. I know a noble, true, kind, generous, manly man who has not accepted Christ as his Saviour. Do you mean to tell me that in eternity he will be lost while this other man, who has received Jesus Christ into his life as his personal Saviour, although not nearly such a fine fellow, has eternal life? I struggled with that for years until I read about biogenesis. Biogenesis is the biological doctrine that living organisms can be generated only by pre-existing living organisms. In other words, there can be no life without previous life. That means there is no such thing as spontaneous life. Dead matter cannot live of itself. (If it ever is to have life, it must get life by coming into contact with something that is already living.)

Christ said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:6, 7). And so with the apostle in I John 5:12 when he said, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." The greatest error of our day is an endeavor to evade the law of biogenesis. The difference between a highly developed moral man and a Christian is not in degree, but in kind-the one has a high grade of human life; the other has spiritual life. The difference is so radical that the one can never grow out of the other, for Christ said even to such an upright man as Nicodemus in John 3:7, "Ye must be born again." It is as if He were saying: "A further development of your old life will not suffice what you need is a new, divine life by receiving Me."

A Significant Contrast

It does not matter how much more beautiful the diamond is than the humblest plant: one has life and the other does not. Polish the diamond as we will, it is still dead. There is really no basis of comparison, for the one has life while the other has none, not even in the slightest degree. The same difference exists between the man with spiritual life and the man who is dead toward God. Moral polish, though it ought to be found in the spiritual man, does not give him his spiritual life. Only by

contact with the source of spiritual life can any man pass that otherwise insurmountable barrier between the natural and the spiritual, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2)

The door between the mineral and vegetable kingdoms is shut so that no mineral can open it. That is, a lump of clay cannot of itself develop into a plant. But the roots of a plant can penetrate the clay, absorb its elements, and transform the lifeless into the living. In much the same way the door from the natural to the spiritual is shut, and no man can open it. This world of natural men is separated from the spiritual world by barriers that have never yet been crossed from the man ward side. No mental energy, no moral effort, no evolution of character can endow any human soul with the attribute of spiritual life. But, thank God, the Lord Jesus Christ came down from that spiritual world to give us life. And here the reality goes far beyond the illustration. The plant cannot give the clay life. It can only take the substance of the clay into itself. But Christ gives spiritual life to individuals having only natural life.

The basic principle, of course, still holds true. Life comes only from life. In spite of accounts of the "creation of life" by scientists (for sober analysis shows the accounts to be greatly exaggerated), life cannot spring up of itself. Spiritual life cannot develop out of anything that is not spiritual life. Christ is the Source of spiritual life. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God [whatever else he may have] hath not life" (I John 5:12) ...for "the law of the Spirit of life [is] in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:2).

The Vital Difference

We are definitely aware that there is a difference between what is alive and what is not alive. No man has ever taken the non-living atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen and made something living out of them. But God did. Because God created life, a living thing can take non-living material and make it a part of itself, a part of a living organism.

To draw an analogy from this example, as matter was transformed into life by the power of God, so the natural man is transformed into spiritual life by the same power of God. "If any one is in union with Christ, he is a new being! His old life has passed away; a new life has begun!" (II Corinthians 5:17) As a living thing grows, so a Christian, a new spiritual life, grows. This is why Jesus spoke of the "new birth" see John 3:1-11). The Bible elsewhere, says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2). The Bible uses other terms for this transformation: "have eternal life" - "are saved" - "are born again" - "have salvation" - "are regenerated." They all point to the same glorious fact, that a sinful man can be brought into a divine relationship with God, which will result in continued spiritual growth through all time.

Have you entered into this relationship? If not, will you think through carefully all that it can mean for you, both for time and for eternity?

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 6 if you desire or just read on.

Lesson 7: Your Next Move

In our last lesson we saw how God could be both a holy Judge and a loving Father to those that believe in Jesus" (Romans 3:26). By passing the maximum penalty against sin that His holiness could demand and by paying that penalty Himself, God satisfied the claims both of His justice and His love.

We also learned that nothing can be added to the finished work of Christ on Calvary's cross. Salvation must be received as a gift by the sinner because it cannot be earned. In addition we learned that when a person receives Christ as Saviour and Lord, a new kind of life is imparted by God-spiritual life. Spiritual life is something far different from moral life. It is not something that can be evolved, but it is received in a moment, bringing the regenerated person into the very family of God.

Salvation Is More Than A Cold Contract

Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour?

Knowing these facts that, according to Ephesians 2:1, you are "dead in trespasses and sin," that you believe Jesus Christ gave His life in your place, and that by receiving Him as your Saviour; means you may have eternal salvation and can then go on living your life as you please, You are most certainly wrong!

A wealthy man loses all his money, and rather than sacrifice his social position, he agrees to give the hand of his daughter to a rich man for a significant sum of money. At first she refuses vehemently, because she despises the man, but when her father shows her the expediency of the marriage, that it is his only hope of being saved from utter want, she consents, and goes through the marriage ceremony. According to the law of the land she becomes the rich man's wife. But does her heart really belong to her husband? Surely not!

You see it now, don't you? The Lord desires a true love relationship. When a man and woman would be truly one, they receive each other into those innermost recesses of their hearts in a deep, true way, a way that cannot fully be expressed in words. The wife tries to please the husband and the husband tries to please his wife. Similarly Christ desires a true love relationship with us.

We all have that innermost recess of our beings which is sacred to us, where emotions stir and that no one else could possibly understand, but Jesus Christ, God's Son, does and because of His love for us, He claims the right to enter. The love He has shown by His death on the cross for us entitles Him to that place. Will I withhold it?

Christ Deserves My Love

When I think that Christ's love for me was so great that He left His Father's glory and came to earth, becoming truly human to suffer and die in my place so that I could have eternal life, my heart softens toward Him.

If, I lay sick and helpless in a burning building, and a friend rushes in to save me, and wrapping me in blankets carries me out but in the process he was burned and scarred about the face and arms, wouldn't my heart go out to him? God knows it would.

And now I am face to face with my Saviour. I see Him suffering in the garden of Gethsemane in anticipation of His death on the cross for me. I see Him in Pilate's judgment hall, the soldiers striking Him in the face, saying, "Prophesy, who smote thee?" I see them crowning His holy brow with a crown of thorns and smiting Him on the head with a reed. Bleeding and bruised, He is taken from judgment to Calvary. As he is lifted up to die between two thieves, with great spikes through His hands and feet, the people gather around to mock and revile Him, though He is pouring out His life to redeem them. Then I begin to understand what self-sacrificing love really means as I hear Him cry, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

But if we enter sympathetically into those physical sufferings of Christ until tears streamed down our cheeks, and that was all, we have failed miserably to comprehend the true significance of the cross.

The Supreme Sacrifice

We read in II Corinthians 5:21 that "He [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin." Come with me, I plead with you, with bowed head and humble heart. Let us, if we may, enter into the soul suffering of Christ the Son, and of God the Father, as that Holy One, who loathed sin more than we would loathe leprosy, and was "made sin for us."

If the higher the development of the physical organism the greater the capacity for pain, then the higher the development of the moral character, the greater the capacity for soul suffering.

Have you ever heard of a venerable old gentleman, justly proud of his honored name - a man who would sooner lose his right hand than use it to do a dishonorable deed? His son and heir goes astray, and in a drunken brawl murders someone - and the old man walks no more erect, his head is bowed in shame, and soon his soul - suffering brings his gray hairs in sorrow to the grave.

If that is possible (and it is possible even for us to feel the disgrace of a greater sin than we are used to)-think what sin must be like in all its awfulness to an absolutely holy God! Now we understand why, in the garden of Gethsemane, Christ turns in loathing from sin and cries out in the agony of His soul, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). Yet in spite of that agonized cry from Gethsemane, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" to be "made sin" for us, "that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16; II Corinthians 5:21).

Action Must Follow

Now do you understand why, if I would retain any ideal of manhood, or any nobleness of character, I dare not reject One who has endured so much for me? My intellect has reasoned it all out; my emotions have been deeply stirred; and now they both appeal to my will for a decision. To be true to my God and myself and my eternal future I have only one course open, and I must take it. Today Jesus Christ is my personal Saviour and my Lord.

Because of His love for me, because of the way He has blessed me here, and because of my assurance of a gracious hereafter, my heart's desire is that you might share in the blessings I enjoy. Christ has done all. He has borne the penalty of your sin; He has been raised by the power of God; now He presents Himself to you. Will you accept Him as Saviour and Lord?

You may be saying: "It seems so mysterious, the mystery of it baffles me." I do not ask you to understand the mystery of it. I cannot understand its mystery myself, nor can any Christian in this life. I am asking you to rejoice in its fact. Electricity remains a mystery. We have discovered many of the laws which govern it, but we cannot tell what it really is. You and I do not worry about the mystery of electricity as we make use of its benefits. You must have known men and women who accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and were so changed as to be new creatures in Christ. Will you let these facts that you have seen for yourself influence you? Yes, it is just as simple as switching on an electric light.

Come, saying, "O God, I cannot understand the mystery of it all; I cannot understand why You care for me enough to send Jesus Christ to bear the penalty of my sins; but, with all my lack of understanding, I am willing, and I do yield to You absolutely. I trust in the fact of Christ's death for me, and the promise that You made in John 3:16, that whosoever believed in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Just as you leave the mystery of electrical current with the engineer, and take the benefits of light to yourself, so leave the mystery of salvation with God, and take the infinite benefits of a personal Saviour to yourself. Yield to Him now. He wants to come into your life. Say, and mean it, "I am yours, Lord Jesus; yielded to you, body, soul and spirit and You are mine."

Ashamed Of Christ?

Now for the last but most important point. If you open your Bible to Romans 10:9, you will read,

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believed unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believed on him shall not be ashamed.

If you have accepted Christ. Go and tell someone, do not be ashamed to confess Him. Why should you be?

Suppose I had been convicted of a capital crime. But, while awaiting execution, the governor of the state gave me a full pardon and put me on the state payroll so that I owed him both my life and my livelihood. What would you think if, when the governor entered the office where I worked, I turned my back on him and refused to recognize his presence? Or if, hearing two men slandering the governor, I

remained quiet for fear of being thought partisan? If such rudeness and reluctance are inexcusable relative to a fellow human being, how can the refusal to acknowledge the Son of God, who has granted me eternal life at such cost to Himself, be tolerated?

If you have already accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Saviour, perhaps even while studying this course, occasions will arise when you will meet Him face to face in the presence of those who despise Him. Will you be ashamed and look the other way, or will you honor Him in both work and deed as your Lord and Saviour? If you have really accepted Him, you must, and you will, acknowledge Him.

The Soldier's Choice

I was talking to a young soldier about accepting the Lord Jesus Christ, but like most men, he tried to evade the straight issue with the promise, "I'll think it over,"

"Harry," said I, "let me illustrate. Suppose you are out with the boys some night raiding the enemy's position, and on the way back you get hit. Bill Smith stops long enough to pick you up and carry you back, and for his trouble he gets two bullets in the back. You are both taken to a hospital. Two months later the doctor comes along, helping a man who limps badly and moves with evident difficulty.

"They stop at your bedside, and the doctor says, 'Harry, I want to introduce you to Bill Smith, the man who risked his life to save you,' and you fold your arms and say, 'I don't know whether I want to meet him today or not. I'll think it over.'

"You wouldn't say that, Harry, would you? You would grab him by the hand and try to tell him something of the gratitude you felt. I want to introduce you now to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Man from glory, who not only risked His life, but sacrificed it, to save you, and you propose to turn your back on Him and say you'll think it over."

"No," he said, "I'll accept Him"; and together we knelt while he told the Lord that he there and then accepted Him as his personal Saviour.

Are you "thinking it over," or have you faced the issue squarely and decided right?

You may now go to the Self-Exam for Lesson 7 if you desire or just read on.

Exam — Lesson 1

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 1. After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

1. The body is more important than the soul. T/F
2. The problems of belief in God are greater than the problems of unbelief. T/F
3. The universe gives every evidence of careful planning and design. T/F
4. Atheists offer us the only reasonable solution to the origin of the universe. T/F
5. All scientists are unbelievers in God. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (40 points).

6. That scientific enlightenment and true religious belief are incompatible is

- (a) a widely believed error.
 - (b) the verdict of all thinking people.
 - (c) a true statement of fact.
 - (d) the wisest position to adopt.
7. The chance that the human body could have "just happened" is described by one famous statistician as
- (a) a statistical certainty.
 - (b) the conviction of most statisticians.
 - (c) a statistical monstrosity.
 - (d) having nothing to do with statistics.
8. In view of the illustration of the jet, which of the following is the most reasonable way to account for the existence of the universe?
- (a) It created itself by its own inherent powers.
 - (b) There is no way to account for it at all.
 - (c) It came into being by sheer accident.
 - (d) It was planned by an intelligent Being.
9. One reason suggested in this lesson to account for the refusal of many people to face the fact of God is
- (a) The intellectual impossibility of believing in God.
 - (b) The inconsistent lives of those who say they believe in God.
 - (c) The unwillingness of people to face the moral implications involved in admitting that there is a God.
 - (d) The growing popularity of atheism.
10. When faced with the prospect of eventually meeting your Creator, the wisest thing to do is
- (a) face honestly all the issues involved.
 - (b) postpone facing this possibility.
 - (c) ignore it entirely.
 - (d) deny that there is a God.

Bible Study Questions

You should use your Bible to answer these questions.

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements covered in lesson 1. Next to each statement, put the scripture that best supports it from the list provided. (40 points).

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. Genesis 1:1 | e. Psalm 14:1 |
| b. Genesis 15:5-6 | f. Psalm 19:1-3 |
| c. Job 38:31-32 | g. Psalm 115:16 |
| d. Psalm 8:3-4 | h. Romans 1:19-20 |

- 11. God is stated to be the Creator of the universe.
- 12. The heavens are said to declare God's glory to all men regardless of their mother tongue.
- 13. The created universe witnesses to God's eternal power and Godhead and leaves men without excuse for their disbelief in God.
- 14. The atheist's attitude toward God is said to be one of folly.

15. The question "What is man?" was prompted by a consideration of the splendor of the heavens.

Self-Exam — Lesson 2

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in the just completed lesson. These may be either true or false. There is a link to the answer key at the end of this test (20 points).

1. God can be known best by a process of logical deduction. T/F
2. The Bible claims to be a direct revelation from God and as such, deserves careful investigation. T/F
3. The Bible has been proven full of contradictions, errors and falsehoods. T/F
4. The Bible was written over a period of some 1600 years. T/F
5. The Bible sets forth a standard of behavior for men which everyone has broken. T/F
6. The "first and great commandment" says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." T/F
7. The Bible warns, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." T/F
8. We need to concern ourselves with the law by which we are to be judged. T/F
9. The first step toward peace with God is to face the fact that you are lost. T/F

Exam for Lessons 2 and 3

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 2. After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

1. It is reasonable to assume that God had a purpose in view for His creation. T/F
2. The Bible is unworthy of serious consideration. T/F
3. The Bible is a collection of contradictory statements. T/F
4. One of the supernatural elements about the Bible is the way the future is foretold in its pages. T/F
5. The standard set forth in Matthew 22:37 is attained by most people. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (20 points).

6. Before God can be known,

- (a) science must prove He exists.
- (b) He must reveal Himself.
- (c) our educational system must be improved.
- (d) a person should study archeology.

7. After a thorough investigation of the Bible, Dr. Robert Dick Wilson declared that he believed it to be

- (a) accurate, reliable and true.
- (b) full of mistakes.
- (c) proven a forgery by its critics.
- (d) not worthy of serious study.

8. The human authors of the Bible

- (a) all lived at the same time.
- (b) all lived in the same country.
- (c) all had the same type of education.
- (d) wrote under direct inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

9. The Bible sets a moral standard that

- (a) no mere human being can attain.
- (b) everyone can reach by trying hard enough.
- (c) you can honestly say you have kept.
- (d) has never been broken by anyone.

10. God will judge men and women by

- (a) human standards.
- (b) the laws of the land in which they live.
- (c) the perfect standard He has set forth in the Bible.
- (d) a standard He will reveal to them when they have died.

Bible Study Questions

You should use your Bible to answer these questions.

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements covered in lesson 2. Next to each statement, put the scripture that best supports it from the list provided (40 points).

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| a. Exodus 20:1-17 | e. John 10:35 |
| b. Psalm 138:2 | f. II Timothy 3:16 |
| c. Matthew 22:29 | g. II Peter 1:21 |
| d. Luke 24:45 | h. II Peter 3:16 |

11. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

12. Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost to give us the "prophecy" of Scripture.

13. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses directly by God.

14. God magnifies His Word above His Name.

15. The Scripture cannot be broken.

Questions On Lesson 3

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 3. In the space provided after each statement, indicate whether the statement is

"True" or "False" (20 points).

16. The appearance of Christ in history is so well documented as to be beyond denial. T/F
17. If Jesus Christ is the Son of God then salvation from sin becomes possible. T/F
18. The Lord Jesus was unable to answer the clever men of His day in their attempts to catch Him in His words. T/F
19. Jesus Christ, a good and an honest Man under no hallucinations regarding Himself, positively claimed to be the son of god. T/F
20. All scholars are infidels and unbeliever sin Christ. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer. (20 points)

21. When Christ claimed to be God He
 - (a) spoke the truth.
 - (b) deliberately lied.
 - (c) was self-deceived.
 - (d) was only pretending.
22. The true hope of humanity in this troubled world is
 - (a) technology.
 - (b) philosophy.
 - (c) a world religion.
 - (d) Christ.
23. As Teacher, Healer and Prophet, Christ
 - (a) may be adequately compared with Confucius.
 - (b) towers over nearly all of the important figures of the past and present.
 - (c) is absolutely unique; for His life is supernatural.
 - (d) failed to live up to His claims.
24. The Lord Jesus Christ came to this world
 - (a) to set men a good example.
 - (b) in order to teach the truth about God.
 - (c) because He had no other choice.
 - (d) to die for our sins.

Self-Exam — Lesson 4

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 4. These may be either true or false. There is a link to the answer key at the end of this test (20 points).

1. Every person living has broken the laws of God. T/F
2. It doesn't really matter if a person breaks the laws of God. T/F
3. Sincerity is all that God looks for in our religious beliefs. T/F
4. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." T/F
5. If anyone ever entered heaven except through faith in Christ, he would be an eternal witness to the fact that Jesus Christ was mistaken or lied about salvation. T/F
6. To go to the cross for human sin was a great step of humiliation for Christ to take. T/F
7. The best way to be sure of eternal life is to turn over a new leaf. T/F
8. The Christ who died to save me from the penalty of sin, now lives to save me from its power. T/F
9. Since Christ's life was so perfect, His death was really unnecessary. T/F
10. Since Christ died for all, then all are automatically saved. T/F

Questions On Lesson 4

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 4. After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

1. All sinners stand exposed to the judgment of God. T/F
2. The Bible emphatically states that Jesus alone can save people from sin. T/F
3. One important reason why people resent the preaching of the cross is that it strikes at the roots of human pride. T/F
4. A murderer could reasonably plead before a judge that, because it was ten years since he had committed murder, he should not be punished. T/F
5. The life that Christ laid down on the cross was merely a finite life. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (20 points).

6. Sincerity is
(a) all that is needed in matters of belief.

- (b) important, but a person must also be right if his sincerity is to be of any value.
- (c) not required for salvation at all.
- (d) helpful, even if a person is sincerely wrong.

7. Reformation, as a basis for salvation,
 - (a) is acceptable to God.
 - (b) is a popular teaching and therefore must be right.
 - (c) ignores the fact that "God requireth that which is past".
 - (d) is exactly what Jesus taught.
8. Why did Christ have to die?
 - (a) To be a martyr to the cause.
 - (b) To show men how to die bravely.
 - (c) To pay for his own sins.
 - (d) To meet the full penalty of God's law against our sins.
9. In order to be effective, God's salvation
 - (a) must be personally received.
 - (b) must be fully understood.
 - (c) requires additional sacraments.
 - (d) must be administered in infancy.
10. The death of Christ on Calvary's cross
 - (a) is inadequate to cover the sins of all mankind.
 - (b) happened nearly 2000 years ago and is therefore of little value today.
 - (c) is sufficient for the sins of the whole world.
 - (d) has nothing to do with salvation at all.

Bible Study Questions

You should use your Bible to answer these questions.

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements covered in lesson 4. Next to each statement, put the scripture that best supports it from the list provided. (40 points).

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| a. Proverbs 14:12 | e. Romans 6:23 |
| b. John 8: 34 | f. II Corinthians 5:17 |
| c. John 14:6 | g. Ephesians 2:8-9 |
| d. Romans 5:7-8 | h. I John 2:2 |

11. There is a way that seems right to a man but its and is fatal.
12. Jesus claimed to be the only way to God.
13. Salvation cannot be earned or merited by our own good works.
14. Christ's death is sufficient for all sinners.
15. Eternal life is offered us as a gift.

Questions On Lesson 5

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 5.
After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

16. God looks for the spontaneous love of our hearts. T/F
17. God is satisfied only with those who, of their own free will choose to love and honor Him. T/F
18. Benjamin Franklin said that all t/men were normally balanced in their judgment. T/F
19. If God took sinful men to heaven without first dealing with their sin they would be happy there. T/F
20. The Bible reveals that men who reject Christ as Savior will not be able to bear to look upon His face when summoned unto His presence for judgment. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (20 points).

21. God made man
- (a) incapable of sinning.
 - (b) imperfectly, because man was able to sin.
 - (c) an intelligent being, with a power of choice.
 - (d) as a puppet, only able to respond to the pull of unseen strings.
22. To say that God loves this world is
- (a) nonsense, because it is too small to be of any significance to Him.
 - (b) unscientific, because both the telescope and the microscope reveal that God could not have any interest in it at all.
 - (c) true, because the Bible reveals that God loves the people who live here.
 - (d) presumption, because we have no sure means of knowing.
23. When facing the question of your eternal destiny, you should
- (a) postpone a decision until science proves there is an after-life.
 - (b) believe what religious leaders say and not weigh too carefully the truth of their statements.
 - (c) allow prejudice to keep you from facing the sober statements of the Bible.
 - (d) remember that the hazard is always on the side of unbelief.
24. Most of the things we say we "know" we
- (a) have carefully documented and proved for ourselves.
 - (b) accept by faith, having taken from one's word for it.
 - (c) are actually skeptical about.
 - (d) do not really know at all.
25. When the Bible states that sin demands and deserves eternal punishment, it
- (a) is being unreasonable.
 - (b) proves that God is unkind and unfair.
 - (c) endorses that fact that God is holy.
 - (d) teaches a falsehood.

Bible Study Questions

You should use your Bible to answer these questions.

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements covered in lesson 5. Next to each statement, put the scripture that best supports it from the list provided. (40 points)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. John 3:16 | e. I Corinthians 2:14 |
| b. Acts 4:12 | f. II Corinthians 4:3- |
| c. Acts 16:30-31 | g. II Corinthians 5:17 |
| d. Romans 11:33-34 | h. Revelation 21:8 |

27. God's wisdom is far beyond that which man's finite intellect can fully comprehend.
28. Unbelievers are included in the list God gives of those who shall have their part in the lake of fire.
29. Salvation is made real in our experience when we believe on the Lord Jesus.
30. When a person is 'in Christ' (saved by Christ) he becomes a new creature in God's sight.

Questions On Lesson 6

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 6. After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

1. Christianity fails at its very foundation by basing everything on substitution. T/F
2. The Bible teaches, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." T/F
3. Because Christ's death on the cross is incomplete, we need to add our own good works to it in order to be sure of salvation. T/F
4. A high degree of morality is all that is needed to win the approval of God. T/F
5. There is as much difference between a plant and a diamond as there is between a Christian and an unbeliever. T/F

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (20 points).

6. The "problem" that God resolved in offering salvation by substitution was that of reconciling
 - (a) His wisdom and His power.
 - (b) His love and His righteousness.
 - (c) His purity and His majesty.
 - (d) His omniscience and omnipotence.

7. Salvation by substitution as revealed in the Gospel means that
- (a) God compelled the innocent to bear the penalty of the guilty.
 - (b) the guilty bears the penalty of the innocent.
 - (c) Satan is compelled to bear the penalty for sin.
 - (d) God passed the heaviest penalty His righteousness could demand and then paid it Himself.
8. The difference between a highly developed moral man and a Christian is
- (a) insignificant.
 - (b) one of degree, not of kind.
 - (c) the difference between life and death.
 - (d) that the one is more cultured than the other.
9. In His teaching concerning the new birth, the Lord Jesus insisted that
- (a) men can evolve spiritual natures.
 - (b) a proper education is required before a person can become a Christian.
 - (c) by receiving Christ a person passes from death to life.
 - (d) that men are born by natural birth with spiritual natures.
10. When a person is "born again" he
- (a) is at once a mature Christian.
 - (b) remains the same as he always was.
 - (c) simply acquires "moral polish".
 - (d) needs to grow spiritually.

Bible Study Questions

You should use your Bible to answer these questions.

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements covered in lesson 6. Next to each statement, put the scripture that best supports it from the list provided. (40 points).

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. John 1:11-13 | e. II Corinthians 5:21 |
| b. John 10:11 | f. I John 1:8-10 |
| c. John 11:25-26 | g. I John 3:14 |
| d. John 17:4; 19:30 | h. Revelation 20:11-15 |

11. The person who says he is without sin is deceived.
12. The work of redemption is a finished work.
13. The new birth is brought about by personally receiving Christ into the life as an act of faith.
14. When a person believes in the Lord Jesus, he receives eternal life.
15. One way in which spiritual life manifests itself in the believer's experience is in a love for God's people.

Questions On Lesson 7

True Or False Questions

Listed below are several statements concerning the information in lesson 7. After each statement, indicate whether the statement is "True" or "False" (20 points).

16. Ephesians 2:1 teaches that those who have not received spiritual life are dead in trespasses and sins.

17. There is a similarity between a man and a woman receiving one another in marriage and a person receiving Christ as Saviour.

18. The Lord Jesus Christ will be satisfied with second place in our hearts and lives.

19. The Lord Jesus had a great capacity for soul- suffering.

20. Action must follow when a person really comes face to face with Christ.

Multiple Choice Questions

Click the button to the left of the letter that corresponds to the correct answer (20 points).

21. Accepting Christ as personal Saviour is

- (a) a cold and formal contract.
- (b) merely a matter of intellectual assent to the basic facts of the Gospel.
- (c) something that involves the mind, the heart and the will.
- (d) a fanatical doctrine not taught in the Bible.

22. In order to make salvation possible Christ

- (a) had to endure merely the physical agonies of crucifixion.
- (b) simply had to show Himself victor over all the temptations which plague mankind.
- (c) needed to renounce His deity forever.
- (d) had to suffer more than we can ever know by personally assuming our sin.

23. The reasonable thing for a person to do when faced with the issues of the Gospel is to

- (a) wait until he can understand all the great mysteries it involves.
- (b) keep on thinking it over.
- (c) refuse to properly face the issues at all.
- (d) immediately accept the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord.

24. A person who has truly accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour will

- (a) pretend not to know Him when in the company of those who reject Him.
- (b) be ashamed to be known as a believer in Him.
- (c) delight to own Him as Saviour and Lord at all times.
- (d) refuse to confess Him before men in case it would mean embarrassment.

25. The issues involved in receiving or in rejecting Christ as Saviour are

- (a) relatively unimportant.
- (b) largely theoretical.
- (c) of eternal significance.
- (d) simply a matter of theology.

Bible Study Questions

Given below are a series of Scripture references followed by a list of statements pertinent lesson 7. Next to each statement, write the appropriate scripture reference from the provided list that best supports it.(40 points).

- a. John 6:37
- b. John 11:25-26
- c. Romans 10:9-11
- d. II Corinthians 5:21
- e. Galatians 3:13
- f. Ephesians 2:1
- g. Ephesians 2:8-9
- h. Hebrews 2:1-3

- 26. By natural birth we are "dead in trespasses and sins."
- 27. God's son was "made sin" for us that we might be made righteous in Him.
- 28. When a person is truly saved, he should be willing to confess Jesus as Lord.
- 29. Salvation cannot be obtained by our own works.
- 30. God warns us against neglecting the salvation He has provided.

Be sure to look up any questions you have answered incorrectly. Mark with an "x" your wrong answers.

Question	Lesson 2	Lesson 4	Lesson 6
1	F	T	F
2	T	F	T
3	F	F	T
4	T	T	T
5	T	T	T
6	F	T	T
7	F	F	F
8	T	T	T
9	T	F	T
10	-	F	T