

Romans 3:20-26 ²⁰ ...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² **even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that **He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Romans 3:20-26 one of the clearest and most concise explanations of the gospel in Scripture - What are the key components/truths/doctrines of the gospel that are found in Romans 3:20-26 that we should know and understand in order to best share the gospel clearly and concisely with others?

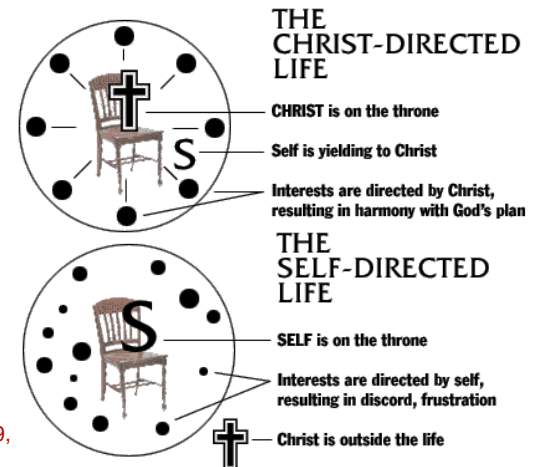
I. Overview of the Gospel/Good News of Jesus

4. The Foundation of God's G_____ (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-41, Romans 3:20-26)

5 P's Gospel Presentation:

1. God's **Plan** for the Gospel – **R**_____ (LOVE) John 17:33, Heb. 8:10-13 (purpose to know, love, serve, worship God forever)
2. Man's **Problem** that needs the Gospel – **S**_____ (separation, death, Hell) Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2
3. God's **Provision** of the Gospel – **J**_____ (Savior & LORD) John 3:15-16, Col. 2:13-16, 1 Pet. 2:24, 3:18, Titus 3:4-7 (Jesus' life, death, resurrection for Imputed righteousness, total forgiveness, and eternal life)
4. Man's **Participation** to receive the Gospel – **B**_____ Mark 1:15, John 3:16-18, 36, 6:40, 11:25, 20:31, Acts 16:31, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20, Rom. 10:9-13 (true belief involves repentance, faith, and **LORDSHIP** - trusting/relying, knowing/loving, serving/obeying, following/worshipping Jesus) Heb. 6:1-2
5. God's **Promise** because of the Gospel – **L**_____! John 10:10, 2 Cor. 5:15-21, Col. 1:13, Rev. 21-22 (Eternal Life = New life now, Kingdom life soon, Heavenly life forever)

What gospel presentation do you like to use? Do you have at least one verse memorized for each of your main points in order to show others this is God's truth and not your own opinion? God's Plan – Relationship (John 17:3), Man's Problem - Sin (Romans 3:23), God's Provision - Jesus (John 3:16), Man's Participation - Believing (Romans 10:9-13), and God's Promise – Life (1 John 5:12-13)



II. The Gospel/Good News of Jesus in greater depth:

A. Understanding The Gospel is Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection (the **SOURCE** of Salvation)

1. Jesus' **PERFECT LIFE = Imputed RIGHTEOUSNESS** (right standing and peace with God because Jesus fulfilled the Law on our behalf)

Mt. 5:17-18, 1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 2:21-22, Heb. 4:15, 7:26-28 Romans 8:3-4, 2 Cor. 5:17-21

2. Jesus' **SACRIFICIAL DEATH = Total FORGIVENESS** (God's justice against all our sins is fully satisfied because Jesus paid our penalty on the cross with His own blood)

- Matthew 9:5-7, 26:26-28, Mark 2:7, 10, Luke 24:47, Colossians 2:13-14, Acts 2:38, 10:43, 13:38-39, 26:17-18, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:22-28, Romans 5:8-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, Isaiah 53:4-5

3. Jesus' **VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION = Eternal LIFE** (We are promised/guaranteed new life now, Kingdom life soon, and Heavenly Life later)

- John 1:1-31, 2:25, 11:25-26, 3:15-16, 3:36, 5:24, 6:40, 6:47, 10:27-30, 17:2-3, Acts 13:48, Romans 5:10-11, 5:21, 8:11, 5:17, 6:22-23, 1 Timothy 1:16, Titus 3:5-7, 1 John 5:11-13, 5:20

God graciously offers 3 amazing gifts through the gospel that we don't deserve – righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life – do you know of any other source/anyone else other than Jesus that offers these 3 gifts to you? When did you receive the gift(s) of salvation & do you have assurance of salvation?

B. Receiving the Gospel requires True Belief and includes the *heart attitudes* of Repentance, Faith, & Lordship (The Response to Salvation)

1. **REPENTANCE - Leave** (sin, self, slavery/control by Satan) willingness to turn from sin and leave your life of sin

Mark 1:15-17, Luke 18:13-14, 24:46-48, John 8:11-12, Ephesians 4:17-24, Colossians 3:5-11

2. **FAITH - Lean** (rely, trust, depend) salvation through faith Romans 3:22, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 3:8-9

3. **LORDSHIP - Lord** (learn, live, love) (Romans 10:9-13)

How would you put in your own words, or explain to a child what the Biblical concepts of repentance, faith, and Lordship are? What are your favorite illustrations/pictures to explain these concepts? Examples: (repentance – military about face, U turn on a highway, major lifestyle change – weight loss/muscular transformation) (faith – trusting your life to a parachute as you jump out of an airplane, relying on a pilot you have not met, an airplane or rocket you don't understand to take you through the air to a different location and back, jumping off a ledge and depending on your dad or mom to catch you) (Lordship – new master buys you at a slave market, new parent adopts you/rescues you from orphanage, you come to a new job and enjoy working for a new boss/owner)

C. Counting the Cost of Following Jesus (Luke 14) - you must believe the gospel by faith and **BE WILLING** to turn from your sins and follow and worship Jesus as your personal Savior and LORD! (The Change after Salvation)

1. Are you willing to Follow and **LEARN** from Jesus through His Holy Word? (knowledge, understanding, wisdom)

- John 5:24, John 8:51, John 14:23-26, James 1:21-22, Acts 10:34-36, 2 Peter 3:17-18

2. Are you willing to Walk & **LIVE** for Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit towards progressive Holy Living? (follow, obey, apply)

- John 14:15-21, Luke 6:46-49, Matthew 7:22-28, 1 John 2:3-6

3. Are you willing to **LOVE** and worship Jesus as part of the Holy Trinity? (worship, glorify, exalt) (Matthew 22:37-38)

Read Luke 14:16-35 and discuss the reasons and excuses people make for NOT following Jesus (vv. 16-24) and the counting of the cost of following Jesus that He encourages **BEFORE** someone commits and chooses to follow Him as one of His disciples (vv. 25-35).

D. Warnings against False Gospels, False Teachers, Fraudulent Miracles, and Fake Versions of Jesus

1. The Bible warns about FALSE GOSPELS in 2 Corinthians 11:4 and Galatians 1:6-9 with very strong words (different gospels distort, disturb, & ultimately damn “accursed”) **Here are 6 false gospels popular in our day/culture that are different, distorting, & damning:** What are the two major religions that were started from visions supposedly from the angel Gabriel as “an angel of light” (read 2 Cor. 11:14 for the real identity)

a. The False Gospel of NO REPENTANCE (The mixture of truth that Jesus wants you to come as you are with the lie that its Ok to stay as you are – just add Jesus to your life of sin... continue to live as usual with your get out of Hell free card, no sorrow, brokenness, contrition, or confession of sin is necessary for salvation...no willingness to leave your life of sin/slavery to sin is required as a condition of salvation). **Mark 1:15, Luke 18:13-14, 24:47, Acts 2:38, 17:30, 20:31, 26:20, 2 Cor. 7:8-11** clearly shows repentance is required in order to receive Jesus gracious offer of salvation. **Read Luke 24:47 as proof that repentance is required for salvation and then Revelation 16:9-11 as a clear example of no repentance = no salvation**

b. The False Gospel of NO LORDSHIP (no willingness required to obey, follow, or worship Jesus as your personal Lord, Master, Owner/Boss) This lie is not compatible with clear Lordship passages like **Luke 6:46-49, Matthew 7:21-27, 10:37, Mark 8:34-48, Luke 14:26-35, John 12:25, Romans 6:16-18, 10:9-13** **Read Mt. 7:13-23 and discuss why its so important as believers to be “fruit inspectors” and to discern who people’s true Lord is (by who is #1 of their time, thoughts, talents, and treasure) and why not everyone who says/claims Jesus as their Lord but practices sin/lawlessness as their lifestyle, habit, continual or predominant pattern is a real disciple, follower, or worshipper of Jesus?**

c. The False Gospel of EASY BELIEVISM/ Cheap Grace (faith/belief can merely be intellectual assent, just a point in time, and not trusting, relying, or depending on Jesus in continual, ongoing, and real for a lifetime. **James 2:19-26, Matthew 15:8-9, Isaiah 29:13, Romans 6:1-18, Titus 1:16, 1 John 2:3-6, and 2 Timothy 2:19** blow this false gospel out of the water. **Read James 2:19-26 – Satan and his demons likely know more facts/intellectual knowledge of Jesus than we do but obviously are unwilling and also incapable of repenting, following, obeying, or worshipping Jesus. Discuss from these verses/facts why Biblical belief/saving faith must be more than just intellectual ascent or knowledge of who Jesus is.**

d. The False Gospel of NO CHANGE/ no progressive holy living by the power of the Holy Spirit (no expectation or pursuit of putting off sin or putting on righteousness in its place, no new creation where the old has gone and the new has come – including the fruits of the Spirit) **2 Cor. 5:15-21, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:22-32, John 14-17, Romans 8:5-14, 1 John 1:5-2:6, Col. 3:1-17** **Read Mt. 12:31, Mk. 3:29, Lk. 12:10, 1 John 5:16-21, and Hebrews 10:26-31 – do you think blasphemy of the Holy Spirit as the only unpardonable sin in the Bible is the same thing as rejecting the gospel/salvation only in Jesus, thereby also rejecting the indwelling Holy Spirit, thereby rejecting regeneration/being born again along with corresponding progressive sanctification not to mention ongoing intercession of the H.S. and ultimately rejecting the adoption, indwelling, and promise of resurrection by the Holy Spirit unto eternal life (Romans 8:11)?**

e. The False Gospels with a Fake Jesus (Jesus is not divine/100% God (Arianism), Jesus is not a real man/100% human (Gnosticism/Docetism), He is just a good moral teacher/just a prophet, not resurrected (Islam), Jesus is a god but also created being/Satan’s brother (Mormonism), Jesus is an angel the Archangel Michael (JWs), Jesus is the only God not part of a Trinity but but morphs between Father, Son, and Spirit (Modalists/Oneness Pentecostals), Jesus is only love, doesn’t judge or will never judge (Unitarians), Jesus won’t send anyone to Hell/Annihilationist (7th Day Adventists), Jesus was just a man/rebel leader and not the Messiah (Judaism), Jesus is a relic/statue to bow down, my genie/good luck charm (cross necklaces) to make me happy and give me what I want to (many Secularists who believe in God), Jesus is a co-redeemer/co-mediator with Mary who is sacrificed and eaten daily/weekly to forgive me so I can keep living the party life for myself like the rest of the world (many religious must not saved/Roman Catholics), Jesus is one of millions of Gods, reincarnated, or part of the light/example/force/karma of good (Hindus, Buddhists), and Jesus isn’t real/never existed/is a fairytale (Atheists, Agnostics) John the Apostle had much to say the implications of getting Jesus Identity correct as 100% God and man - **John 1:1-5, 1:14, 1:51, 3:13, 8:18-24,10:30-33,20:31-21:1, 1 John 2:22-23, 4:1-3, 4:15, 5:10-13. Ephesians 1:7-12, Col. 1:15, 2:9, Acts 9:22, Romans 8:34, 1 Cor. 12:3, and 15:1-4** also clear on Jesus not only being the Messiah but being God in human flesh. **Discuss why Jesus 100% deity and humanity is so important and the terrible implications of believing the lies that Jesus is not fully God or fully man?**

f. The False Gospel of WORKS where you earn or maintain your salvation by your own good deeds. (What you must DO vs what Jesus has already DONE—God’s Grace vs Man’s Performance). **Eph. 2:8-10, Phil. 3:3-9, Rom. 3:20-26, 4:2-5, 5:1, 9:12,32, Gal. 2:16, 3:8-12, 24**

III. Application:

Right now you may say you know Jesus, but on Judgment Day will Jesus say He knows you? (Mt. 7:22-27) 2 Cor. 5:15-21 (We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!)

Read 1 John 5:10-15...Do you have assurance of salvation? If so, why are you sure of your salvation? If not, how does the Bible say you can attain assurance of salvation? Is assurance of salvation clearly taught in the Bible? (Yes - all of 1 John is about assurance of salvation). Lastly, why is the security of the believer/not losing your salvation an important doctrine and where is that found in the Bible? (see article below from gotquestions.org)

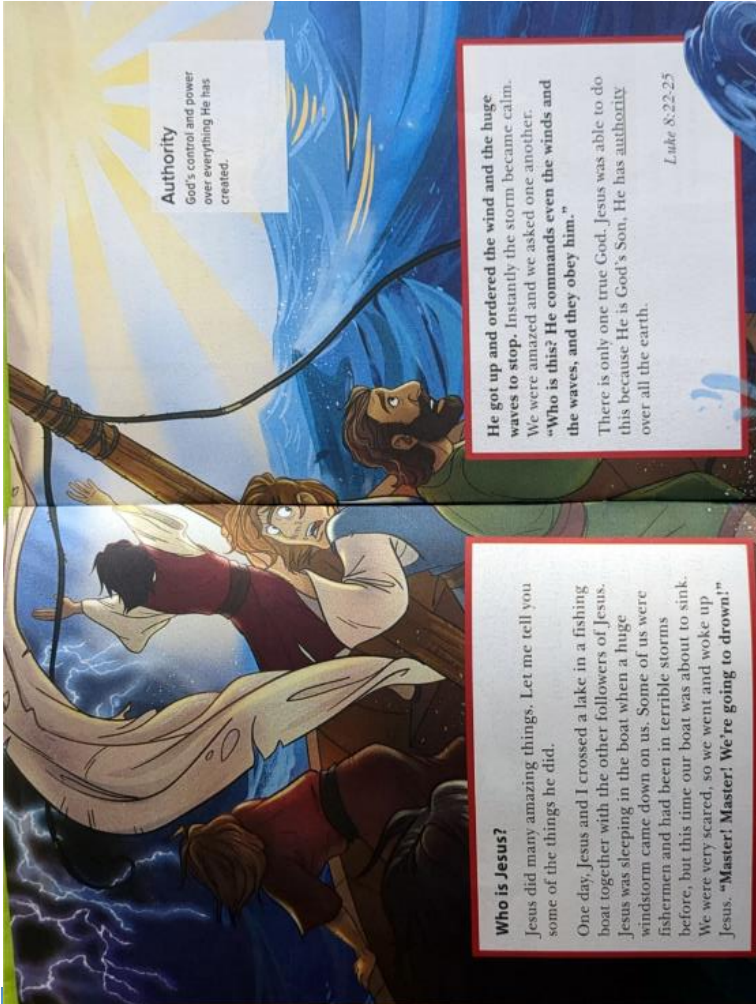
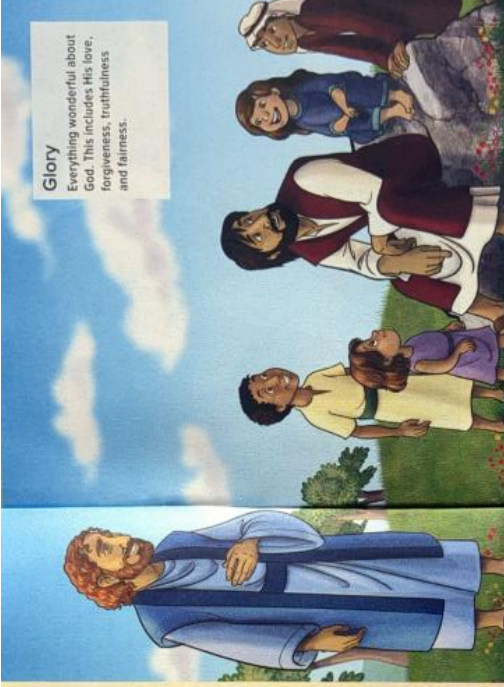
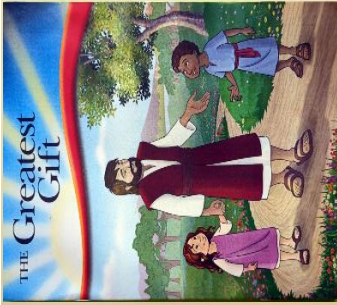
<https://www.gotquestions.org/assurance-salvation.html> The assurance of salvation is, simply put, knowing for sure that you are saved. Many Christians throughout history have written about their struggles in being assured of their salvation. The problem is that many followers of Jesus Christ look for the assurance of salvation in the wrong places. We tend to seek assurance of salvation in the things God is doing in our lives, in our spiritual growth, in the good works and obedience to God’s Word that is evident in our Christian walk. While these things can be [evidence of salvation](#), they are not what we should base the assurance of our salvation on. Rather, we should find the assurance of our salvation in the objective truth of God’s Word. We should have confident trust that we are saved based on the promises God has declared, not because of our subjective experiences.

How can you have assurance of salvation? Consider **1 John 5:11-13**: “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (emphasis added). Who is it that has the Son? It is those who have believed in Him ([John 1:12](#)). If you have Jesus, you have life. Not temporary life, but eternal. And, according to **1 John 5:13**, you can know that you have this eternal life.

God wants us to have assurance of our salvation. We should not live our Christian lives wondering and worrying each day whether we are truly saved. That is why the Bible makes the plan of salvation so clear. Believe in Jesus Christ (**John 3:16; Acts 16:31**). Do you believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins and rose again from the dead (**John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)? Do you trust Him alone for salvation? If your answer to these questions is “yes,” you are saved! Assurance means freedom from doubt. By taking God’s Word to heart, you can have no doubt about the reality of your eternal salvation.

Jesus Himself assures those who believe in Him: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand” (**John 10:28-29**). Eternal life is just that—eternal. There is no one, not even yourself, who can take Christ’s God-given gift of salvation away from you.

Take joy in what God’s Word is saying to you: instead of doubting, we can live with confidence! We can have the assurance from Christ’s own Word that our salvation will never be in question. Our assurance of salvation is based on the perfect and complete salvation God has provided for us through Jesus Christ. Are you trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? If the answer is “yes,” rest assured, you are saved. “The Greatest Gift” children’s gospel by Samaritan’s Purse <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/eternal-impact/>



Glory
Everything wonderful about God. This includes His love, forgiveness, truthfulness and fairness.

Grace
God's love, forgiveness and favor to people who do not deserve it and have not earned it.

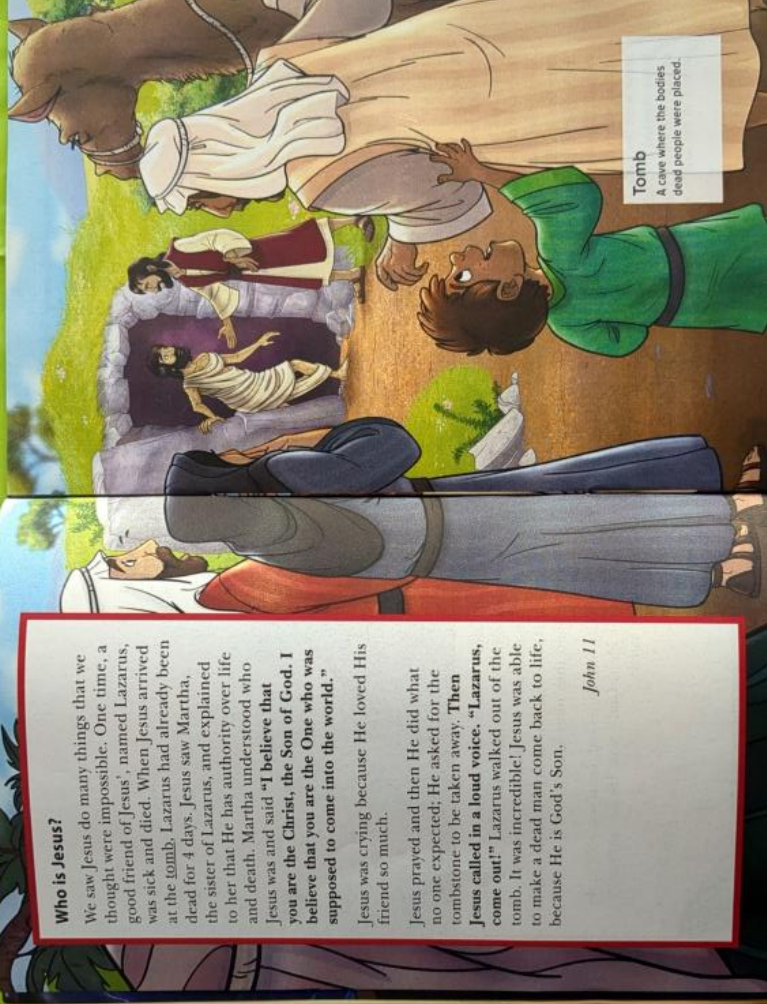
Authority
God's control and power over everything He has created.

Hello, My name is John. I would like to tell you about my closest friend. You may have good friends but this friend of mine is unlike any other person who ever lived. I got to know him very well. We did everything together. We ate, laughed, and cried together. I saw the things He did, and heard the things He taught, and I am certain that He is different from anyone else who has ever lived. These stories I will tell you are all completely true. They will show you that He is God's Son.

Who is Jesus?
Jesus did many amazing things. Let me tell you some of the things he did.
One day, Jesus and I crossed a lake in a fishing boat together with the other followers of Jesus. Jesus was sleeping in the boat when a huge windstorm came down on us. Some of us were fishermen and had been in terrible storms before, but this time our boat was about to sink. We were very scared, so we went and woke up Jesus. **"Master! Master! We're going to drown!"**

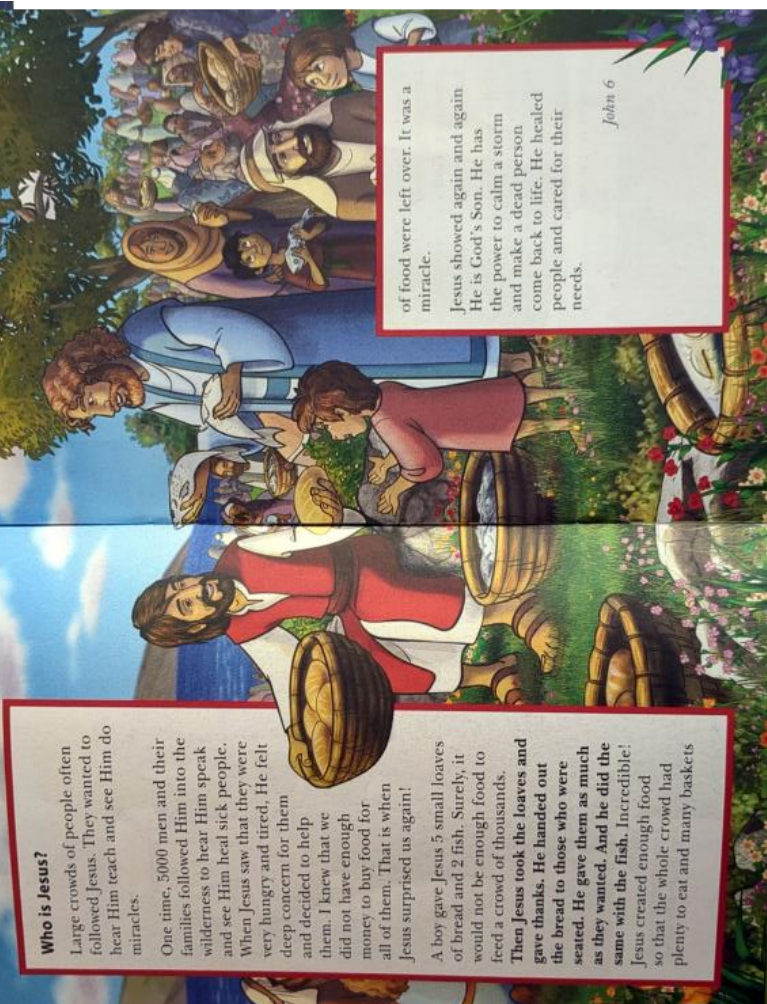
Jesus—God's Son
God sent His Son into the world as a human being. His name was Jesus. **He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son. He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth.**
Who is God's Son? It is my friend Jesus and I want to tell you about him. *John 1:14*

He got up and ordered the wind and the huge waves to stop. Instantly the storm became calm. We were amazed and we asked one another. **"Who is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him."**
There is only one true God, Jesus was able to do this because He is God's Son. He has authority over all the earth. *Luke 8:22-25*



Who is Jesus?
We saw Jesus do many things that we thought were impossible. One time, a good friend of Jesus, named Lazarus, was sick and died. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, Lazarus had already been dead for 4 days. Jesus saw Martha, the sister of Lazarus, and explained to her that He has authority over life and death. Martha understood who Jesus was and said **"I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. I believe that you are the One who was supposed to come into the world."**
Jesus was crying because He loved His friend so much.
Jesus prayed and then He did what no one expected; He asked for the tombstone to be taken away. **Then Jesus called in a loud voice. "Lazarus, come out!"** Lazarus walked out of the tomb. It was incredible! Jesus was able to make a dead man come back to life, because He is God's Son. *John 11*

Tomb
A cave where the bodies of dead people were placed.



Who is Jesus?
Large crowds of people often followed Jesus. They wanted to hear Him teach and see Him do miracles.
One time, 5000 men and their families followed Him into the wilderness to hear Him speak and see Him heal sick people. When Jesus saw that they were very hungry and tired, He felt deep concern for them and decided to help them. I knew that we did not have enough money to buy food for all of them. That is when Jesus surprised us again!
A boy gave Jesus 5 small loaves of bread and 2 fish. Surely, it would not be enough food to feed a crowd of thousands.
Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish. Incredible! Jesus created enough food so that the whole crowd had plenty to eat and many baskets

of food were left over. It was a miracle.
Jesus showed again and again He is God's Son. He has the power to calm a storm and make a dead person come back to life. He healed people and cared for their needs. *John 6*

God Created Everything Good

So who is Jesus? Why is He different from all other people?

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God promised to send someone to earth to rescue us. But why did He need to rescue us? Let us go back to the beginning and find out.

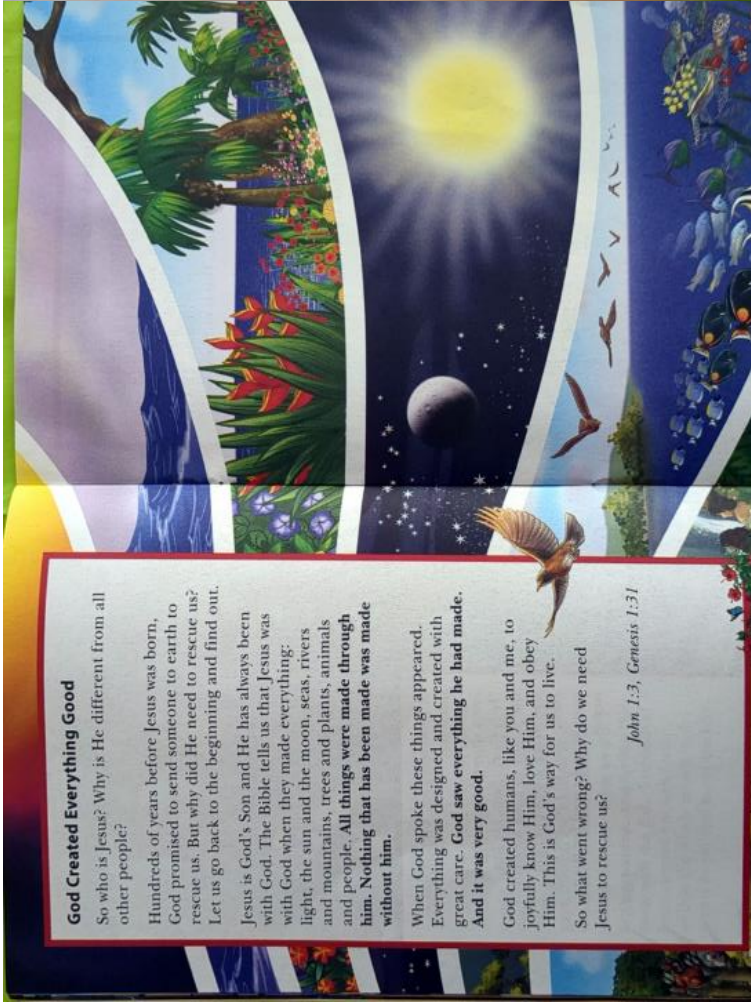
Jesus is God's Son and He has always been with God. The Bible tells us that Jesus was with God when they made everything: light, the sun and the moon, seas, rivers and mountains, trees and plants, animals and people. **All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him.**

When God spoke these things appeared. Everything was designed and created with great care. **God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.**

God created humans, like you and me, to joyfully know Him, love Him, and obey Him. This is God's way for us to live.

So what went wrong? Why do we need Jesus to rescue us?

John 1:3, Genesis 1:31



Sin is Our Biggest Problem

We all need to be rescued from sin. Sin is when we disobey God. Sin is when we don't live the way we were designed to live. You can see sin all around us. We tell lies and are selfish, greedy, and are hateful. The world has many problems. This is not what God first designed. This is not how God wants us to live.

Adam and Eve were the first people God created. They decided to disobey what God said. Each one of us continues to do wrong things. None of us follow God's ways completely. We tell lies and hurt others and then try to hide what we have done wrong.



God is so perfect and good that He cannot ignore our sin. Sin must be punished. The right punishment for sin is death and to be separated from God and everything good forever. This is called Hell. Sin is our biggest problem. We need someone to rescue us, because we cannot rescue ourselves!

Genesis 3
The good news is that **God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.**

1 John 1:9

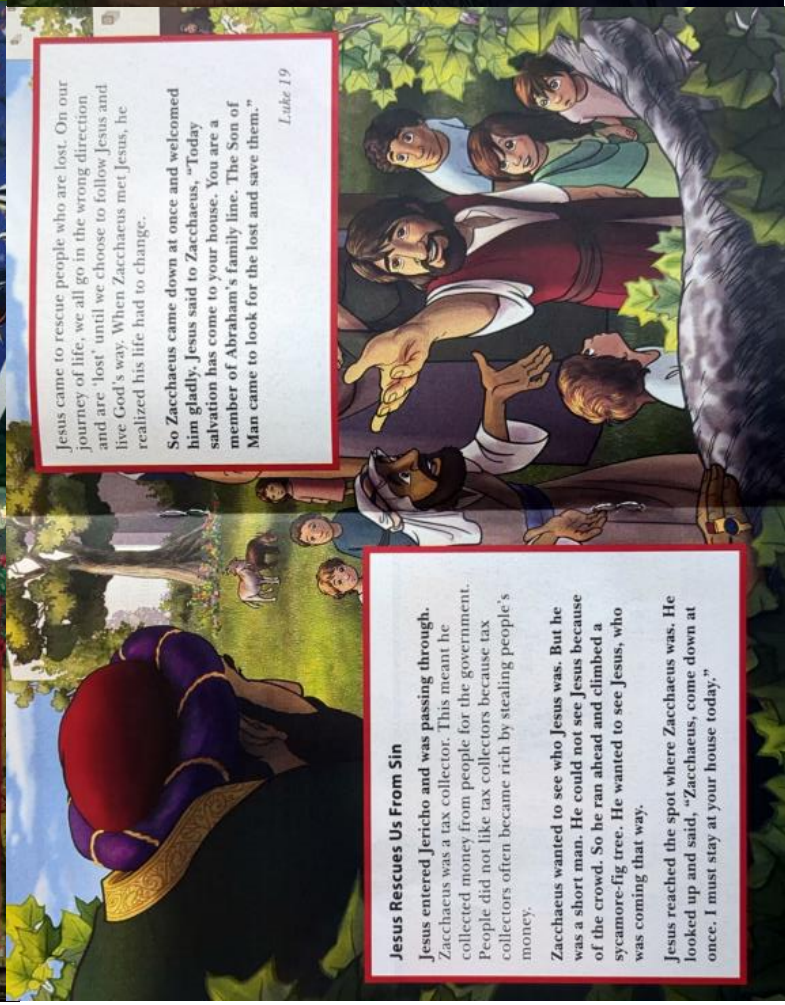


Sin is anything that we do, say or think that is against God.

Jesus came to rescue people who are lost. On our journey of life, we all go in the wrong direction and are 'lost' until we choose to follow Jesus and live God's way. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he realized his life had to change.

So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

Luke 19



Jesus Rescues Us From Sin

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. This meant he collected money from people for the government. People did not like tax collectors because tax collectors often became rich by stealing people's money.

Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.

Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today."

Jesus never sinned, not even once; He lived a perfect life. But every one of us has done wrong and sinful things. We deserve the punishment for our sin and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. We can never be good enough. We must be rescued and forgiven.

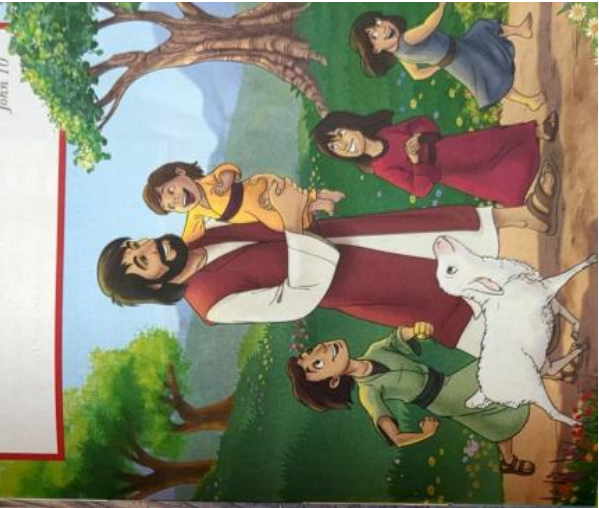
Jesus said He is like a shepherd and we are like sheep. Sheep are helpless animals. They wander off and become lost or get into danger. To make things worse, they cannot save themselves. They must be rescued by their shepherd who is wise and strong. God is much wiser and stronger than us. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."

John 10



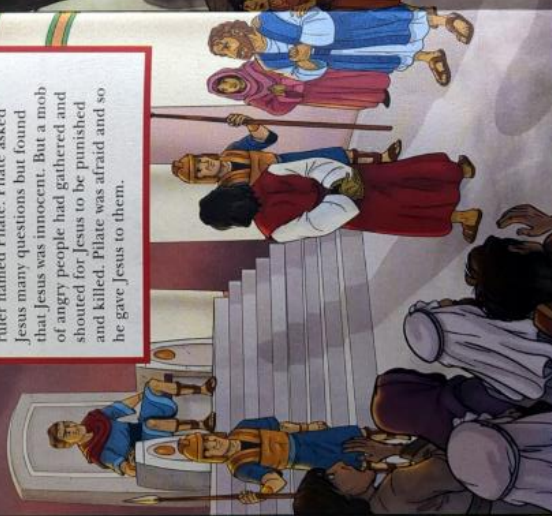
Jesus promised to rescue us by giving up His life for us. Like a shepherd, He would give His life to save us. He knew what He was doing. This was all a part of God's plan. Jesus said, "The reason my Father loves me is that I give up my life. No one takes it from me. I give it up myself."

John 10



Jesus Gives His Life

One night while we were praying in a garden, my friend Jesus was arrested. He was arrested by local and religious leaders who had become jealous of Him. They tied Jesus up and took Him to the local ruler named Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus many questions but found that Jesus was innocent. But a mob of angry people had gathered and shouted for Jesus to be punished and killed. Pilate was afraid and so he gave Jesus to them.



Cross

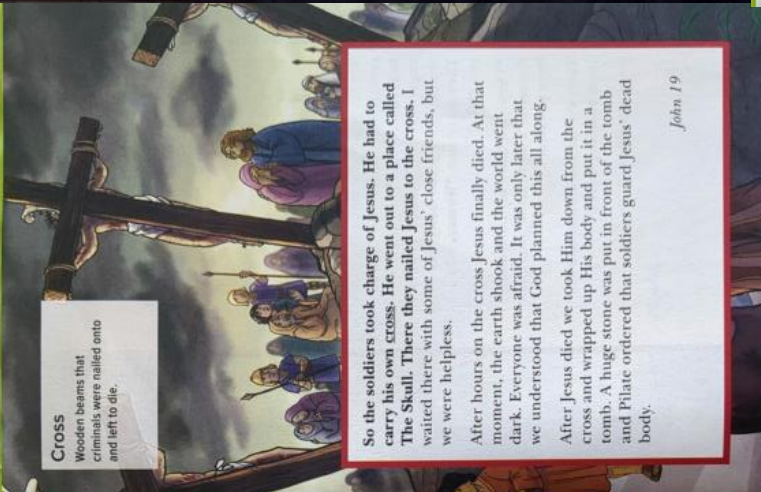
Wooden beams that criminals were nailed onto and left to die.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called The Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. I waited there with some of Jesus' close friends, but we were helpless.

After hours on the cross Jesus finally died. At that moment, the earth shook and the world went dark. Everyone was afraid. It was only later that we understood that God planned this all along.

After Jesus died we took Him down from the cross and wrapped up His body and put it in a tomb. A huge stone was put in front of the tomb and Pilate ordered that soldiers guard Jesus' dead body.

John 19



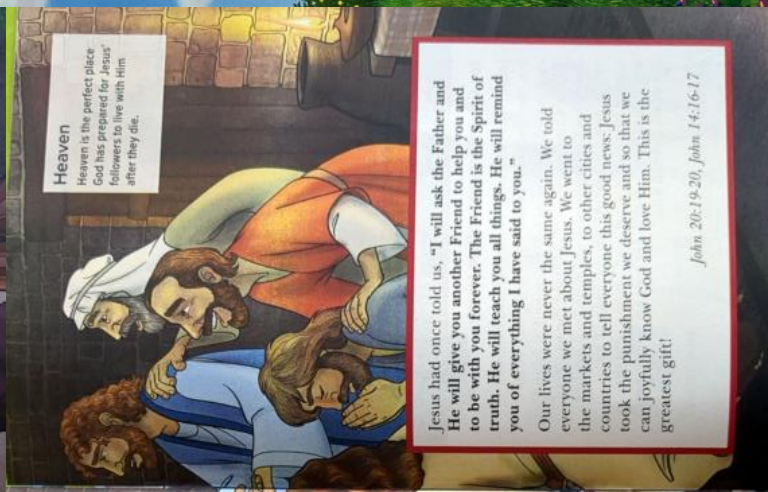
Heaven

Heaven is the perfect place God has prepared for Jesus' followers to live with Him after they die.

Jesus had once told us, "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Friend to help you and to be with you forever. The Friend is the Spirit of truth. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Our lives were never the same again. We told everyone we met about Jesus. We went to the markets and temples, to other cities and countries to tell everyone this good news; Jesus took the punishment we deserve and so that we can joyfully know God and love Him. This is the greatest gift!

John 20:19-20, John 14:16-17

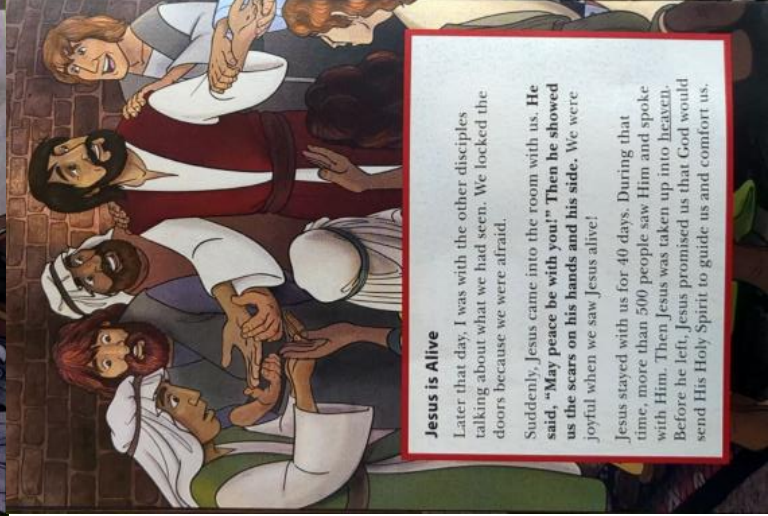


Jesus is Alive

Later that day, I was with the other disciples talking about what we had seen. We locked the doors because we were afraid.

Suddenly, Jesus came into the room with us. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed us the scars on his hands and his side. We were joyful when we saw Jesus alive!

Jesus stayed with us for 40 days. During that time, more than 500 people saw Him and spoke with Him. Then Jesus was taken up into heaven. Before he left, Jesus promised us that God would send His Holy Spirit to guide us and comfort us.



Jesus is Alive

All of us who followed Jesus were very sad. Jesus had been dead for three days. Early in the morning Mary Magdalene, who was a friend of Jesus, went to His tomb. When she arrived she saw that the huge stone had been rolled away. So she ran and told some of us what she saw. Two of us ran as fast as we could to the tomb and went inside. But Jesus' body was not there!

We were confused and went home wondering what had happened. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said. "I don't know where they have put him."

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there.

Jesus was alive!

John 20

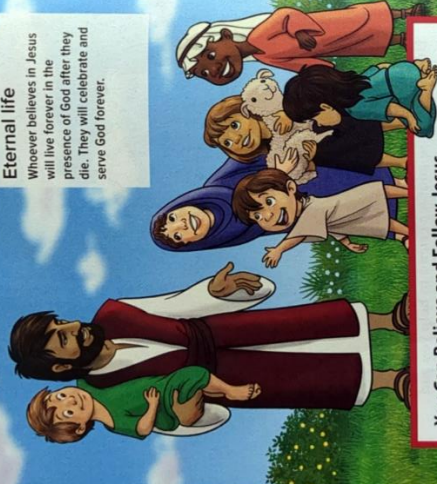


Lord

Jesus is called "Lord" to show that He deserves our obedience because He is God's Son.

Eternal life

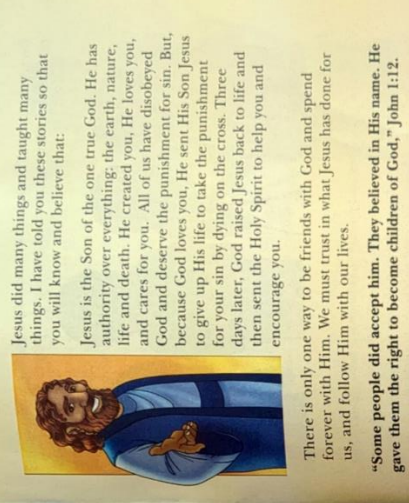
Whoever believes in Jesus will live forever in the presence of God after they die. They will celebrate and serve God forever.



You Can Believe and Follow Jesus

Jesus invites you to be His friend and follower. Yes, the God who created everything and rules over everything desires for you to be His friend. This is what Jesus said, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die, but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him."

John 3:16-17



Jesus did many things and taught many things. I have told you these stories so that you will know and believe that:

Jesus is the Son of the one true God. He has authority over everything: the earth, nature, life and death. He created you, He loves you, and cares for you. All of us have disobeyed God and deserve the punishment for sin. But, because God loves you, He sent His Son, Jesus to give up His life to take the punishment for your sin by dying on the cross. Three days later, God raised Jesus back to life and then sent the Holy Spirit to help you and encourage you.

There is only one way to be friends with God and spend forever with Him. We must trust in what Jesus has done for us, and follow Him with our lives.

"Some people did accept him. They believed in His name. He gave them the right to become children of God," John 1:12.

Do you want to be a friend and follower of Jesus? If you do, you can speak to Him right now by praying the prayer below:



Dear Jesus,
I want to be your friend and follower. I know that I have made wrong choices and have done sinful things. I'm sorry. I do not want to live that way anymore. Please forgive me and change me. Jesus, I believe in you. Please send your Holy Spirit to live in my heart. I believe God raised You back to life. Please fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit, so I will have all of the faith I need to trust and follow only You. Lord, thank you for rescuing me and making me yours.
Amen.

GIVING

Ways To Give

Give Online

Use this online giving form to tithe right here.

Give In Person

Sunday mornings are a great time to give. During offering all donations are collected.

Mail A Check

Checks & cash can be mailed in. Please mail to our church office location.

24404 Three Notch Rd.

Hollywood, MD 20636



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TBC General Giving ▾

FREQUENCY

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Enter a dollar amount to make a gift.

TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

Matthew 22:39 ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

Matthew 28:19-20 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

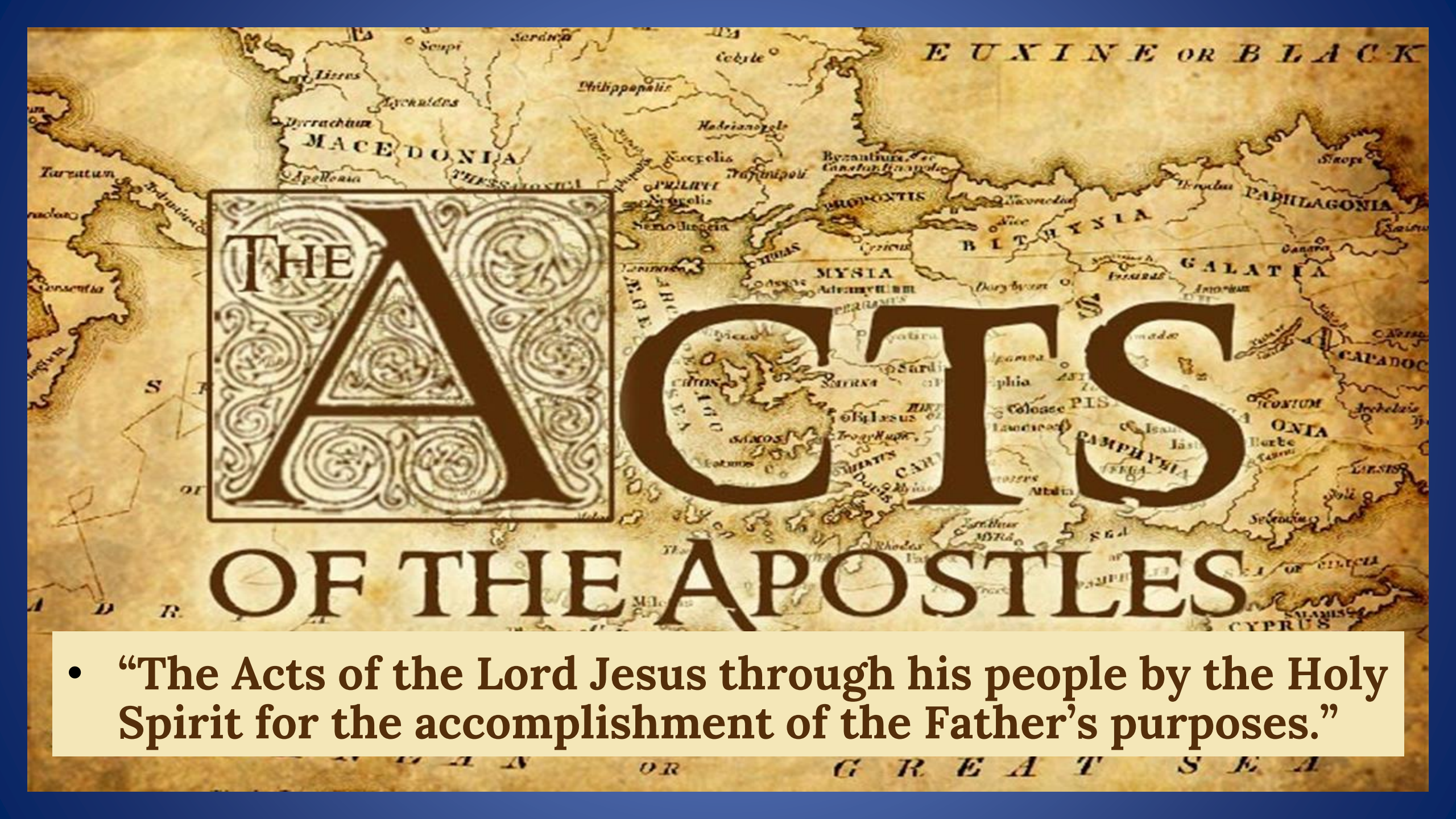
Romans 3:20–26

²⁰ ...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



Acts 2:36-47

³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Sermon Title:

“7 Foundations of a Biblical Church” (pt 2)

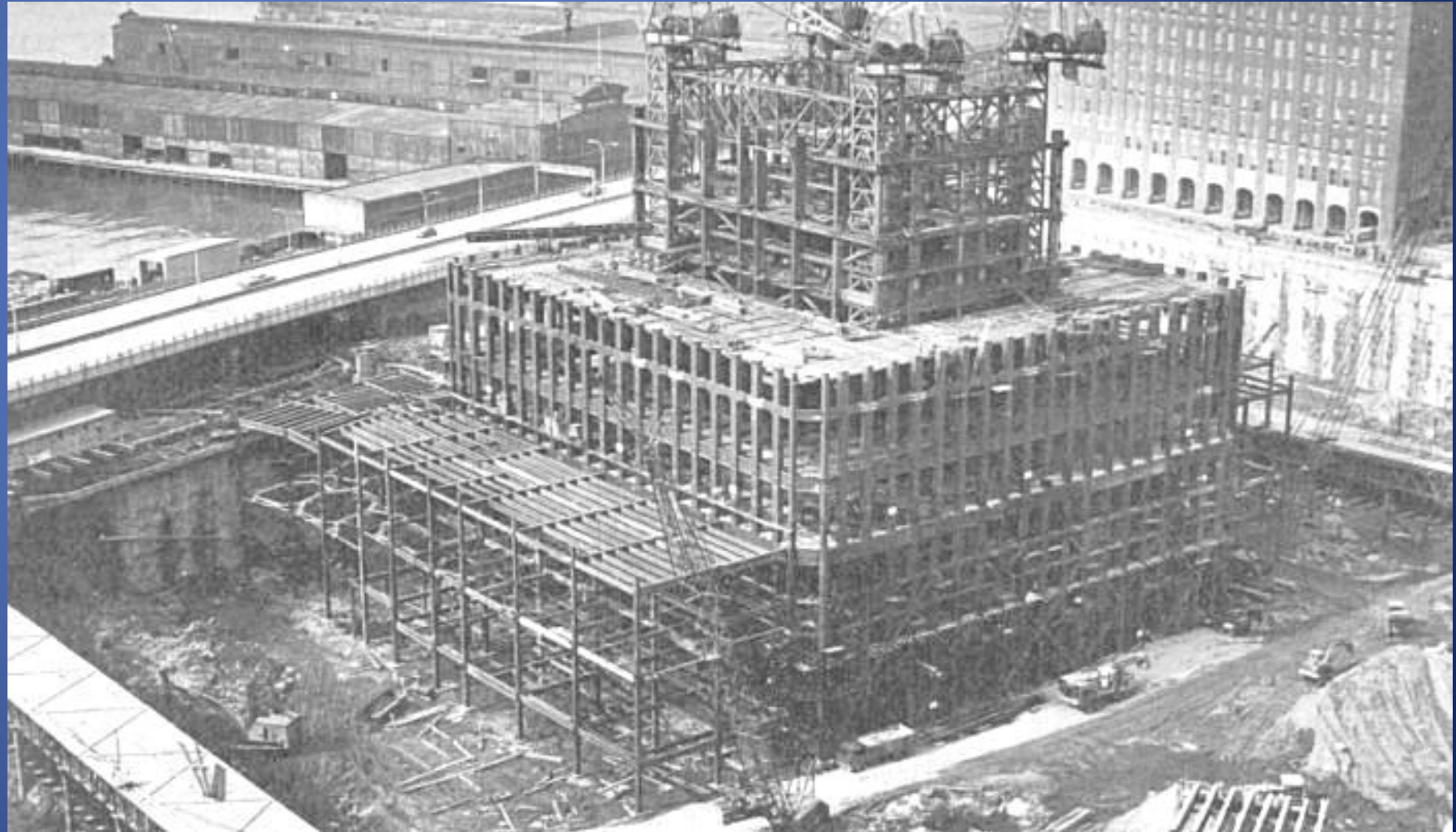
(The blueprint of Scripture for building God-honoring churches)

- TBC St. Mary's
August 17, 2008

- TBC Calvert
September 10, 2023

5 Foundational Passages
for the Launch of TBC Calvert:

- 1 Corinthians 3:4-15
- Colossians 1:9-18
- 2 Timothy 3:12-4:5
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- Acts 2:36-47
-



7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)
2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)
3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)
4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26)
5. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)
6. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)
7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching) (1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

Last week's Introduction

(that I forgot out of my excitement last week)

- Looking back to August 17, 2008 (the **past** 15 years of TBC)
- Looking at the **present** – today, September 10, 2023
(the CRAWL phase of the church plant of TBC Calvert) (Crawl, Walk, Run, PLANT!)
- Looking ahead (the **future** of Truth Bible Church)

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (What is Eternal / What Lasts)

Our Church must be:

- God Focused
- God Powered
- God Glorifying

because it's

1. **God's** growth
2. **God's** workers
3. **God's** field
4. **God's** building
5. **God's** grace

1 Corinthians 3:4-15 ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but **God was causing the growth.** ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but **God who causes the growth.** ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

2. The Foundation of God's Son (to have the supremacy in EVERYTHING)

Jesus is our...

- **Deliverer** (from the domain of darkness - slavery to Sin/Satan/Hell)
- **King** (Entrance into God's Eternal Kingdom)
- **Redeemer** (redemption - saved from God's wrath by His blood)
- **Savior** (Forgiveness of ALL sin)

Jesus is:

1. The **Image** of the Invisible God
2. **Preeminent one** of all creation (Unique one/preeminent)
3. The **Creator** of the Universe (all things created through Him and FOR Him)
4. **Sustainer** of Life (in Him all things hold together)
5. **Head** of the Church
6. **First one** from the dead (beginning – will raise us also)
7. **Worthy** of 1st Place/ Supremacy in EVERYTHING!

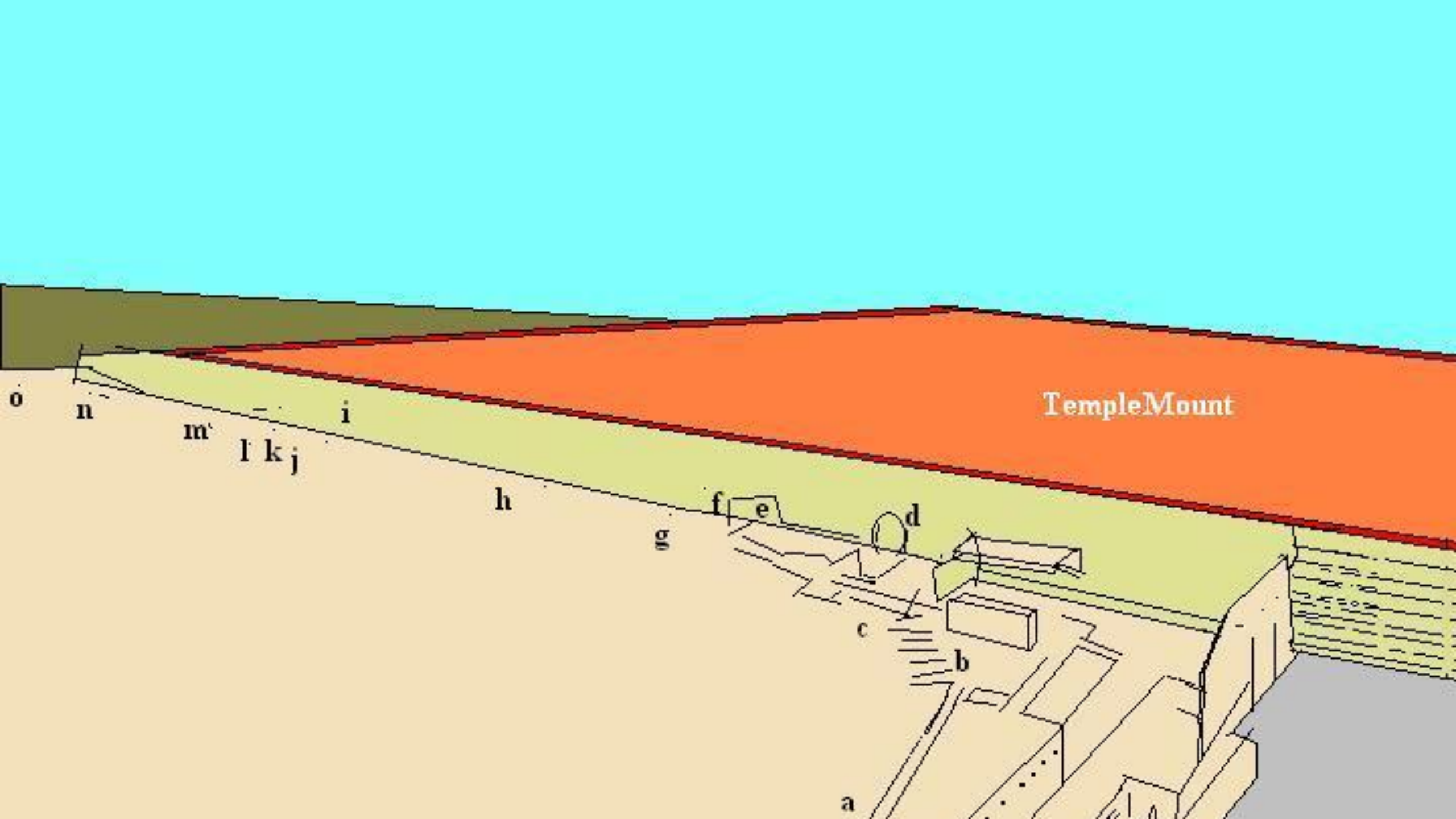
Colossians 1:13-18 ¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.





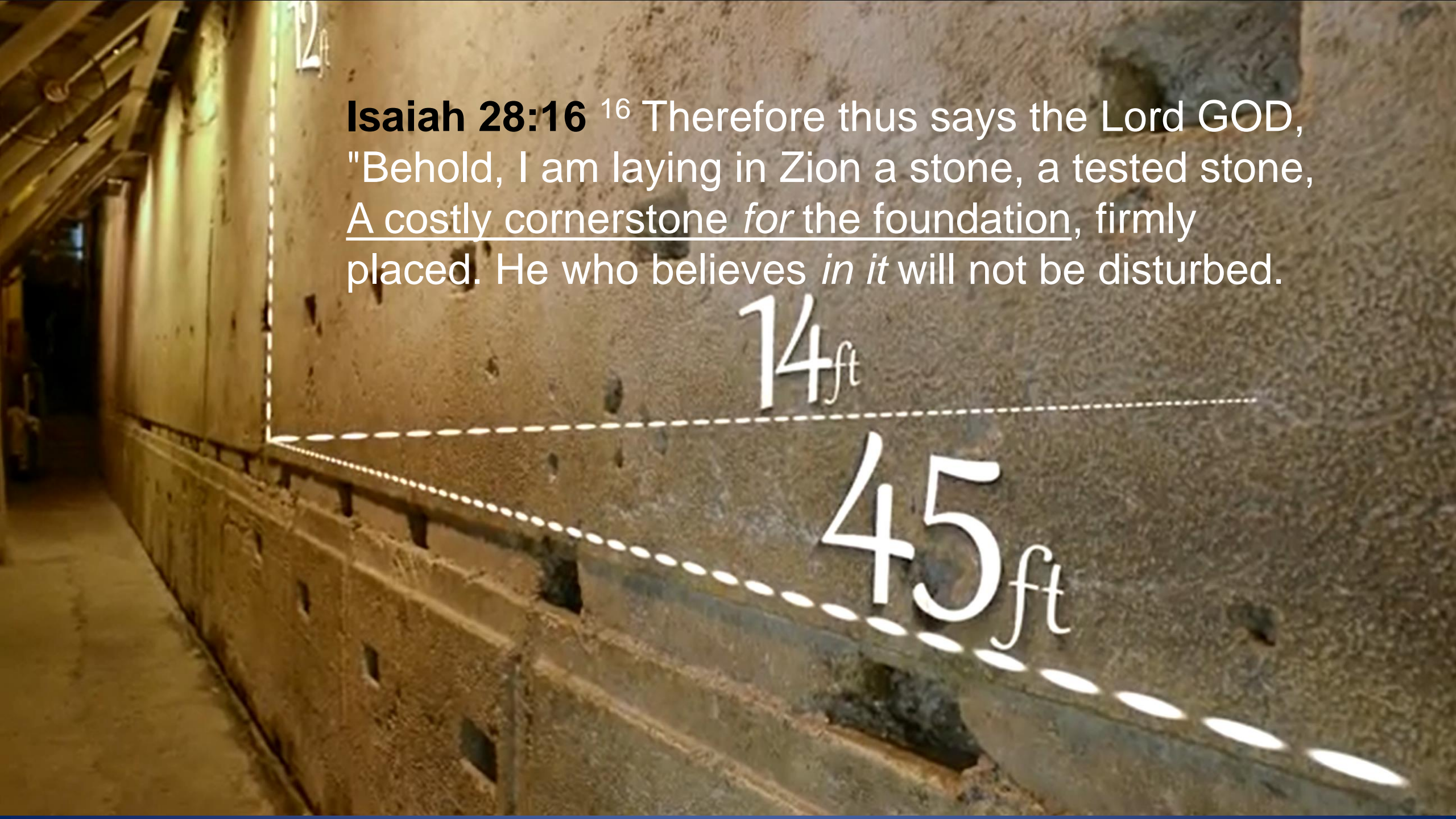








1 Peter 2:2-7 ² like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"



Isaiah 28:16 ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone,
A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly
placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed.

14ft

45ft

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (The Holy Spirit)

(Perspective, Power, and Perseverance through PRAYER)

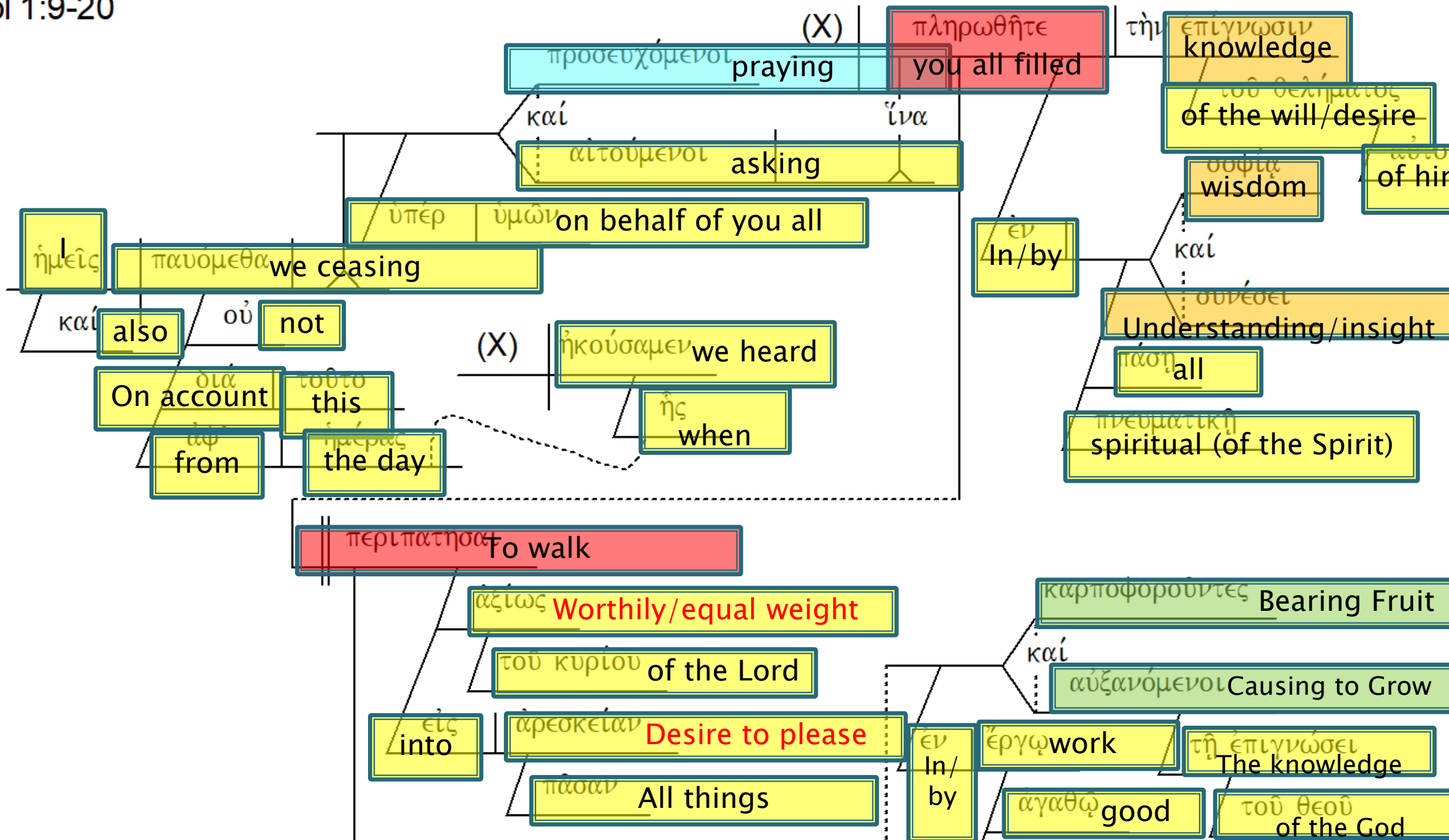
Our Church must be:

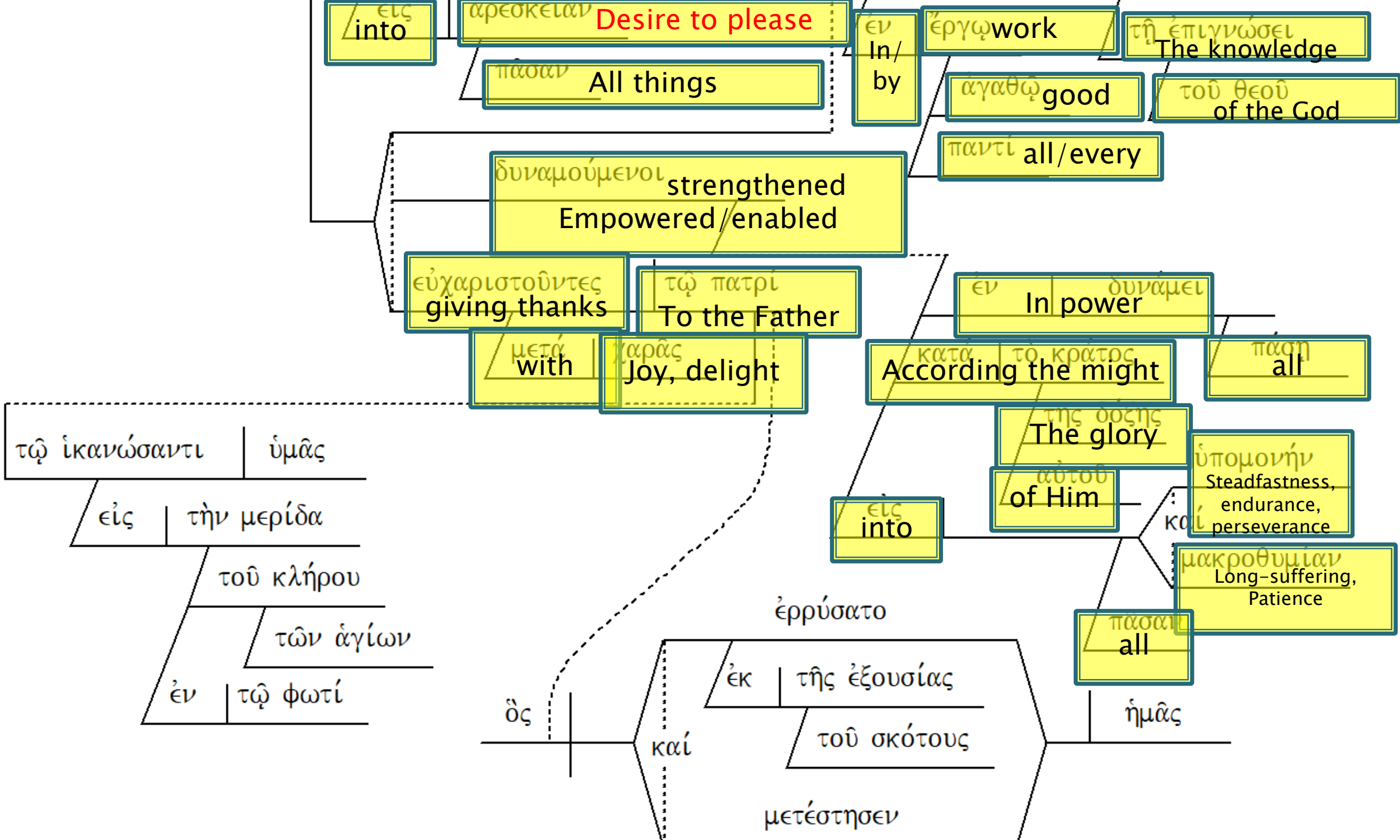
- Devoted to Prayer
(Ps. 62, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:17)
- Praying for each other constantly
(like Paul was praying unceasingly for the Colossians)

in order to be:

1. **Filled** (with God's knowledge, wisdom, understanding)
2. **Walk Worthy** of the Lord
 - a. **Pleasing** Him at all times/all ways
 - b. **Fruitful** in good works/increasing knowledge
 - c. **Strengthened** (all power, all steadfastness)
 - d. **Giving Thanks** to the Father (inheritance)

Colossians 1:9-12 ⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.





The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel

(The GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ's Perfect Life, Sacrificial Death, and Victorious Resurrection)

1. God's Plan for the Gospel – Relationship (LOVE)

John 3:16, 17:3, Hebrews 8:10-13 (purpose to know, love, serve, worship God forever)

2. Man's Problem that needs the Gospel – **SIN** (separation, death, Hell)

Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2

3. God's Provision of the Gospel – Jesus (Savior & LORD)

(Jesus' life, death, resurrection for

Imputed righteousness, total forgiveness, and eternal life)

Colossians 2:13-16, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

4. Man's Participation to receive the Gospel – Believing (trusting & relying)

(true belief involves repentance, faith, and **LORDSHIP**)

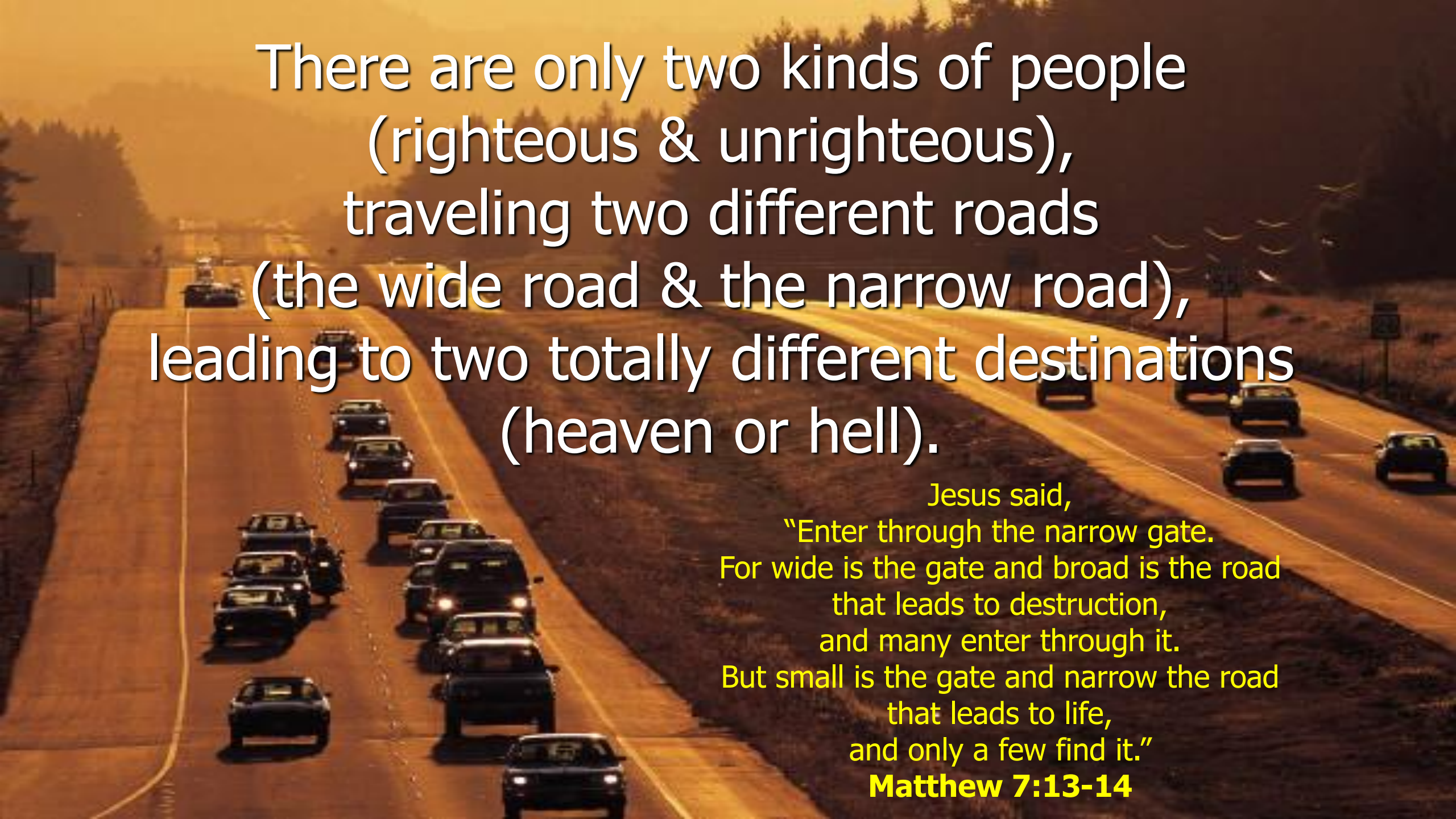
Acts 16:31, 17:30, Romans 10:9-13

5. God's Promise because of the Gospel – LIFE!

(New life now, Kingdom life soon, Heavenly life forever)

John 10:10, 2 Cor. 5:15-21, Col. 1:13, Rev. 21-22

Acts 2:22-36 (The Source of Salvation) ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵ "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. ²⁶ 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; ²⁷ BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. ²⁸ 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.' ²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

A photograph of a highway with a wide lane on the left and a narrow lane on the right. The wide lane is filled with many cars, while the narrow lane has only a few cars. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. The text is overlaid on the image.

There are only two kinds of people
(righteous & unrighteous),
traveling two different roads
(the wide road & the narrow road),
leading to two totally different destinations
(heaven or hell).

Jesus said,
"Enter through the narrow gate.
For wide is the gate and broad is the road
that leads to destruction,
and many enter through it.
But small is the gate and narrow the road
that leads to life,
and only a few find it."
Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus is the answer you're looking for!

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to God except through me"

Jesus said "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

God's Plan: Relationship

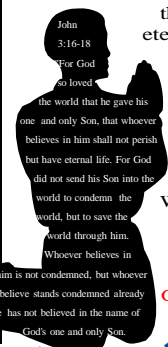
is to love God by knowing, serving, and worshipping God with sincere hearts that enjoy life with Him and his creation forever

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. *Deuteronomy 6:5* Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. *John 17:3* "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods... and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only. *1 Samuel 7:3* God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit & in truth. *John 4:24* Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' " *Luke 4:8* So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." *Genesis 1:27-28* "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." *Jeremiah 29:11-13*

Man's Problem: Sin

is rebellion against God, his laws, & his plan. Sin brings separation, death, and future punishment

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. *Isaiah 59:2* For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *Romans 3:23* "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. *Romans 3:10-12* For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23* Jesus said, "Then they [the wicked] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." *Matthew 25:46* In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of



those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. *Jude 1:7* If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:14* Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." *Jn 3:36*

God's Solution: Jesus

lived, died, & rose again to restore relationship with God & man. His perfect life met God's requirement for eternal life. His death met God's requirement of punishment for man's sins. His resurrection proved that God's requirement of death for sin was broken for those who believe and that He is who he claimed to be: The Son of God who offers the only way to eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and relationship with God.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. *1 Peter 3:18* For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. *1 Corinthians 15:3-4* For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. *Hebrews 9:15* The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 1:2-4* Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" *John 11:25-26* Jesus said he "came to seek and to save what was lost" *Luke 19:10* "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" *Matthew 1:21* Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. *Acts 4:12*

Man's Response: Follow

Jesus by a promise (covenant) that gives total surrender of your life and actions to His control & will.

This requires: 1. Repentance – turning from your sins, and 2. Faith – believing, trusting, & obeying Jesus as your Lord (Master/living God) & Savior (the only solution for sin & death)

Jesus said "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? *Mark 16:34-36* Jesus: "Come, follow me." *Matt. 4:19* Whoever serves me must follow me. *Jn 12:26* Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish." *Luke 13:3* Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" *Mark 1:14b-15* Paul: "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus." *Acts 20:21* Paul: "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." *Acts 26:20* Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:38* For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. *Eph 2:8-9* For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame..." the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *Romans 10:9-13*

God's Promise: LIFE

to the fullest potential is living for God and his purpose for your life now and having assurance of eternal life in heaven later. God promises to forgive, mark/indwell, and empower with the Holy Spirit those who truly repent and follow Jesus by faith. The presence of the Holy Spirit provides understanding of truth, power to resist sin, and assurance of eternal life (heaven).

Jesus: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." *John 10:10* "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." *1 John 5:11-12* We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. *1 John 2:3* His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. *2 Peter 1:3-4*

Promises of God:

- 1. Forgiveness of all your sins *Colossians 2:13, 1 John 1:7, Rom. 3:24-26*
- 2. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit *Acts 1:8, 1 John 4:4, 1 Cor. 6:19*
- 3. Adoption as one belonging to Him *John 1:12, 1 Peter 2:9-10*
- 4. New Life NOW (peace, joy, & purpose) *2 Cor. 5:17, Romans 6:4, Eph 4:20-24*
- 5. Eternal Life Later (heaven) *John 3:16, 10:28, Romans 6:22, 1 John 5:13* Today is the day of salvation *(2 Cor. 6:2)* – tomorrow is not guaranteed - will you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior? How? Simplicity (ABC) and Sincerity – pray to God and ... Admit you're a sinner & need Him in your life to guide & give you purpose Believe by faith that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God - your solution for sin & hope in the future Confess & Commit – repent of your sins and commit to live your life for Him instead of yourself *(2 Cor. 5:15)*

How do I receive Jesus into my life as the solution for my sins? Jesus said "Repent and believe the good news"

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



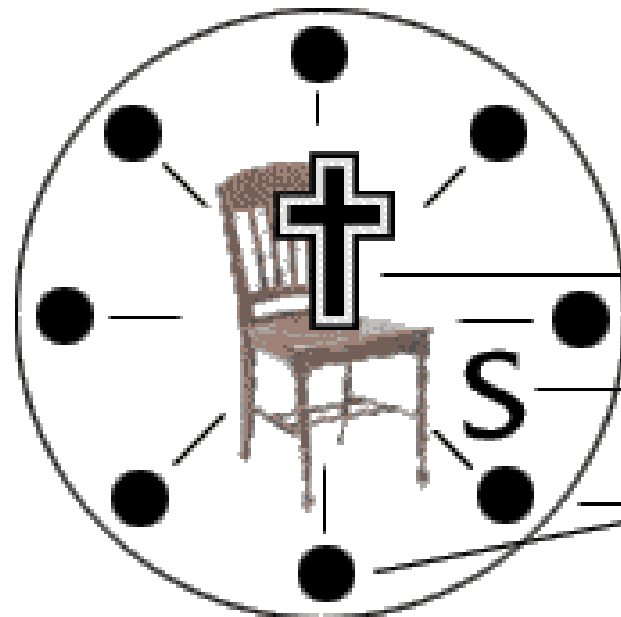
SELF is on the throne

Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord, frustration



Christ is outside the life

THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE



CHRIST is on the throne

Self is yielding to Christ

Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel

(The Good News of Jesus Christ's Perfect Life, Sacrificial Death, and Victorious Resurrection)

Romans 10:9-13 ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Acts 2:38-42 (The Response to Salvation)

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Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The Gospel/Good News is Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection

Jesus' **PERFECT LIFE** = Imputed **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- Matthew 5:17-18, 1 John 3:51, Peter 2:21-22, Hebrews 4:15, 7:26-28
Romans 8:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Jesus' **SACRIFICIAL DEATH** = Total **FORGIVENESS**

- Matthew 9:5-7, 26:26-28, Mark 2:7,10, Luke 24:47, Colossians 2:13-14, Acts 2:38, 10:43, 13:38-39, 26:17-18, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:22-28, Romans 5:8-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, Isaiah 53:4-5

Jesus' **VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION** = Eternal **LIFE**

- John 1:1-31, 2:25, 11:25-26, 3:15-16, 3:36, 5:24, 6:40, 6:47, 10:27-30, 17:2-3, Acts 13:48, Romans 5:10-11, 5:21, 8:11, 5:17, 6:22-23, 1 Timothy 1:16, Titus 3:5-71, 1 John 5:11-13, 5:20

True Belief requires and includes the heart attitudes of Repentance, Faith, and Lordship

REPENTANCE - Leave (sin, self, Satan) willingness to turn from sin

- **Mark 1:15-17** "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶ As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
- **Luke 18:13-14** ¹³ "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' ¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- **Luke 24:46-48** "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ "You are witnesses of these things.
- **John 8:11-12** And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more." ¹² Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."
- **Ephesians 4:17-24** ¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- **Colossians 3:5-11** ⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-- ¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

FAITH - Lean (rely, trust, depend) salvation through faith

- Romans 3:22 *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe;
- Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Philippians 3:8-9 the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

LORDSHIP - Lord (learn, live, love)

- **Romans 10:9-13** ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

To receive the gospel you must repent and believe the good news by faith – trusting and willing to follow and worship Jesus as your personal Savior and LORD!

Are you willing to Learn from Jesus? (knowledge, understanding, wisdom)

- **John 5:24** ²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
- **John 8:51** ⁵¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death."
- **John 14:23-26** ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- **James 1:21-22** ²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- **Acts 10:34-36** "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. ³⁶ "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)–
- **2 Peter 3:17-18** ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Are you willing to Live for Jesus? (follow, obey, apply)

- **John 14:15-21** ¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶ "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."
- **Luke 6:46-49** ⁴⁶ "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ "But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."
- **Matthew 7:22-28** ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-- and great was its fall." ²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
- **1 John 2:3-6** ³ By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Are you willing to Love like Jesus? (worship, glorify, exalt)

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

The Bible Warns About **False** Gospels, **Fraudulent** works of the Holy Spirit, and **Fake** Versions of Jesus

- **2 Corinthians 11:4** ⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.
- **Galatians 1:6-9** ⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

1. The False Gospel of NO REPENTANCE

(no sorrow, brokenness, contrition, confession of sin, no willingness to leave your life of sin/slavery to sin)

Jesus said in **Mark 1:15** ¹⁵ "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

- **Repent** (μετανοέω *metanoëo*: to change one's mind or *purpose*)
 - From μετά *meta* (to change): *with, among, after*
 - AND νοέω *noëo*: to perceive, think (mind, heart, inner will)
- **Believe** (πιστεύω *pisteuo*: to believe, entrust)
 - From πίστις *pistis*: faith, faithfulness
 - Root: πείθω *peitho*: to persuade, to have confidence
- **Good News** (εὐαγγέλιον *euaggelion*: good news)
 - From ευ *eu*: well / εϋς *eus* (good)
 - AND ἄγγελος *aggelos*: a messenger, angel
- **Luke 18:13-14, 24:47, Acts 2:38, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20, 2 Corinthians 7:8-11**

2. The False Gospel with NO Lordship

(no willingness to obey, follow, worship Jesus as Lord/master/owner/boss)

Jesus said in **Luke 6:46-49** ⁴⁶ "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" ⁴⁷ "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ "But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

Also Matthew 7:21-27 ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'" ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'" ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-- and great was its fall."

- Matthew 10:37, Mark 8:34-38, Luke 14:26-35, John 12:25, Romans 6:16-18, ***10:9-13

3. The False Gospel with Easy Believism/ Cheap Grace (belief is only intellectual assent not trusting, relying, or depending)

- **James 2:19-26** ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ...²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God. ... ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- **Matthew 15:8-9** ⁸ " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"
- Isaiah 29:13, Romans 6:1-18, Titus 1:16, 1 John 2:3-6, 2 Timothy 2:19,

4. False Gospel without change/holy living by the Holy Spirit (or gospel without put offs, put ons) (gospel without old life gone, new life come) gospel without the indwelling Holy Spirit.

- **2 Corinthians 5:15-21** ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:22-32, John 14-17, Romans 8:5-14, 1 John 1:5-2:6, Col. 3:1-17**

5. False Gospel with a Fake Jesus – Jesus is not divine/100% God, Jesus is not a real man/100% human, He is just a good moral teacher, just a prophet, Jesus is a created being, Jesus is only love, never judges, is here to make me happy and give me what I want (vs promote His own glory)

- **John 1:1-5, 1:14, 1:51, 3:13, 8:18-24, 10:30-33, 20:31-21:1, 1 John 2:22-23, 4:1-3, 4:15**
- **1 John 4:2-3** ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- **1 John 5:10-13** ¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.
- **John 5:1-5** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, ... ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
- **Ephesians 1:7-12, Colossians 1:15, 2:9, Acts 9:22, Romans 8:34, 1 Cor. 12:3, 15:1-4**

6. False Gospel of WORKS where you earn or maintain your salvation by your own good deeds. (What you must DO vs what Jesus has already DONE – God's Grace vs Man's Performance)

- **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- **Philippians 3:3-9** we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. ⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
- **Romans 3:20-26, 4:2-5, 5:1, 9:12,32, Galatians 2:16, 3:8-12, 24**

SO WHAT?

Application



2 Corinthians 5:17-21 ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:
Next Week (Pt. 3):

- 5. The Foundation of God's Church (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:1-16)
- 6. The Foundation of God's Word (2 Timothy 3:10-17)
- 7. The Foundation of God's Shepherd's (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

5. The Foundation of God's Church

(The Good News of Jesus Christ's Perfect Life, Sacrificial Death, and Victorious Resurrection)

Notice the 4 main things the early church was DEVOTED to:

1. The Apostles **Teaching** (Bible Study – Learning New Testament Doctrine)
2. **Fellowship** (Practicing and Enjoying the “One Anothers”)
3. **Communion** - The Breaking of Bread (The Lord's Supper)
4. **Prayer**

The Outcome of this: (5 S's)

1. **Sense** of awe of what God was doing
2. **Sacrifice** (selling and sharing their possessions to meet each other's needs)
3. **Steadfastness** – day by day with One Passion (one mind)
4. **Sincerity** of heart – house to house, meals together
5. **Salvation** – the Lord was adding to their number day by day new converts

Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The “One Another” Passages The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word allelon which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to allelon, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of allelon.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16x)

Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)

Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)

Greet one another (Romans 16:16)

Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)

Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)

Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)

Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)

Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)

Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)

Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)

Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)

Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)

Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)

Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)

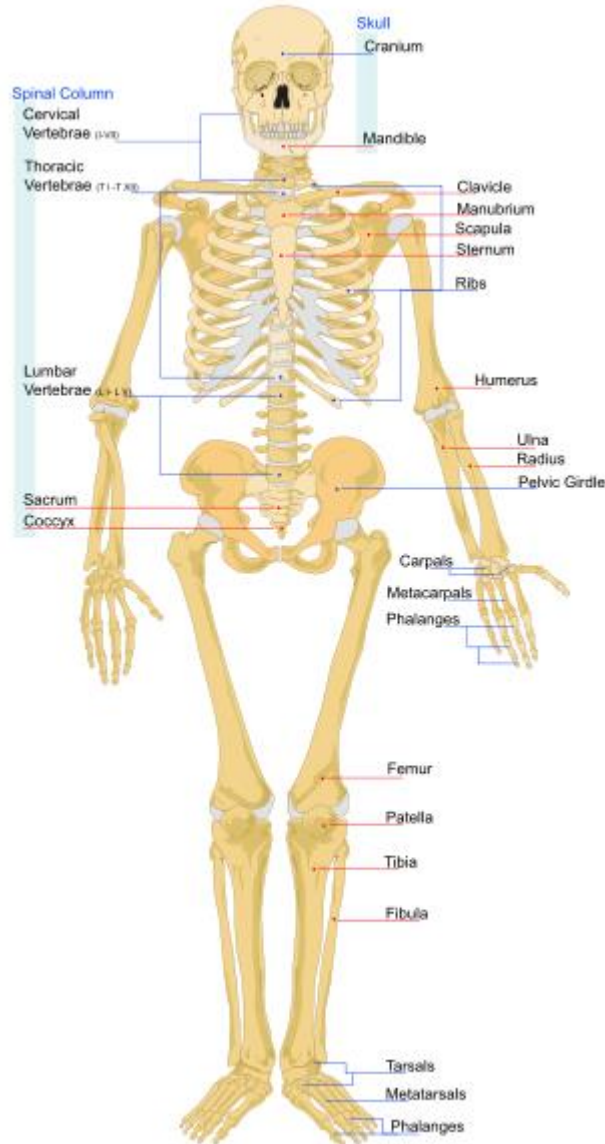
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

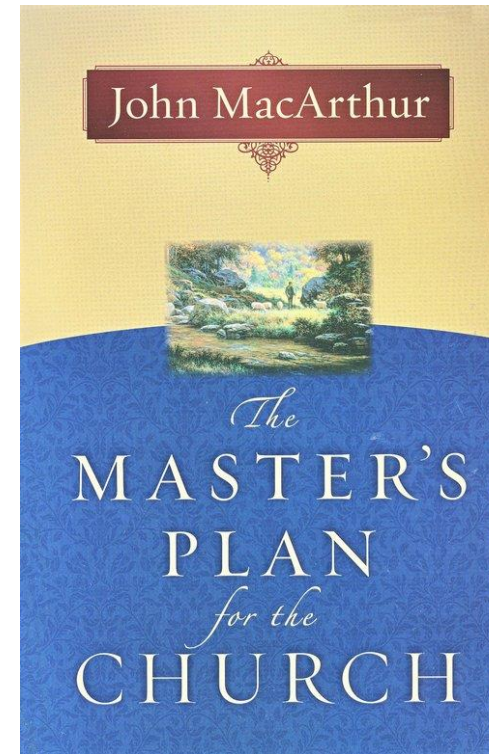
The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

(based on John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")



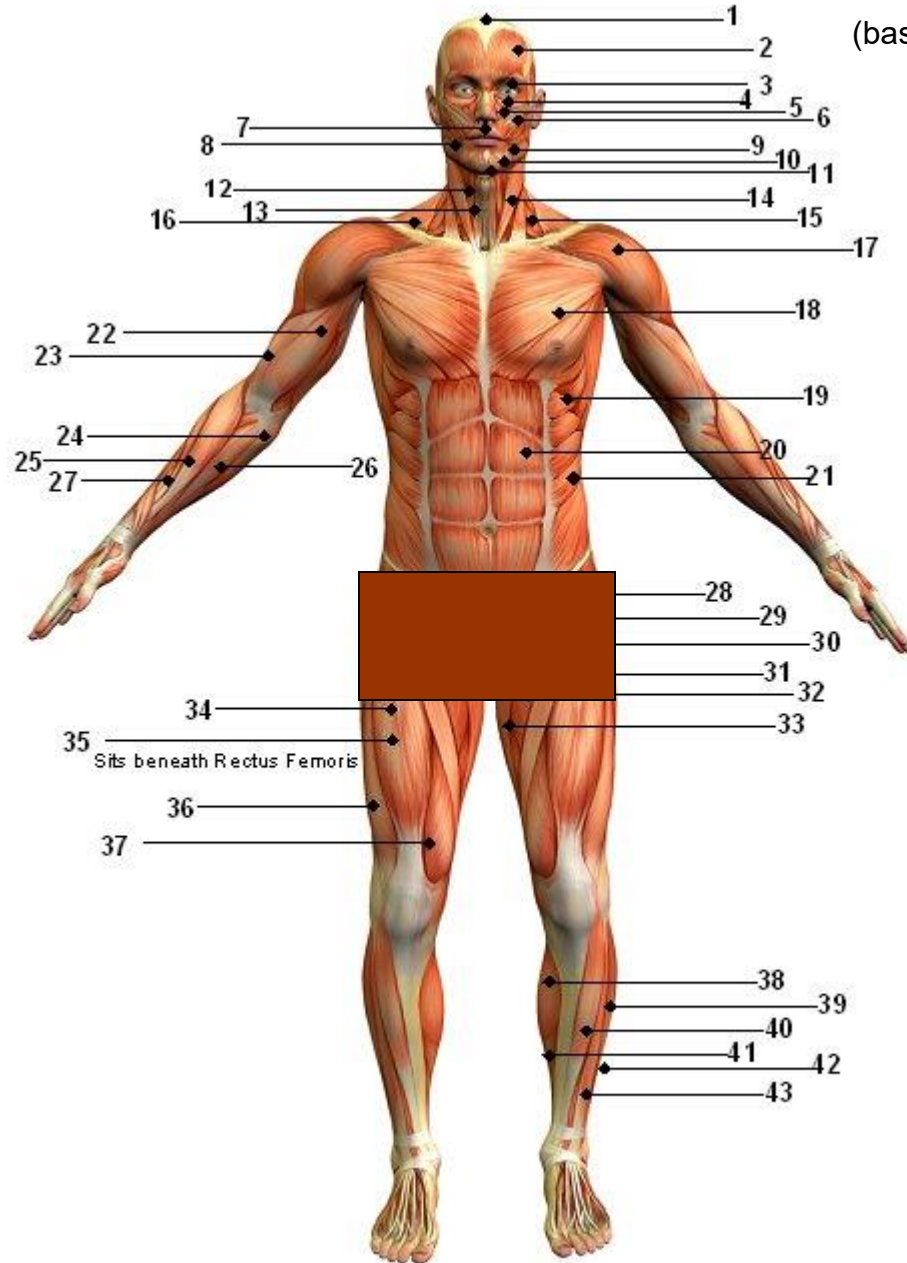
The Skeletal Structure

- A High View of God
- A High View of Scripture
- Sound Doctrine
- Personal Holiness
- Spiritual Authority



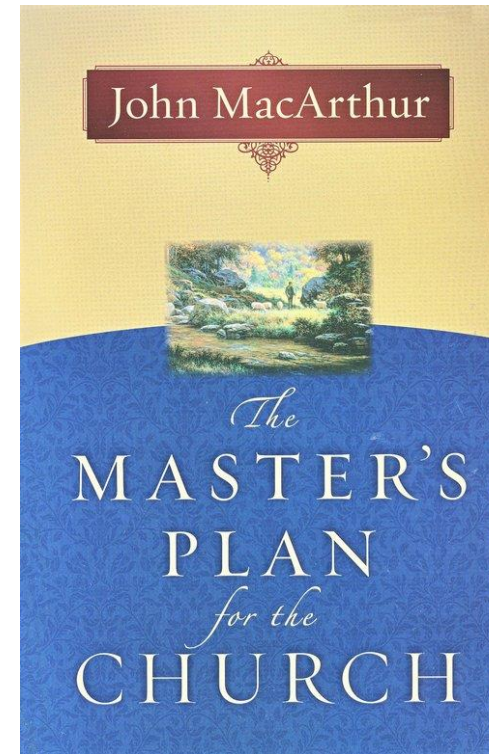
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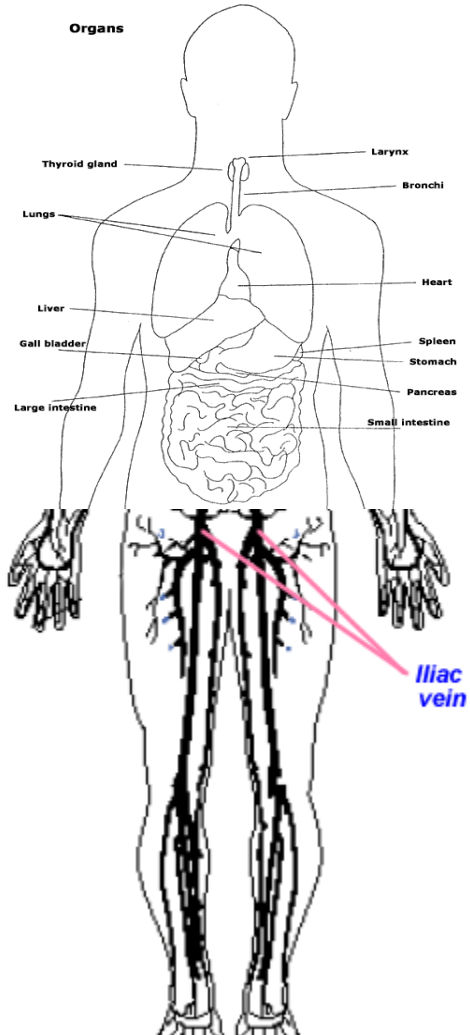
The Muscles

- Preaching/Teaching
- Evangelism/Missions
- Worship
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Shepherding
- Building Up Families
- Training
- Giving
- Fellowship



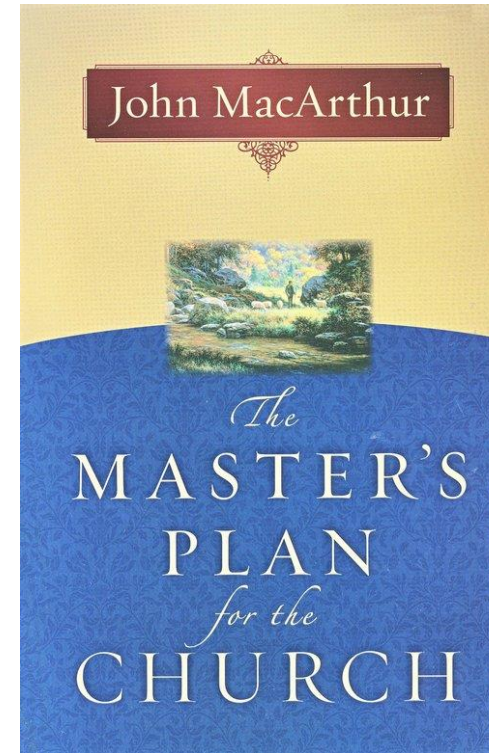
The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

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The Internal Systems

- Obedience
- Humility
- Love
- Unity
- Willingness to Serve
- Joy
- Peace
- Thankfulness
- Self-Discipline
- Accountability
- Forgiveness
- Dependence
- Flexibility
- Desire for Growth
- Faithfulness
- Hope



The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

(based on John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")

The Head



- Jesus Christ our Savior
- Jesus Christ our Shepherd
- Jesus Christ our Sovereign
- Jesus Christ our Sanctifier

Why did God establish the church?

(Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)

(Ephesians = Ecclesiology (study of the church))

- God's Purpose for the Church – to be the pillar and support of the truth/gospel (1 Tim. 3:15)
- God's Plan/Will for the church – to be holy & blameless before Him in love (Eph. 1:4, 1 Tim 3:15)
- God's Mission for the church (5 E's)
 1. **Equip** /disciple His followers to **MATURITY** - towards EVERY GOOD WORK (Eph. 2:10, 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:17, Heb. 13:21)
 2. **Evangelize** the unbeliever to become true worshippers (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
 3. **Exclaim** /make known the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10)
 4. **Evaluate** /Judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3).
 5. **Exonerate** /glorify God (Eph. 3:21)
- God's Future for the church – Rapture/Kingdom/Heaven
(John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:51-59)

Is church optional or essential?

- **God Commanded us to be faithful to a local church in Hebrews 10:23-25**
²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- **Those who truly belong to Christ belong to His church – His body** (1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15)
- **The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5, Rev. 19)**
What about those who claim to be believers but don't go to church?
- **A Sign of unbelief is leaving the fellowship of believers altogether (1 John 2:19)**
- **The H.S. guides us into truth and obedience,** – which will always lead towards (not away from) the preaching and teaching Biblical churches, including the practice of all the "one Anothers" commands (1 Tim. 4:12, John 21:15-17, Titus 2:15, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Acts 20:28)

Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Baptism *Identification*

Therefore
go and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of
the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you

Obedience
Sanctification

Make disciples of all nations

Gospel
Justification

I am with you always - to the end of the age

Kingdom *Glorification*

The CHURCH is ESSENTIAL

Why is church so important?

- God knows we are weak by ourselves, but strong together (**Ecc. 4:9-10**). He has commanded us to meet each others needs (Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 John 3:17), bear each others burdens (**Gal. 6:2, Col. 3:13**), spur/encourage each other on towards love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11**), serve one another (**Gal. 5:13**), and to pray for on another (**James 5:16, Eph. 6:18**).
- Satan usually tempts and deceives us in isolation (Matthew 4) and vehemently sows deception (**John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14, 2 Thes. 2:9-10, Rev. 12:9-10**) disunity (**James 3:13-16**), and discouragement (**Mt. 13:39**) within the church because he is like a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- It is God's will that everyone be protected through submission to spiritual leadership (**Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23**)

CONCLUSION:

The church is the bride of Christ and part of God's authority structure, body of fellowship, and mouthpiece of the gospel designed to give God glory. Through the church God nourishes us towards optimum spiritual health, protects us, and prepares us to enjoy eternity with him. God designed the church to be a body that truly loves and serves one another like he served and loved us so that we might have a healthy relationship with Him and one another. Thus, the body of Christ is the means for us to enjoy God's provision, protection, and proficiency of God's family and chain of command.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

6. The Foundation of God's Word

(The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil)

Out of truth/doctrine flows life – what we believe directs and determines how we live.

Example of Paul: his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and perseverance outflowed from His faith and knowledge of Scripture

Example of Timothy: His knowledge of the Scripture (sacred writings) that produced in him wisdom that led him to his salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

For all of us – the Bible (All Scripture) is

1. **Inspired/God Breathed** (lit. theopneustos means exhaled by God) and therefore because it is from God – profitable for:
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Rebuking
 - c. Correcting
 - d. Training in righteousness (right living)
- = **man of God**, adequate, equipped every good work

2 Timothy 3:10-17 ¹⁰ Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Verses on the Roles and Importance of the Bible/Scripture

(2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

- **Jesus is The Word - John 1:1-5, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **Jesus fulfilled the Word, will fulfill all the Word - Matthew 5:17-18** ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- **The Word Saves - John 8:31-32** ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- **The Word Sanctifies - John 17:17** ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- **The Word teaches us and provides us Hope - Romans 15:4** ⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- **The Word is the Revelation of God to us - Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- **The Word convicts and holds us accountable to God - Hebrews 4:12-13** ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
- **The Word was written by God through inspired men – O.T. prophets, N.T. apostles - 2 Peter 1:19-21** ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching)

(1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

Paul's emphatic commission/Pastoral charge to Timothy

1. Preach the Word when it's popular and when it's unpopular

Notice we are not to preach ourselves but the Word – specifically Christ Crucified (1 Cor. 1:23) and Jesus as Lord (2 Cor. 4:5) NOT self-help, self-improvement, not entertainment, not human wisdom, not human philosophy, not human psychology, not anecdotal stories, not political jargon, not feel good stories, and not positive thinking.

2 Timothy 4:1-8 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching)

(1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

- God's preachers and teachers **must be Biblically qualified according to 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1** – NOT new believers, not good discussion leaders, not popular, rich, or successful men, not theological novices, nor unstudied men who don't know and practice Biblical hermeneutics, and not men who don't have the time to really exegete/extract the real meaning/interpretation of God's Word.
 - Good/Biblical Pastors (Shepherds) not only mend, tend, fend, and send – but they also Love God, Love His Word, Love their families, Love their Sheep/God's family the Church, Love the lost – lead by example in evangelism, and overall set a good example for the flock/church – not perfectly but faithfully. So they are qualified, genuine, and also faithful, but also tough/spiritual fighters, not quitters, but speaking the oracles/words of God and serving with the strength God provides (1 Peter 4:11) so that they overall FULFILL THEIR GOD-GIVEN MINISTRY as they
- 2 Timothy 4:1-8** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)
2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)
3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)
4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26)
5. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)
6. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)
7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching) (1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

Practical Application:

So How Should a Christian choose a church?

What NOT to do... don't use the typical criteria that many/most Christians unknowingly and unbiblically follow: Do I like the Pastor, do I like the music, do I like the building, do I like the programs, do I like the people (I, I, I, I, I = consumer mentality, but rather pray Lord where do YOU want me, where can I and my family best serve YOU and grow in our faith for YOU, not my will but your will be done)

So LOOK for, TEST and EVALUATE a church on the following criteria:

1. Truth/Doctrine – which church is most in line with Scripture and best believes, teaches, and practices the Bible (High View of God/High View of Scripture). Practically the first thing you should do before visiting a church is read their doctrinal statement online or ask for a printed copy of their statement of faith (if they don't have their doctrine as the first thing on online or onsite – not good)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

2. Philosophy of Ministry – before joining a church ask to meet with one of the Pastors/Elders (if they are too busy to meet – not good) and ask them questions about their philosophy of ministry – what's the most important, what their priorities are, and how they go about pursuing/accomplishing them (that will tell you a lot of about them and the church). The priorities should be in line with Acts 2:42:

- **Doctrine** (Declaring God's truth by preaching through books of the Bible learn and live the whole counsel of God's will)
- **Worship** (Presenting ourselves before God with sincere hearts to gratefully and passionately glorify the One true Triune God)
- **Fellowship** (Practicing of the One Anothers with Selfless Love, Compassion, Kindness, Service to others)
- **Prayer** (Seeking earnestly and regularly God's Power, Perspective, Perseverance in our lives & ministry)
- **Gospel** (Sharing God's Gracious Plan of salvation with concern for the Eternity of all people by faithful and fruitful evangelism)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

3. Personal Example/Biblical Qualifications of the Elders and Deacons.

Also ask them about their personal relationship/walk with the Lord - what I call the Big 5:

1. Their relationship with God (devotional life)
2. Their relationship with their spouse (married life)
3. Their relationship with their children (family life)
4. Their relationship with their sheep/people (church life)
5. Their relationship with the lost (evangelism life)

(If they don't have a healthy/vibrant relationship with God neither will the church...if they don't Biblically lead/manage their own homes well they won't manage the church any better). The spiritual health of the church will usually resemble the health of the Pastor and his family unless the church is apathetic and rebellious against his preaching/example.

1 Timothy 3:5 ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

4. Holy Living/Progressive Sanctification and Obedience of the Congregation

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. The People regularly **WITNESSING** /sharing their faith, evangelizing the lost (new people being saved, baptized, and added to the church – spiritual multiplication/reproduction - Acts 1:8, 2:41,47 5:14, 6:1,7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
2. The People regularly **PRAYING** for the lost, praying for each other, seeking God's will - His power, His perspective, His perseverance – Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4)
3. The People regularly **FELLOWSHIPPING**, practicing the one anothers, and enjoying their closest friendships within the church – Acts 2:42, Hebrews 13:16.
4. The People regularly **STUDYING** and growing in their knowledge and practice of the Holy Scriptures privately (personal devotions) and corporately (Congregation, Class, Cell, Comrade, and Christian settings) (Goal to learn and live out the truth of God's Word – Acts 6:4, 2 Peter 3:18).
5. The People progressively **OBEYING** the commands of Jesus in the N.T. (Acts 5:29, Mt. 28:18-20) so that others can see a growing Christlikeness/holiness/difference in their marriage, family, conduct at work, service/contribution within the church, and outreach/Christian witness to the unsaved world around them. (Goal to be rounding the bases – 1st base/conversion, 2nd base/baptism, 3rd base/membership & maturity, Home base – death, rapture, Kingdom, Heaven)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

5. Their overall goals, motives, and mission statement

(how do they define success, who are they trying to please, who are what are they striving for)

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. A Focus on man vs a focus on God
2. A Focus on money vs Christian maturity
3. A Focus on buildings/facilities vs the true temples (people's souls that last forever)
4. A Focus on success by what man sees/thinks/wants (numbers, buildings, programs, popularity, influence) vs what God sees/thinks/wills (new people saved, new people baptized, new people disciplined/equipped towards Christlike maturity)
5. A Focus on the Culture vs a Focus on Scripture
6. A Focus on the Temporary vs a Focus on the Kingdom/Eternity
7. A Focus on Self vs a focus on the Savior

SO WHAT?

Application



1 Timothy 3:15-16 *I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* ¹⁶ By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.