

— The First Steps —

The Gospel Series

2018 Edition



A Bible study series for seekers or new converts

 **LONG ISLAND
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

658 Blydenburgh Rd, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Table of Contents

Lesson 1	The Word of God	Page 03
<i>Homework 1</i>	The Heart (Fill-in)	Page 04
Lesson 2	The Gospel	Page 05
<i>Homework 2</i>	The Gift of the Holy Spirit (Fill-in)	Page 08
Lesson 3	Discipleship	Page 09
<i>Homework 3</i>	Kingdom Parables (Fill-in)	Page 10
Lesson 4	Repentance	Page 11
<i>Homework 4</i>	Immanuel (Fill-in)	Page 12
The Gospel Enacted Illustration		Page 13
The Gospel Re-Enacted Illustration		Page 14
Answers To Some Common Objections		Page 15
<u>Additional Materials:</u>		
The Love of God		Page 20
Flogging & Crucifixion Illustrations		Page 21
Spiritual Awareness Survey		Page 22

THE WORD OF GOD

Lesson 1

Goal: To build a respect for the Bible as the final authority in spiritual matters.

I. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- A. The Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation.
- B. All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired of God).
- C. It is useful for teaching, rebuking (reprimand), correcting and training in righteousness.
- D. It trains and prepares us for every good work.

II. 2 Peter 1:20-21

- A. “Prophecy” signifies the speaking forth of the mind and will of God.
- B. No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of a man's own interpretation.
- C. Prophecies were not personal views or concepts of mere men, but rather, they were expressions of men inspired by the Holy Spirit.

III. John 12:48

- A. The Word of God will judge those who reject it.

IV. Hebrews 4:12-13

- A. The word of God is living and active! It’s relevant for today.
- B. It cuts (hurts) – compare it to a scalpel. It exposes sin.
- C. It is able to reveal and judge a man’s heart.
 - a. A sincere heart will be open to change as in the case of Acts 2:36-37.
 - b. An insincere heart will resist change as in the case of Acts 5:30-33.
- D. We must all give an account to God one day.
- E. As we saw in John 12:48, God will use, as His standard of judgment, His very words.

V. John 8:31-34

- A. Jesus’ true disciples (students) will hold to His teachings.
- B. His teachings bring knowledge of the truth.
- C. The truth will set His disciples free from the slavery of sin.

VI. Mark 7:1-13

- A. Do not follow man made rules above the Word of God.
- B. Replacing the teachings of God with man-made rules leads to vain worship.

VII. Acts 17:10-11

- A. The Bereans received the message with eagerness but examined the Scriptures to make sure what they were taught was Biblically accurate.
- B. We should always check what religious leaders say with the word of God.
- C. The Berean Challenge: Read and study your Bible daily!

VIII. 1 Timothy 4:16

- A. Watch your life and doctrine closely – practice what you preach.
- B. Which is more important? Neither! An airplane with only one wing cannot fly.
- C. If you teach and live the right doctrine you will save yourself and your hearers.

Challenge: Are you willing to live by the word of God? In our next study, we will discuss how God expressed His love for us through His Son, Jesus.

THE HEART

Homework 1

Many people's idea of truth is based upon how they feel. Even many religious people believe they are saved because they feel in their hearts they are. Is the heart to be trusted? Can we trust our feelings? What does the Bible say?

I. 1 Samuel 16:1-7

- A. Did Samuel judge Eliab to be God's anointed based on his appearance? _____.
- B. Did God tell Samuel he shouldn't trust in outward appearances? _____.
- C. Did God reject a person who appeared to be God's anointed? _____.
- D. Does God look at people the way people look at people? _____.
- E. What do people usually look at? _____.
- F. What does God look at? _____.

II. Jeremiah 17:9

- A. How deceitful is the heart? _____.
- B. Can a person understand their own heart? _____.
- C. Should a person put their trust in their heart? _____.

III. Jeremiah 13:1-10

- A. What does God call people who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts? _____.
- B. Can a person's heart cause him/her to stray and follow other gods? _____.
- C. Are those who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts useful to God? _____.

IV. Proverbs 16:25

- A. Can a person's way "seem" right to him/her? _____.
- B. Can that way lead to death? _____.
- C. Therefore, can a person who thinks he's doing right actually be doing wrong? _____.

V. Isaiah 55:6-9

- A. Is it essential for us to forsake our ways and thoughts in order to receive mercy? _____.
- B. Are our thoughts the same as God's thoughts? _____.
- C. Are our ways the same as God's ways? _____.

VI. 2 Kings 5:1-14

- A. Was Naaman told to do something very specific? _____.
- B. What was his first reaction to this command of God? _____.
- C. Did Naaman have his "own" thoughts as to how God was going to heal him? _____.
- D. Was Naaman healed prior to doing God's will? _____.
- E. When was Naaman finally healed? _____.

VII. Hebrews 3:7-13

- A. Can a person's heart cause him/her to go astray? _____.
- B. What must a person follow: his/her heart or God's word? _____.
- C. Can a person's heart cause him/her to fall away from the living God? _____.

VIII. Proverbs 28:26

- A. What does God call those who trust in themselves? _____.

THE GOSPEL

Lesson 2

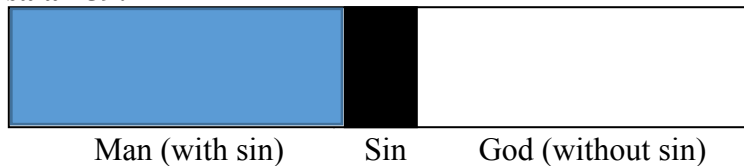
I. Exodus 20:1-17

- A. These commands are known as the 10 Commandments
 - a. Adultery:
 - i. Defined as the act of having sex with a married person
 - ii. Having lustful thoughts for another person (*Matthew 5:28*)
 - b. Murder:
 - i. Defined as the act of killing a person unlawfully and with premeditated malice
 - ii. Having hatred for another is considered murder (*1John 3:15*)
- B. Of the 10 commandments mentioned in this passage, how many have you broken?

II. 1John 3:4

- A. Breaking the Law of God is called “sin.”
- B. Let’s see what sin does to a person’s soul...

III. Isaiah 59:2



- A. Sin separates us from God
- B. There is no unrighteousness in God (*Psalms 92:15*).
- C. When it comes to man, we all sinned (*Romans 3:23*), therefore, none of us are righteous (*Rom. 3:10*).
- D. Let’s look at what happens beyond the grave...

IV. Revelation 21:8

- A. The Bible speaks of two deaths:
 - a. First death – physical death (*cf. Hebrews 9:27*)
 - b. Second death – spiritual death (*the lake of fire*)
- B. Are you guilty of any of the sins mentioned in this passage?
- C. We all are guilty but there is good news...

V. Romans 6:23

- A. Although the wages of sin is death (*the second death*), God, in His mercy, offers the gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ...
- B. This gift is available to anyone who desires forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God...

VI. John 3:16

- A. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, that through belief in Him, we should not perish (*not suffer the second death*). Instead, through Jesus, we will be able to live in Heaven forever!
- B. Believing in Christ includes believing the gospel...

VII. Romans 1:16

- A. The word “*gospel*” comes from an Old English word which means “*good news*.”
- B. The gospel is the power of God to save those who believe.
- C. What makes the gospel powerful to save?...

(continued on next page)

VIII. 1Corinthians 15:1-4

- A. The gospel is this:
 - a. Jesus died for our sins
 - b. He was buried
 - c. He was resurrected from the dead (*show the Gospel Illustration on page 13*)
 - d. Let's see why Christ's death and resurrection are vital to salvation
- B. There are two things that keep us out of Heaven:
 - a. The first is the "sin" problem – we learned that sin separates us from God
 - i. The death of Jesus brings the forgiveness of sins!
 - 1. Ephesians 1:7**
 - a. Through Christ's blood we have:
 - i. Redemption, that is, deliverance from the second death!
 - ii. His blood was shed for our forgiveness!
 - iii. Isn't that GREAT NEWS?! How can we pass it up?!
 - 2. 1Peter 2:24**
 - a. He bore our sins so that we may quit sinful living and pursue righteous living. This is called "repentance."
 - b. The second is the "grave" problem – our physical bodies cannot enter heaven
 - i. The resurrection of Christ brings hope in our resurrection from the grave!
 - 1. 1Corinthians 15:20-23**
 - a. Christ is the firstfruits (primary) of those to rise to never die again!
 - b. Those who physically die while in Christ will one day rise from their graves
 - 2. 1Corinthians 15:50-54**
 - a. When Christ returns, the dead in Christ will rise from their graves with new, immortal, and imperishable bodies, ready for Heaven!
 - c. The gospel takes care of those two problems:
 - i. Christ's death takes care of our sin problem and ...
 - ii. Christ's resurrection takes care of our grave problem!
 - iii. Boy, I want in! Don't you?!
 - iv. Let's continue...

IX. 2Thessalonians 1:6-8

- A. We already learned that at Christ's return, He will raise up the dead with new bodies.
- B. He will also punish those who do not know God and those who do not obey the Gospel.
- C. The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (*refer to the Gospel Illustration*).
- D. How does one obey the gospel? Let's see ...

X. Romans 6:3-7

- A. We obey the gospel (the death, burial and resurrection) through baptism. (*Show the Baptism Illustration on page 14*).
- B. We are united to Christ, His death, His burial and His resurrection through baptism.
- C. Therefore, our sins are forgiveness at baptism as we will see in this next passage of Scripture...

XI. Acts 2:37-41

- A. The people wanted to get right with God.
- B. Peter tells them to REPENT:
 - a. The word "*repent*" means to change one's mind, which also involves a change in one's actions.
 - b. We must be willing to turn away from sinful practices.
 - c. Let's look at some examples of evil practices we must turn away from...

(continued on next page)

➤ **1Corinthians 6:9-10**

1. *sexual immorality* – sex outside of marriage
2. *idolater* – putting things before God
3. *swindler* – cheating people of their money

C. Peter then tells them to BE BAPTIZED for the forgiveness of their sins:

- a. As we saw in Romans 6:3-4, baptism is a burial (*refer to the Baptism Illustration*).
- b. We are united to Christ and His death at baptism.
- c. Jesus shed His blood at His death:
 - His blood was shed for our forgiveness (*Ephesians 1:7*)
 - Therefore, we receive forgiveness of sins when we are baptized into Christ and into His death.
- d. We also learned that one obeys the gospel through baptism (*refer to the Baptism Illustration*).

D. Afterwards, God shall give them the Holy Spirit as a gift.

- a. The Holy Spirit is God's seal, stating that we now have eternal life (*cf. Ephesians 1:13-14*).
- b. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in our walk with Jesus (*cf. Romans 8:26*).

E. In verse 41, those who accepted God's gift of salvation repented and were baptized. They have become "born again"...

XII. John 3:3-5

- A. A person must be born again to see and enter the Kingdom of heaven.
- B. One is born again:
 - a. By water (*baptism for the forgiveness of sins*) and...
 - b. By Spirit (*receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit*).

XIII. Matthew 10:34-36

- A. Those who choose to receive God's gift of salvation will be persecuted by their own relatives.
- B. Is forgiveness of sins and eternal life worth it to you?

XIV. Acts 22:16

- A. What is God telling you to do here?
- B. Are you ready today to make Jesus your Savior and Lord?

Give (or lend) the person a copy of *The Gospel* DVD or ask them to watch it online at www.licoc.org as a supplementary study for this lesson. *On our website look for the menu item "Gospel" along the top of the page.*

If the person wants to obey the gospel, do the "*Discipleship*" study with them.

Should they decide NOT to get baptized, but want to study again, do the "*Love of God*" study with them.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Homework 2

The Holy Spirit of God is given to strengthen and support the disciple. Through His help, we are able to put to death the evil desires of the flesh, and carry out God's will (Philippians 2:13; 4:13). His presence in our lives authenticates that we belong to God and that we are His children.

I. Galatians 3:26-27

- A. We become children of God through _____ in Christ Jesus.
- B. According to verse 27, how is a believer joined to Christ? Through what? _____.

II. Galatians 4:6

- A. God sends _____ into the hearts of His children.

III. Ephesians 1:13-14

- A. God seals His children with the _____.
- B. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a deposit (that is, a pledge or earnest) guaranteeing our what? _____.

IV. Ephesians 3:16

- A. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? _____.

V. Romans 8:26

- A. The Holy Spirit helps us in our _____.
- B. Who intercedes for us when we pray? _____.

VI. Romans 8:13-14

- A. By the Holy Spirit, we are able to put to death the _____.
- B. Those who are led by the Holy Spirit are _____.

VII. Galatians 5:22-23

- A. The fruit of a person led by the Holy Spirit includes 9 virtues. Name and define these virtues (use the back of this sheet if needed):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____

VIII. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

- A. Since you belong to God, what must you flee from? _____.
- B. Your body is the temple of whom? _____.
- C. Since you now belong to God, you must honor God with your _____.

DISCIPLESHIP

Lesson 3

I. Acts 11:25-26

- A. Which is the more popular term: Disciple or Christian?
- B. The word “Christian” only appears three times in the Bible. It was the name those in the world gave the disciples several years after the church began.
- C. The word “disciple(s)” occurs over 270 times in the Bible.
- D. A Christian and a disciple are the same.

II. Matthew 28:18-19

- A. Jesus wants everyone to become His disciples.
- B. The word “*disciple*” means “*student*.”
 - a. Therefore, a disciple is eager to learn God’s Word.
- C. Disciples are called to make disciples.
 - a. A disciple’s mission is to tell others of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. A disciple is called to teach newly baptized believers the ways of God
 - c. Let’s see what’s required to be a disciple of Jesus...

III. Luke 9:23-26

- A. A disciple must deny himself and pick up his cross daily.
 - a. A cross is a Roman instrument of death.
 - b. A disciple crucifies his sinful desires and lives to please God.
- B. Being a disciple is more valuable than gaining all the riches of the world.

IV. Luke 14:25-33

- A. A disciple must love Christ more than their own relatives (cf. Matthew 10:37).
 - a. The Greek word for “*hate*” is “*miseō*”, which means to “*love less*”.
 - b. We tend to be influenced by those whom we love the most.
 - c. In order for us to be Christ’s disciple, our love for Christ and His words must be greater than our love for our family, friends and even career.
- B. A disciple must be willing to take up his cross (crucify sin) and follow Jesus.
- C. A disciple must be willing to give up everything that stands in the way of Christ.
 - a. He must make Jesus Lord over his/her life.

V. John 13:34-35

- A. People recognize Jesus’ disciples by their love for one another.
- B. Disciples get the opportunity to show their love for each other when they gather together as a church.
- C. The church is also referred to as the kingdom of God (we will discuss this more in a later study)...

VI. Matthew 6:33

- A. A disciple puts the kingdom of God (the Church) first in their priority list.
 - a. They are dedicated to worshipping God and learning His righteous ways.
 - i. You will find disciples attending:
 - 1. Sunday Worship
 - 2. Wednesday Night Bible Class
 - 3. Other Church functions (devotionals, small group meetings, etc.)

Challenge: Are you ready to become a disciple today? What if it gets hard?

THE KINGDOM PARABLES

Homework 3

As Jesus calls us to follow Him, He is calling us into His Kingdom. As we continue to study His Word, we grow in our understanding of how great a calling this is. The purpose of this study is to give you insight into the value of this Kingdom Jesus is calling you to.

I. Mark 1:14-20 - The Calling of the First Disciples

- A. In verse 15, what did Jesus say was near? _____.
- B. What was the response of the first disciples? _____.

II. Mark 10:13-16 - How to Receive the Kingdom

- A. According to Jesus, to whom does the Kingdom of God belong? _____.
- B. How must we receive the Kingdom in order to enter? _____.
- C. What qualities do little children possess that you need? _____.

III. Luke 9:57-62 - The Cost of Following Jesus

- A. In verse 59, what does Jesus call this man to do? _____.
- B. What does Jesus tell this man to go and tell others about? _____.
- C. What are those who serve in the Kingdom NOT to do? _____.

IV. Luke 13:22-30 - The Narrow Door

- A. What must those who want to be saved do? _____.
- B. Why will some people be weeping when they die? _____.
- C. Where will the people who enter the Kingdom come from? _____.

V. Matthew 13:44-45 - The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

- A. In verse 44, to what is the Kingdom compared? _____.
- B. What was the man who found it willing to give for it? _____.
- C. In verse 45, to what is the Kingdom compared? _____.
- D. What was the merchant willing to give up for it? _____.
- E. What does this say about how valuable God's Kingdom is? _____.

VI. Luke 14:15-23 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

- A. What three excuses kept people from the banquet? _____.
- B. How does God feel when people make excuses? _____.
- C. What does He want for His house (v. 23)? _____.
- D. Are you willing to give up everything, including all excuses, to come into God's house or Kingdom? _____.

VII. Matthew 6:25-33 - The First Priority

- A. Should we allow life's worries to take precedence in our lives? _____.
- B. Along with God's righteousness, what should we seek first? _____.

Jesus spent much of His time teaching about the Kingdom of God. He taught us how valuable it is, and what type of attitude we would need to enter it. He calls us to make every effort to enter it. He calls us to give up everything, including any and all excuses that would keep us from it. Matthew 6:33: Seek FIRST the kingdom of God.

REPENTANCE

Lesson 4

I. Luke 13:1-5: A Call To Repentance

- A. If we do not repent, we too will perish!

II. Acts 17:30: God's Command For Penitence

- A. God commands all men to repent; ignorance is no excuse!

III. Isaiah 55:6-7: Forgiveness Promised To The Penitent

- A. Seek God while He is near and can be found; don't hesitate!
- B. We must forsake our wicked ways and turn to the Lord!
- C. If we forsake our ways, that is, repent, He will have mercy on us!
- D. He will freely forgive those who repent!

IV. Ezekiel 18:21: Life Promised To The Penitent

- A. Repentance calls for obedience to God's Word!
- B. If we do what is just and right, we will live and not die (*spiritually*)!

V. Acts 2:38: The Holy Spirit Promised To The Penitent

- A. One must repent before they can be baptized for the forgiveness of sins!
- B. A penitent believer--who is baptized--will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!

VI. Acts 26:20: Repentance Shown By Deeds

- A. We must repent and turn to God!
- B. Repentance is manifested by the deeds that follow!

VII. Luke 19:1-10: Response of the Penitent

- A. Zacchaeus was impacted by Jesus. His repentance was clearly witnessed by others.
- B. Jesus confirmed his repentance from the heart. It is shown by what you do and say.

VIII. Proverbs 28:13: Consequences of Hiding Sin

- A. If we hide our sin we will not prosper.
- B. We receive mercy from God when we confess and turn away from our sin.

IX. Acts 19:18-19: Proof of Repentance

- A. After believing in Jesus they openly confessed their sins.
- B. They proved their repentance by their deeds.
- C. According to Proverbs 28:13 they found mercy from God.

X. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21: Examples of Sins

- A. Have you ever been guilty of any of these sins?
- B. Those who don't renounce these will not inherit God's Kingdom.

XI. 2 Corinthians 7:10: Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance

- A. Godly sorrow brings about repentance, that is, a desire to change!
- B. Repentance leads to salvation!
- C. Worldly sorrow does not produce change (repentance), but only spiritual death!

CHALLENGE: Are you willing to forsake your ways and follow the Lord?

Homework 4

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) Jesus truly has great love for us! The cruel punishment he received and the taking on our sins was a powerful demonstration of His love for sinners like us. In this study, we will get a deeper insight as to who Jesus is and what the Gospel is.

I. Matthew 16:13-16

A. Who is Jesus? _____.

II. John 1:1-14

A. Jesus, the Word, was not only “with God,” He was also _____.

B. From verse 3, is Jesus the Creator of all things? _____.

III. John 14:6

A. Jesus is the _____ and the _____ and the _____.

B. Can anyone come to God, the Father, without Jesus? _____.

IV. Romans 1:16

A. What was Paul, the apostle, not ashamed of? _____.

B. The gospel (which means ‘good news’) is the _____ of God.

C. The purpose for the gospel is to save those who _____ it.

V. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

A. According to verses 3-4, what three events make up the Gospel (good news)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Why did Jesus die? _____

VI. Mark 16:15-16

A. What must every person be told of? _____.

VII. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

A. From this passage of Scripture, will Jesus come again? _____.

B. Along with those who do not know God, whom else will Jesus punish?

_____.

C. Is the Gospel an urgent message? _____.

VIII. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

A. What compels those who believe and follow Jesus Christ? _____.

B. What is a true believer of Jesus convinced of? _____.

C. Why did Jesus die for us? _____.

IX. 1 Peter 2:21-25

A. Why did Jesus suffer for you? _____.

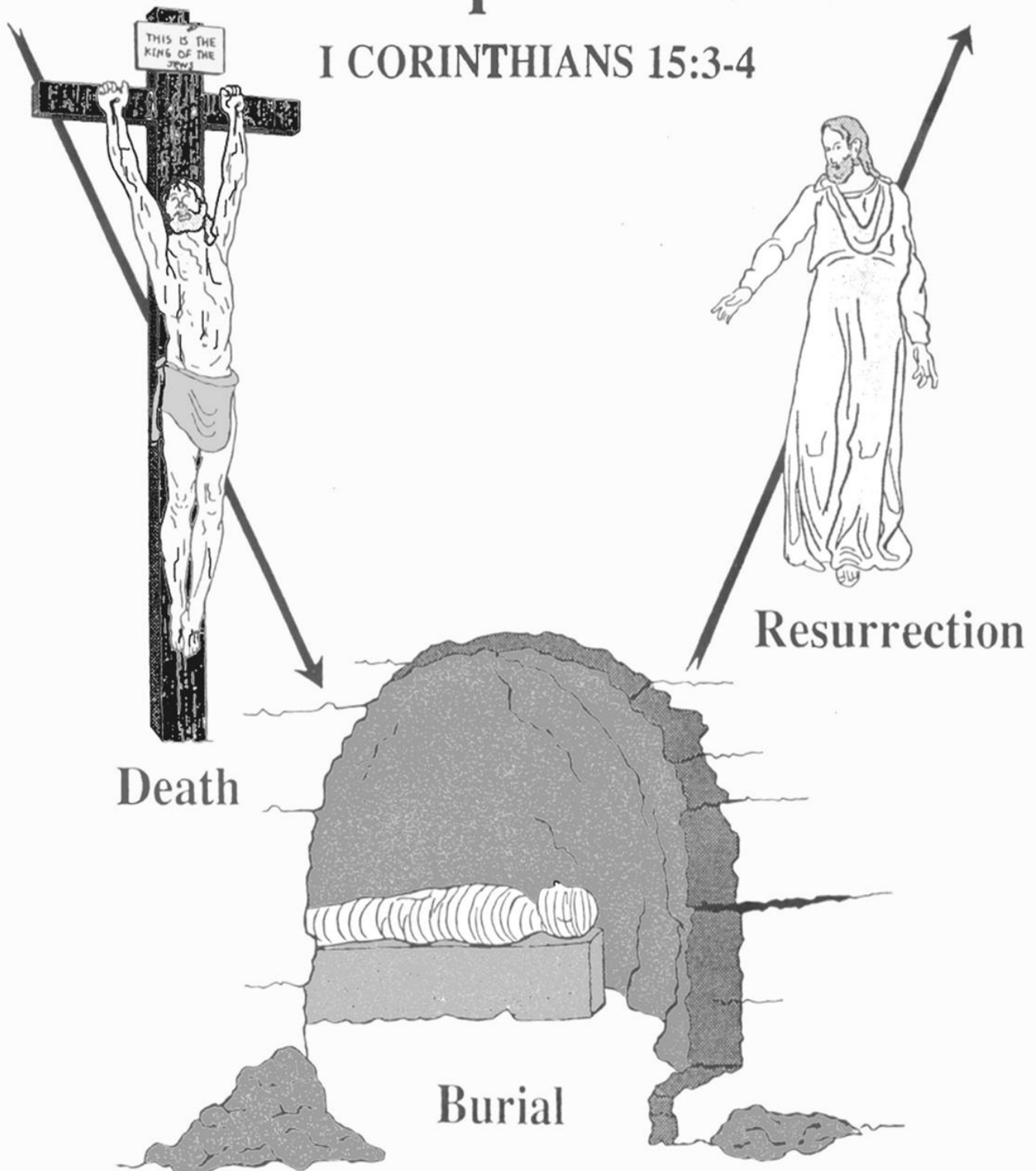
B. Why did He bear your sins? _____.

C. Why was it necessary for Jesus to do this for you? _____.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ --which means, ‘God with us.’” ... Matthew 1:21-23

the Gospel enacted

I CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

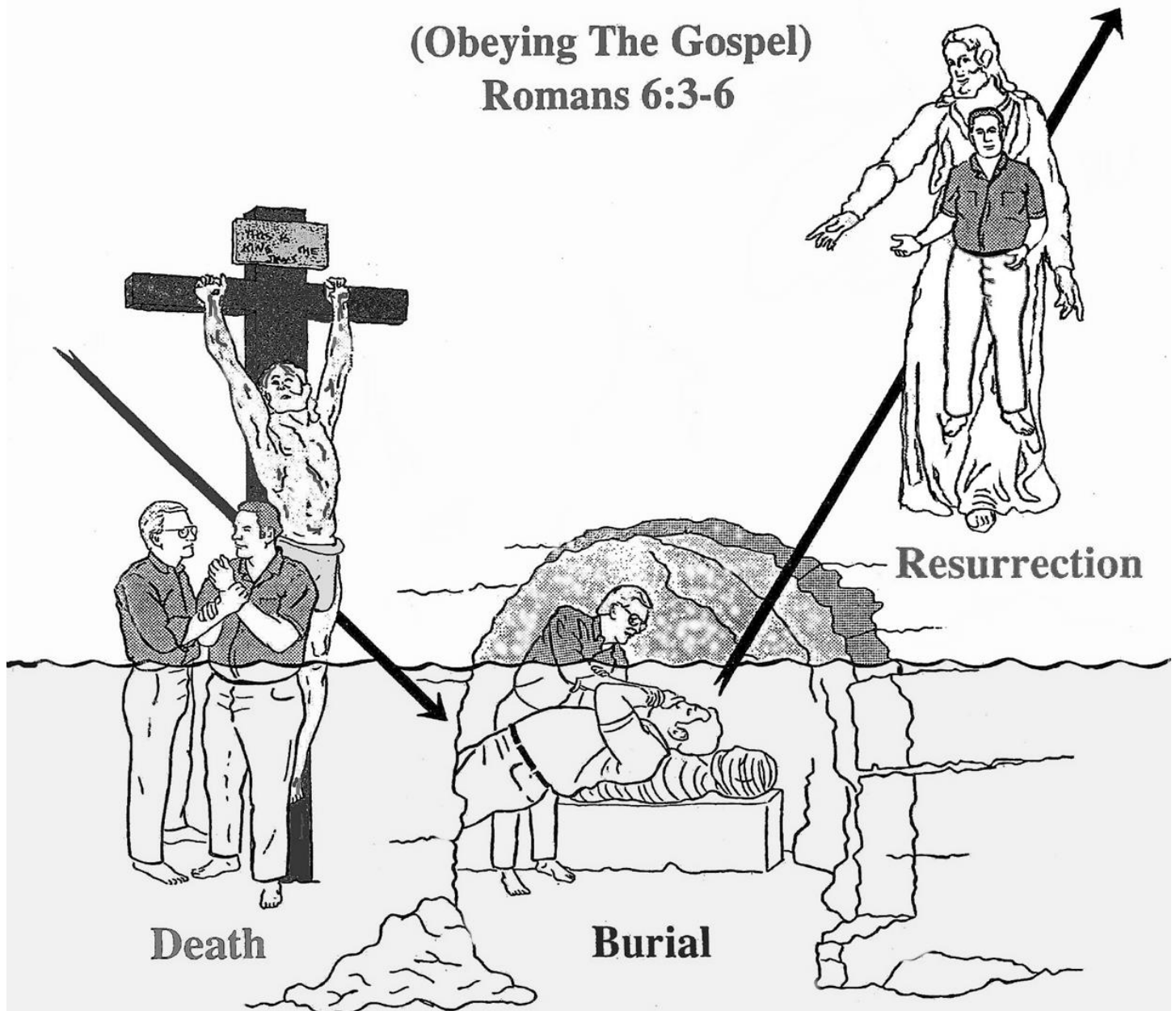


I declare to you the gospel...by which you are saved...For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NKJV

the Gospel re-enacted in Baptism

(Obeying The Gospel)
Romans 6:3-6



Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man of sin was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Romans 6:3-6 NKJV

Answers To Some Common Objections

Objection 1: *“What about the thief on the cross? He was saved without being baptized.” (Luke 23:39-43)*

Soul Winner: “We learned that the gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (1Cor. 15:1-4). How can the thief on the cross be baptized into a death, burial and resurrection that had not yet occurred? In Romans 6:3-4, it says we are baptized into Christ's death, burial and resurrection. The thief died before the burial and resurrection of Jesus. A person obeys the gospel in baptism. After His resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to go and preach the gospel (good news) to all creatures. He who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:15-16). Every example in Acts shows people hearing the gospel, believing it and immediately responding in baptism (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:35-38; 16:13-15; 16:30-33; 18:8).”

Objection 2: *“Well, I was baptized by immersion. Therefore, I’m saved.”*

Soul Winner: “Consider this: You believed you were forgiven of your sins after you prayed the sinner's prayer, right?”

“Since you believed that your sins were forgiven before you were baptized, then apparently, your baptism was not for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 2:38 says baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. In Acts 22:16, it says our sins are washed away at baptism. Yet, you were taught that your sins were forgiven and washed before you were baptized. You see the problem here?”

“Let’s read Acts 19:1-5. In this passage, these men were baptized into the wrong baptism. After Paul explained the truth, they got baptized into the right baptism. Therefore, according to Acts 19:1-5, it does make a difference what baptism one receives, right?”

“And now that you learned of Biblical baptism and how it differs from the baptism you were taught and received, you ought to consider being baptized for the right reasons.”

Objection 3: *“Romans 10:9 says confess and believe and you shall be saved.”*

Soul Winner: “Amen! We must confess Jesus as Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead! If a person does not believe Christ rose from the dead and if they do not confess Him as Lord, they certainly will not be saved! Now, let me ask you this: According to Jesus in Luke 13:3, must a person repent to be saved?”

“Romans 10:9 says nothing about repentance, yet we know that a person must repent to be saved. We must take into consideration all passages that deal with salvation. Passages like John 3:16, Mark 16:16, Matthew 10:32-33 and Mark 13:13.”

“This is why I went over Matthew 4:6-7 with you. We should never set Scripture against Scripture, as Satan tried to do with Jesus. Rather, as Jesus did, we must say: *“It is also written...”*”

Objection 4: *“John 3:16 says those who believe will not perish. Baptism is not mentioned.”*

Soul Winner: “Amen! We must believe in Him! Now, keep in mind, John 3:16 is part of a conversation that starts at verse 2. In verse 5, Jesus describes a true believer as one being born of water and Spirit.”

“Also, in John 3:21, Jesus describes a true believer as one who lives by the truth.”

“In John 17:17, Jesus defines God’s Word as Truth. Therefore, John 3:16 refers to those who accept, believe and apply everything God’s Word has to say.”

Objection 5: *“It’s the blood of Jesus that washes away our sins, not water!”*

Soul Winner: “Yes, it is the blood of Jesus that washes away our sins! We already established that fact in Ephesians 1:7, where it says the blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. And we already established the fact that Christ shed His blood at His death. Let me remind you, according to Romans 6:3, how does one get INTO Christ and INTO His death?”

“We also covered Colossians 2:11-12. According to verse 12, at what point does Jesus circumcise our sins? When we are buried with Him through what?”

Objection 6: *“You are insinuating that water washes away sins!”*

Soul Winner: “No, it’s the blood of Christ that washes away sins. The reason Acts 22:16 says ‘arise and be baptized and wash away your sins’ is because Jesus circumcises our sins, through His blood, at baptism (Colossians 2:11-12).”

Objection 7: *“Ephesians 2:8 says we are saved by grace alone.”*

Soul Winner: “I agree that we are saved by God’s wonderful grace! The Greek word for “grace” is “*charis*,” which means “*unmerited gift*.” Ephesians 2:8 says we are saved by grace through faith.”

“Romans 10:17 says faith comes from hearing the word of God. According to Acts 2:38, how does one receive God’s gift of salvation?”

Objection 8: *“Baptism is a work. Ephesians 2:8 says we aren’t saved by works.”*

Soul Winner: “I agree that we are not saved by our own works. And I agree, baptism is a work. However, let me ask you this: Where did baptism come from? Did it come from the mind of God or from the mind of man?”

“If baptism comes from the mind of God, then whose work is it? Colossians 2:11-12 says God is the One circumcising our sins at baptism. He is at work, not us. God is the Surgeon, we are merely the patient.”

Objection 9: *“Acts 2:21 (Romans 10:13) says those who call on His name will be saved.”*

Soul Winner: “Amen! According to Acts 22:16, at what point does a person call on His name?”

Objection 10: “*I know I’m saved! I felt the Holy Spirit and started to speak in tongues!*”

Soul Winner: “Read Matthew 7:21-23. At Judgment Day, there will be many who will claim to be saved because of the ‘miracles’ they’ve experienced. According to verse 23, what will Jesus tell these people?”

“What matters to God is that we hear and live by His words (Matthew 7:24-25). In 2Corinthians 5:7, we are told to walk by faith and not by sight. Faith comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Therefore, we must walk according to God’s Word, and not by what we see, feel or experience (Proverbs 16:25).”

Objection 11: “*What about the person on their death bed or in a desert?*”

Soul Winner: “Well, let me respond to that question with this question: In John 14:6, Jesus says He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that NO person can come to God except through Him. Is that always true?”

“Now, since John 14:6 says what it says, what about the millions of people who die without ever knowing Jesus. What will happen to them?”

“2Thessalonians 1:8 says that Jesus will punish those who do not know God, along with those who do not obey the Gospel. Psalm 119:89 says the Word of God is forever settled in Heaven. Therefore, what the Bible says is unchangeable. John 14:6 is a permanent truth.”

“Since Mark and Acts are part of God’s Word, Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38 are permanent truths.”

“By the way, the Bible tells us of a ‘desert’ conversion: In Acts 8:26-39, Philip, the preacher, met an Ethiopian man traveling on a desert road. After Philip preached the gospel to him, they came to an oasis and Philip baptized the man! With God, all things are possible! I know of people who were very sick who, with God’s grace, were able to be baptized. As the old saying goes, ‘where there is a will, there is a way.’”

Objection 12: “*Revelation 3:20 says that Jesus stands at the door, waiting to come into a person’s heart.*”

Soul Winner: “Revelation 3:20 does not say, ‘Ask Jesus to come into your heart.’ In fact, the word ‘heart’ is not even mentioned there. The context shows Jesus addressing the lukewarm disciples of the Laodicean church (see verse 14-21). History tells us that the city of Laodicea had water problems. By the time the water reached the city, it was lukewarm, thus undesirable for satisfying thirst (COLD) or for bathing (HOT). Jesus was comparing these disciples to their city’s water – lukewarm and nauseating. He was telling them to turn from their wickedness and be useful for God!

“In addition, if Revelation 3:20 was referring to the “sinners’ prayer,” you would see the sinner’s prayer being taught throughout the book of Acts. (read Finney’s quote again)”

Objection 13: *“We are saved by faith alone.”*

Soul Winner: “James 2:24 says that a person is not justified by faith alone. James 2:26 says faith without works is dead. Romans 10:17 says faith comes from hearing the word of God. Since faith comes from hearing the Word of God, and since faith without works is dead, according to Acts 2:38, how does one receive God’s gift of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit?”

“Also, keep the following in mind: faith is a work (John 6:28-29). If you say that there is nothing we can do to be saved, then faith is unnecessary for salvation.”

Objection 14: *“The word ‘for’ in Acts 2:38 means ‘because of’ therefore, we are baptized because our sins are already forgiven.”*

Soul Winner: “Well, this raises at least two problems: (1) Matthew 26:28 and Acts 2:38 both say ‘for the remission (forgiveness) of sins.’ If “for” means “because of,” then that means Jesus died in vain. The passage would then be interpreted as saying this: His blood was poured out for many BECAUSE OF the forgiveness of sins. (2) Not one Bible translation reads ‘because of’ in Acts 2:38.”

Objection 15: *“Do you get baptized every time you sin?”*

Soul Winner: “In Acts 8:22, Simon, a baptized believer who sinned, was told to repent and pray. When a baptized believer sins, he is to repent and pray to God for forgiveness. Also, in 1John 1:9, John, speaking to the Christian, tells them that if they confess their sins, God will forgive them.”

Objection 16: *“I believe the term ‘born of water’ in John 3:5 means ‘physical birth’. I believe it is the water that comes out of a woman’s womb before she gives birth.”*

Soul Winner: “Your reason for believing that comes from verse 6, where it mentions how flesh gives birth to flesh and Spirit gives birth to spirit, correct?”

“Well, if ‘born of water’ meant ‘physical birth,’ then this raises some problems: (1) Why didn’t Jesus simply say ‘unless one is born of the Spirit?’ Why did He bother listing the physical birth as a requirement to enter the kingdom of Heaven? If someone asked me: ‘What must I do to get into Princeton University?’ it would be pointless for me to say to him: ‘ Well, first, you need to be physically born...’ So why would Jesus make a pointless statement by saying a man must be ‘physically born’ and ‘spiritually born’ to enter the kingdom? (2) If ‘born of water’ meant ‘flesh,’ then why didn’t Jesus use the same phrase he did in verse 6 and simply say, ‘unless a man is born of flesh and Spirit...’? (3) Since Jesus mentions both water and Spirit as requirements for entrance into the kingdom of heaven, and since you say ‘born of water’ means ‘physical birth,’ then that would mean all babies that died before birth are in hell. Acts 2:38 clearly interprets John 3:5 for us: ‘*be baptized...*’ (born of water)... ‘*and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...*’ (born of Spirit). By the way, John 1:12-13 is clear regarding natural birth. Why didn’t he use the term ‘born of water’ there? I believe God knows how to communicate clearly.”

“Also, keep this in mind: all the early Christian apologists of the 2nd and 3rd centuries, some whom even sat at the feet of the apostles, unanimously taught that born of water meant baptism.”

Objection 17: *“I was baptized as a baby.”*

Soul Winner: “We learned that in Romans 6:4, baptism is a burial, not a sprinkling. We are to be buried with Christ through baptism. Other passages, such as Colossians 2:12, refer to baptism as a burial as well.”

“Also, we learned in Acts 2:38 that a person must first repent and be baptized. Acts 2:41 says those who accepted the message were baptized.”

Objection 18: *“It says in the Bible that households were baptized. Households include children.”*

Soul Winner: “In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the children. An adult, on the other hand, must become as a little child and be converted to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:1-3). A person enters the kingdom of God through baptism. In Acts 8:12, we read of adult believers being baptized upon hearing the good news of the kingdom and of Christ, not children.”

“Another point to consider is this: In Acts 16:31-33, it says that Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer and his household. Mark 16:15 causes us to believe that the word of the Lord that was being spoken was the gospel. Paul and Silas were sharing the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to those who were capable of hearing and understanding what was being preached. Can a baby hear, understand and respond to the gospel in baptism? (cf. Mark 16:15-16). Can a baby change its mind in repentance and respond in baptism (cf. Acts 2:37-41)? What sin did a baby commit? Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. It is for those who desire to be in the kingdom of heaven, not for those who already are in the kingdom.”

“A third point to consider is this: In Acts 8:5-12, Philip preached to a whole city there. Obviously, there were adults and children present in the audience. In verse 12, it says the men and women who believed Philip’s message were baptized.”

Objection 19: *“How do I know if the Bible is true?”*

Soul Winner: “There is a great deal of scientific evidence that supports the Bible. In ancient times, people thought the earth was held up by some legendary being. The Bible spoke of the earth hanging on nothing (Job 26:7). Also, in ancient times, people thought the world was flat. However, the Bible spoke of the circle of the earth in Isaiah 40:22. In Hebrews 1:10-11, the Bible speaks of the universe wearing away (the Law of Entropy). Also, the Bible speaks of hundreds of predictions that took place centuries later. For example, predictions regarding Jesus Christ: He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25); He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7); He would die for our sins (Isaiah 53:5-9; Romans 5:8); He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27). Other predictions include Daniel chapter 2, where Daniel spoke of God establishing His Church during the times of a future ‘fourth kingdom.’ Historically, this came true: The Babylonian Kingdom fell to the Medo-Persians. The Medo-Persian Kingdom fell to Greece. The Grecian Kingdom fell to Rome. During the times of the Roman Kingdom, the Church was established (33AD). Daniel’s prediction was accurate!”

THE LOVE OF GOD

Additional Study

Goal: To show how much God loves us and what His Son, Jesus, went through for us.

I. Matthew 1:21

- A. The name “*Jesus*” means “*the Lord saves*”.
- B. Jesus came to save His people from their sins.

II. John 3:16

- A. God loves us more than you know!
- B. What did Jesus go through for us? Let’s see...

III. Mark 14:22-26 – The last supper

- A. Jesus explains the supper: His body and blood offered for us.
- B. Matthew 26:28 says His blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

IV. Mark 14:32-41 – Jesus afraid but willing to face death for us

- A. Jesus prays three times, being in distress for what is about to take place.

V. Mark 14:42-65 – Jesus arrested

- A. They led Jesus away, made false testimony against Him and beat Him.
- B. All night long, they mocked Jesus. He was deprived of rest.

VI. Mark 15:1-15 – Jesus tried and flogged.

- A. Flogging involved being tied naked to a pole and whipped with straps with bone and steel embedded in them. Flogging ripped the skin right off of a person. (*See Flogging Illustration on the next page*).
- B. Isaiah 50:6 says His beard was pulled out.
- C. Isaiah 52:14 says He was so badly beaten that he didn’t look like a man!

VII. Mark 15:16-32 – Jesus led away to be crucified.

- A. Despite his head being bruised with punches, they crowned Him with thorns!
- B. They nailed His beaten, bruised, and mangled body to the cross!
(*See Crucifixion Illustration on the next page*).

VIII. Mark 15:33-37 – Jesus becomes sin for us and dies.

- A. Jesus takes on our sin and as a result, the Father, who is pure, looks away from His Son: “My God! My God! Why have you forsaken Me?”
- B. Jesus experiences the worst part of His journey: the taking on of our sins!
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says Jesus became sin for us so that we might be right before God.

IX. Mark 16:1-7

- A. He arose from the dead on the third day! Praise God!

X. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- A. We are saved through the gospel. (*Show the Gospel Illustration on page 13*).

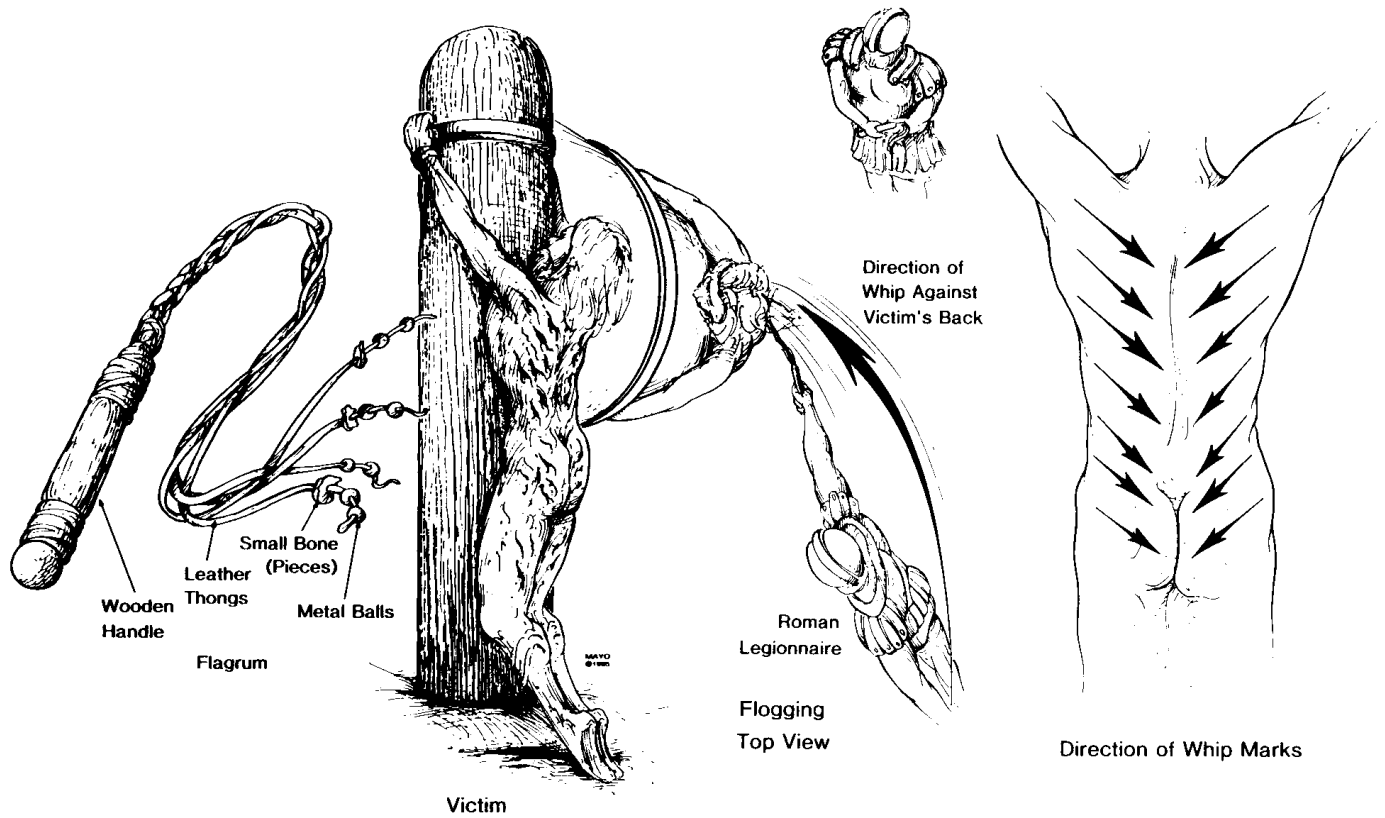
XI. Read Isaiah 53:5-6

- A. Substitute the person’s name where pronouns (we, our, us, etc.) are mentioned.

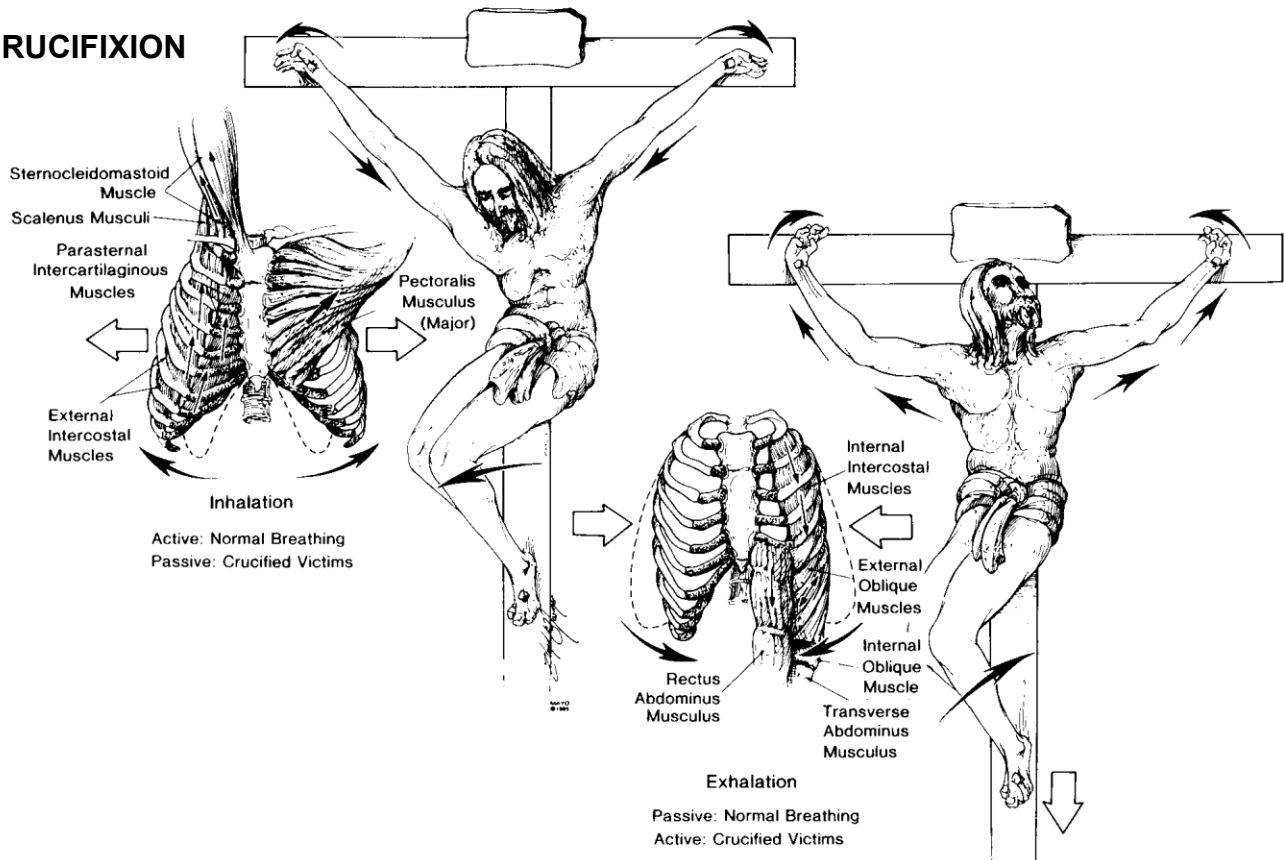
Challenge: Jesus calls His followers “disciples”. Are you willing to become His disciple today?

THE LOVE OF GOD ILLUSTRATION

FLOGGING



CRUCIFIXION



Spiritual Awareness Survey

1.MAN'S GOODNESS:

- a. Do you consider yourself to be a good person?
- b. Are you good enough to go to heaven?

2.GOD'S STANDARD OF GOODNESS (The 10 Commandments):

- a. Exodus 20:3, "*You shall have no other gods before Me.*"
 - i. Have you ever failed to put God first in your life?
- b. Exodus 20:4, "*You shall not make for yourself an idol*"
 - i. Is God to you a Being that would never judge anyone nor cast anyone into hell?
 - 1. If yes, you created your own personal god (idolatry).
- c. Exodus 20:7, "*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain*"
 - i. Have you ever used the name of God as a cuss word?
 - ii. The verse goes on to say, "for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain"
- d. Exodus 20:8, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*"
 - i. Have you ever been guilty of not setting aside a day in the week for God?
- e. Exodus 20:12, "*Honor your father and your mother*"
 - i. Have you always honored your parents in a way that is pleasing to God?
- f. Exodus 20:13, "*You shall not murder*"
 - i. Have you ever hated another human being?
 - 1. If yes, the Bible says hatred is synonymous to murder (1John 3:15)
- g. Exodus 20:14, "*You shall not commit adultery*"
 - i. Have you ever looked at another person with lust?
 - 1. If yes, the Bible calls that adultery (Matthew 5:28)
- h. Exodus 20:15, "*You shall not steal*"
 - i. Have you ever stolen anything in your life?
- i. Exodus 20:16, "*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*"
 - i. Have you ever lied before?
- j. Exodus 20:17, "*You shall not covet (envy)*"
 - i. Have you ever envied another person's things, wealth, friends or relatives?

3.GOD'S JUDGMENT:

- a. If God were to judge you by the 10 Commandments, would you go to heaven?
 - i. Just as a "good judge" would pronounce judgment on a rapist, God, being The Good Judge, will pronounce judgment on murderers, adulterers, thieves and liars.
 - ii. The Bible says in Revelation 21:8, "*But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*"

(Continued on next page)

4.GOD'S KINDNESS:

Imagine you were standing before a judge, guilty of many serious crimes. The evidence presented in court shows that you are 100% guilty. Your apologies and good deeds cannot erase your crimes. Your fine is \$100 million dollars or life imprisonment. You have no money. And just before the sentence is passed, a stranger steps in and pays your fine. The court accepts the fine and lets you go free!

a. This is exactly what Christ did for you and I

- i. The Bible says in Romans 5:8, “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”**
- ii. Isn't this good news?**
 - 1. The Bible calls this “good news” the gospel**
 - 2. 1Corinthians 15:1-4 says the gospel is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and raised the third day to life!**
- iii. The Bible goes on to say in Romans 6:23, “*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*”**
 - 1. Like any free gift, it must be received.**
 - 2. Would you be interested in learning how one receives this gift of eternal life?**